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# THE BLUE MOUNDS PROJECT

Seeking to Inspire, Inform and Empower Private Landowners in the Southwestern Region  
Of Wisconsin to Enjoy, Protect and Restore Native Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health

Spring 2000

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## Message From the Board

Carroll Schaal, President

Even though I write this letter with six inches of fresh snow on the ground outside, I know it is Spring. Just last weekend I was touring the countryside noticing the many smoke spirals and patches of blackened earth from the numerous burns taking place. It was a good burn season and I was struck by how many landowners in the area use this management practice. Of course, not all of the fires were intentional, but at least it is a testament to the extent of the grasslands in the region, if not the number of people interested in native species conservation.

The steep topography and shallow soils of the "blue mounds" region helped limit the impact of the plow leaving pockets of prairies, savannas, and woodlands that retain remnants of the native flora and fauna. This attracts the interest of many ecologically minded folks and organizations.

Lately, I've met or had contact with a number of groups and individuals involved in some aspect of natural resources management in the area. Many of these people have heard of us and our work and have congratulated us on our success. Yet, many do not know about us. As I've mentioned before on this page, the BMP must continue to evolve and expand its mission and that includes determining how we interact with other conservation-minded organizations. I think an important task for us in the coming year will be to work with these partners to maximize resources and limit duplication as we continue to seek our niche and consider our mission and focus.

We're putting the Project onto the WEB with a homesite and list service that will improve communication among members and facilitate development of a volunteer network (see related article on this page). We are also planning to move forward on obtaining 501C3 status and have received a generous offer of donated assistance from Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren Norris & Rieselbach, a local law firm. Developing by-laws, articles of incorporation, registering with the IRS, and selecting a WEB domain name means we need to make a decision on a possible name change.

For the coming year, we'll still be offering site visits to new members. There are about a dozen people on the waiting list from last year.

We'll keep you up to date on our progress and, as always, let us know what you think. In the meantime, attend one of the workshops or events listed on the following pages, enjoy the summer and be careful with those fires!

## Two Great Talks Scheduled

BMP is excited to host two summer-time talks, one on grassland birds of the Blue Mounds region (June 10<sup>th</sup>) and the other on oak savanna restoration (July 8<sup>th</sup>). Please see the Calendar of Events for full details. Plan to attend!

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## BMP Goes Worldwide

We are pleased to announce that BMP will soon be launching its own web site. Web site plans include updates on news and events, easy downloading of BMP newsletters (past and current), links to other sites of interest to BMP members, and more.

Construction of the site has already begun; we anticipate having it up and running by early summer. Please look for it at [www.bluemounds.org](http://www.bluemounds.org).

Having our own web site will allow us to start an electronic mailing list (list serve) which will serve as a forum for all BMP members with access to e-mail. The list will enable members to seek out the experiences, opinions, and advice of other members regarding prairie restorations and other land management issues. Members who have included e-mail addresses with their registration information will be contacted by e-mail in the near future. If we don't have your e-mail address and you'd like to be included in our list serve please contact Peter Weil, our web master, at [plweil@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:plweil@facstaff.wisc.edu).

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## Board Meeting Schedule

Your voice is important; this is your organization and we value your input. Please attend a board meeting:

- June 6, 7:00 pm, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb.
- July 11, 7:00 pm, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb.
- Aug. 8, 7:00 pm, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb.

**Note: this is a new meeting location.** The church is located at 315 E. Main Street in downtown Mt. Horeb. Look for a limestone church with a tall steeple two blocks east of the downtown stoplight. Enter through the back door and go up the half flight of stairs on the left.

## Attention Forest Landowners!

### BMP Receives Forestry Grants

Over the next year and a half, we will be conducting a special project promoting forestry stewardship thanks to a \$12,907 grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) and a \$17,605 grant from the Wisconsin DNR, Division of Forestry. These grants will enable us to provide targeted technical assistance to forest landowners while

conducting more general community outreach efforts, including a school youth component, on the unique forest resources of our area.

This summer we'll be sending a questionnaire to area landowners to see what they know about managing forests, what needs they have, and the services they desire. Then we'll host an all day workshop (September 9th tentative) for landowners and resource professionals to learn about developing ecologically-based forest stewardship plans (EFSPs) that consider all of a property's natural resources. From the workshop participants we will identify a group of individual landowners who have significant forest resources and who wish to develop an EFSP for their property.

These Ecologically-based Forest Stewardship Plans will be developed with the assistance of Project Ecologist Bob Wernerehl and professional forester Mark Mittelstadt of Blue Ox Forestry. These plans will provide the landowner with a blue print for harvest that also considers nonforestry management needs. These plans will be developed following DNR forest stewardship criteria qualifying them for additional grants and assistance for implementation. Our grant will only subsidize a portion of the total costs so participants will be required to pay an additional fee for developing these plans.

Workshop space and especially the number of the participants receiving planning assistance are limited. Adjacent landowners with significant forest holdings are especially encouraged to participate in the EFSP phase. However, all property owners with woodlands will gain from this project. Some may be able to receive technical assistance through a site visit by our ecologist while everyone will benefit from the general education and outreach we will provide through information in our newsletter, other news media, and additional workshops. In fact, the whole community will benefit. An exciting component of the project will be assisting the Mt. Horeb Area School District in establishing an interpretive forestry curriculum for the 6th grade that will be tied to a field demonstration site located on Project member Ruth Kellesvig's farm.

We are very thankful to both of these state agencies for believing in our work and supporting this new initiative. This is the second WEEB grant the Project has received, demonstrating we are building on our past success.

If you or someone you know in the area has forest lands and might be interested in participating in this project contact us at (608) 795-4244 or email us at [rwernere@midplains.net](mailto:rwernere@midplains.net). Look for more details in our next newsletter.

## **Prairie Is More Than Plants**

Andrew H. Williams

If our goal is to conserve prairie biodiversity, we would do well to remember that prairie is a biotic community, not simply a plant community. Though we recognize a prairie most easily by its characteristic plant species, plants actually comprise a minority of the life forms present. In any prairie, there is much greater diversity of fauna than there is of flora.

I used to resent the weevils feeding on the aster seeds and the baptisia seeds I was collecting to further prairie conservation through restoration plantings. Now, I realize that every prairie plant is a stage on which various, marvelous animal dramas take place every day. The presence of a plant species enriches a given prairie simply by being there, but it contributes far more

to biodiversity by supporting a diverse array of animals.

In my research on the various fauna using a single prairie plant, marbleseed, *Onosmodium molle*, I found about 120 different species using this plant in different ways and several that are utterly dependent on it. If you were to lose *O. molle* from your site, you would lose those specialist insects, too. This is not exceptional, but typical. The animals using *O. molle* but not restricted to it would also lose the resources they had found when *O. molle* was present.

In my research on the various fauna overwintering inside or on the outside of the stems of 20 species of prairie plants, I found an average of 15 different species of arthropods using the stems of each of these plant species as a winter refuge. These animals included eggs or early instars, emerging in spring as immatures, and others that overwintered as larvae, pupae or adults, emerging as adults. These included herbivores, detritivores, predators, and many different parasitoids, tiny wasps that develop within the bodies of other insects. Most of these animals are very tiny in contrast to the charismatic megafauna that get most of the prairie conservationists' fond attention, gigantic creatures like the regal fritillary.

Our knowledge of insects is many decades behind our knowledge of plants. For example, in three timely visits to your prairie remnant, I could produce a list of the plants growing there, a list that would include 95% of the flora at a minimum. This is one way in which I earn my living. But if I were to devote ten years of my time and arrange for help from dozens of insect taxonomists, specialists in various groups, I could not produce a list anywhere near as representative of the fauna on your prairie remnant.

Another example of our ignorance of prairie insects is that most of what we know about the insects that require prairie is based on the food plant preferences of herbivores. Many insects are very particular about what plants they use as food. These herbivores are close to the base of the trophic pyramid. We know essentially nothing of the parasitoids high on the trophic pyramid, parasitoids which in some cases have a very narrow range of insect hosts.

I urge you to focus more closely on the little animals that contribute so much to making your prairie such a wild, beautiful and fascinating place. If you stand still in your prairie during daylight hours on a windless day, quietly scanning the stems and leaves and flowers nearby, you will usually see many different kinds of insects. Flowers of some plants are especially attractive to insects which may be pursuing nectar, pollen, or both, or they may be waiting among flowers for prey or for the insect host they will parasitize to assure their next generation. Goldenrods are remarkable in this way, as is the alien wild parsnip, but Virginia mountain-mint is the plant that attracts the most astonishing diversity of insects in my experience. This activity, sorting out various insects using flowers, is something children often enjoy. Perhaps, in this way, I've never grown up.

Go out on your prairie at night with a headlamp or flashlight. Most flies, bees, and wasps will no longer be flying, though you'll find them sleeping on leaves and flowers. The sounds of their wings will be gone, but other sounds characterize the night. Crickets and katydids dominate the night symphony in late summer, but there is a great diversity of small voices as well. Stand still and peer closely at the plants around you and you'll probably see many different insects. You'll see more spiders at night than during the day. Warm, humid,

windless nights are best. For many insects and spiders, the threat of desiccation and overheating in the windy hot daytime is very real. Many insects lie hidden in the prairie litter during the day but come out to feed at night so you'll see species you've not seen before. Some species only become active late at night, but many are spurred by hunger to forage shortly after dark. Mosquitoes may be out foraging, too.

*Andrew Williams is a Fellow at the University of Wisconsin Department of Entomology. He can be reached at [awilliam@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:awilliam@facstaff.wisc.edu).*

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## Friends of Donald Park Update

Marcia Hartwig

The shooting stars are blooming in the woods! Spring is beautiful! The Friends of Donald Park are incorporated and we've sent our bylaws to the attorney to file for tax-exempt status. Officers are: Mary Spaay, Pres., Pat Hitchcock, Vice Pres., Bob Woodburn, Treas., and Vicky Anderson, Sec. Other members of our Board of Directors include: Dave Hughes, Molly Murray, Judy Koepl, Steve O'Neill, and Matt Sutter.

We're appointing committees and planning activities including a giant membership drive. Some of us attended a workshop on fundraising techniques on May 16. Our annual meeting is set for October. Besides working on prairie restoration, clearing of oak savanna areas, and removing old fences, we're also planning to have the picnic area and handicap-accessible fishing spots ready for use by the end of the summer.

We're planning to seed the areas along Deer Creek and the Fry Feeder that were recently leveled after stumps were burned and buried. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact me at 224-3746 or [hartwig@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:hartwig@co.dane.wi.us).

*Marcia Hartwig is the Sugar River Initiative Coordinator.*

## BMP Annual Meeting Report

Approximately 50 people attended our March annual meeting to hear Vicki Elkin the Executive Director of Gathering Waters discuss the growing importance of private land trusts and their role in preserving land. However, our members recommended that we not become a land trust because there are already numerous successful land trusts operating within our service area. Rather, our members want us to continue to focus on providing educational activities and technical assistance.

Members were supportive of forming and coordinating a volunteer network to assist landowners in conducting land management activities and expanding the Project's services to include more detailed planning assistance. Our new website should allow us to develop the volunteer network.

Members also voiced their opinion that we are more than ready to pursue our own independent nonprofit status. We've taken this message to heart and have begun the process of filing for 501C3 status.

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## Woodland School Offers Classes

The Woodland School was formed by a group of resource

management professionals in 1998. The School's objective is to offer private landowners training in multi-resource land stewardship, conservation management, and ecological restoration. Classes scheduled for 2000 include:

- Prairie and Savanna Restoration-Starting Right
- The Law of the Land-Understanding Legal Aspects of Owning Conservation Land
- Bringing Back Fire-A Prescribed Burning Workshop
- Managing Pine in the Driftless Area
- Seeing the Forest for the Trees-Managing Trees, Shrubs and Vegetation for Healthy Forests
- Timber Harvesting and Management in the Driftless Area
- Your Land Your Vision (developing an inclusive stewardship plan)

Class costs are partially offset by a WDNR Forest Stewardship grant and assistance from BMP, the Sustainable Woods Coop, Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board, the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, and The Nature Conservancy. BMP board member Mike Anderson will teach the prairie and savanna restoration class. If you're interested in receiving a catalog (available mid-July), please call (608) 277-9960 or send an email to [biologic@chorus.net](mailto:biologic@chorus.net).

## Sugar River Watershed Assoc. Formed

Marcia Hartwig

Have you ever seen a wash of mud after a rainstorm but didn't know how it got there or where it came from? Ever wonder where the rain or melting snow goes? Have you ever considered how the activities that take place on the land affect surface and groundwater quality and quantity? Residents from the Upper Sugar River Watershed have. And they are concerned enough to do something about it.

In February, approximately 30 citizens met to discuss the potential for forming a watershed organization for the Upper Sugar River. The group had first met in January to share concerns about the watershed. A committee, formed as a result of the January meeting, met twice and developed the following draft mission statement for the association to adopt: The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association will serve as a forum for the preservation and enhancement of the watershed resources through an impartial partnership among diverse community interests. The mission statement was adopted unanimously.

In addition, the committee categorized and prioritized the issues that were listed at the January meeting. Awareness of the watershed and its resources was the number one concern for the watershed. Stormwater management and construction site erosion control issues were also at the top of the list. Other concerns included soil and water quality, riparian zones, broad policy related issues, and recreation. The group chose a name (the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, or USRWA) and selected an interim board of directors. The board has been meeting to discuss bylaws, membership, committees, and other items pertinent to a newly forming organization. Committees

will be working on setting up events, among other things.

If you live, work, or play in the Upper Sugar River Watershed and would like to become involved please contact me at 224-3746 or hartwig@co.dane.wi.us.

*Marcia Hartwig is the Sugar River Initiative Coordinator.*

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## New Publications

The Bureau of Endangered Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, has issued an excellent publication, "The Endangered and Threatened Invertebrates of Wisconsin". Many of the species listed in the publication are present in the Blue Mounds and Southwest Wisconsin area. The publication, PUB-ER-085-99, is available at no charge from the DNR, (608) 266-7012.

The University of Wisconsin Extension has a new publication on garlic mustard identification and control. It is available for free by calling (920) 391-4610, ask for publication number 2000.

The DNR has released the long awaited (at least for some of us) Atlas of the Wisconsin Prairie and Savanna Flora. The atlas provides distribution maps and habitat descriptions for grassland and savanna plants and will be useful for anyone interested in prairie and savanna flora, including those doing ecological restoration. For your free copy contact Suzanne duVair, (608) 221-6356 or duvais@dnr.state.wi.us.

## All Mixed Up

Michael Anderson

You're restoring your back forty and you're shopping for a prairie seed mix. You can buy Mix A with 45 species for \$800.00 per acre or you can buy Mix B with 40 species for \$900.00 per acre. Which is the better deal? It must be the Mix A-more species for less money, right? Maybe, maybe not. In order to evaluate the quality of a seed mix you need to know which species are in the mix, the proportions of the species in the mix, and something about the quality of the seeds.

The species composition of the mix is important for several reasons. First, are the species appropriate for your site? If you have a sandy, dry site and the species in the mix are for a wet site, it doesn't matter how cheap the seeds are-you've wasted your money because they won't grow. Typically, the best mix is one that is custom made for the soil and light conditions present at your site. Secondly, some species are very inexpensive while others are very expensive. For instance, black eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and yellow coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*) typically sell for about \$5.00 per ounce while pale spiked lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*) and cream wild indigo (*Baptisia leucophaea*) sell for more than \$100.00 per ounce. Thus, Mix A might not be such a good deal if it's loaded with inexpensive species.

Knowing something about the ecological behavior of the species in the mix is also important. A planting with a high proportion of short lived species, such as black eyed Susan and bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*), is more likely to become grass dominated once the short lived forbs have died out than if the site was planted with longer lived forbs. That's not to say short lived species shouldn't be planted, just make sure they don't comprise the bulk of the mix and that there are long lived species as well.

Be wary of mixes with a high proportion of rhizomatous

species because these species have the potential to overwhelm the other species you've planted. Examples include most of the sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*), grass leaved goldenrod (*Solidago graminifolia*), and prairie coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*). That's not to say these species shouldn't be planted, just take care not to plant them at too high a rate or else spot plant them.

It's also very important to know about the germination characteristics of the species in the mix. Species that readily germinate, such as black eyed Susan and yellow coneflower, should be planted at a relatively light rate so they don't become weeds. Many of the easily germinated seeds are inexpensive, resulting in the tendency to load up on this type of species, a big mistake. Conversely, species that don't germinate well from seed, such as New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) and many of the gentians (*Gentiana spp.*) will need to be sown at a higher rate in order to assure their presence in your prairie. Very small seeded species, such as shooting star (*Dodecatheon media*), Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), and many of the lobelias (*Lobelia spp.*), tend to end up being planted too deep because they easily sift themselves down into the soil. Thus, a smart seed mix will have a slightly higher seeding rate for small seeded species in order to compensate for their higher mortality.

You should also consider the proportions of the species in the mix. Most prairie restorations use a ratio of about 30 to 40 percent grass and 60 to 70 percent forbs. Mixes with more than about 65 percent grass are likely to eventually develop into a solid stand of grass. This is especially true if most of the grass in your mix is big bluestem or switch grass. Mixes with more than about 70 percent forbs may be very showy, but are often difficult to burn because grasses provide most of the fuel for a burn. Seed mixes with a high proportion of forbs can also become expensive since forbs cost more than grasses.

Seed quality is another important consideration in developing and evaluating seed mixes. Seed quality is expressed as pure live seed (PLS). PLS is determined by multiplying seed purity (cleanliness) times the percentage of live (viable) seeds as determined by testing. Most native plant nurseries determine PLS for grasses, but not for forbs or shrubs. If you're planting seed you've collected it will probably have more impurities (stems, leaves, pappus, etc.) than commercially purchased seed and you'll need to plant more of it.

For most restorations the cost of the seed is the most expensive part of the process. Designing a quality seed mix is part science, part art, and should be based on site characteristics, species characteristics, and your restoration goals. A well designed mix will achieve your goals, a poorly designed mix will be a disappointment and a waste of your time and money.

*Michael Anderson is the owner of BioLogic Environmental Consulting in Fitchburg.*

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## Calendar of Events

### Program and Education Committee

Mike Anderson, Wendell Burkholder

**Grassland Birds—Who Are They and Why Should We Care?**

**Dave Sample, Grassland Community Ecologist, WDNR**

**June 10, Saturday, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM**

**Amcore Bank, 100 S. 1st Street, (downtown at the corner of Main St. and 1st St.), Mt. Horeb**

Grassland birds, as a group, have undergone population declines that are steeper and more consistent than any other group of birds, both in Wisconsin and North America. This presentation will describe the status and distribution of grassland birds in Wisconsin, as well as some of their ecology, habitat preferences, and natural history. Conservation issues and management actions aimed at reversing the population declines will also be discussed.

This talk is especially appropriate for BMP members because the Blue Mounds and Barneveld area, south of Highway 18-151, is considered to be some of the best grassland bird habitat in southern Wisconsin, and is a high priority for habitat restoration.

Dave Sample is a grassland community ecologist for the Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Integrated Science Services. He is co-author of the WDNR publication entitled Managing Habitat for Grassland Birds, A Guide for Wisconsin.

**Thompson Prairie Work Party**

**June 17 and July 8, Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 12 noon  
Thompson Prairie, Iowa County south of Blue Mounds**

This is a Nature Conservancy work party at Thompson Prairie, a dry limestone prairie that provides important nesting habitat for many butterflies and birds. Merel Black (608/437-5353) will lead the June wild parsnip pulling party and Kristen Westad (608/967-2404) will lead the July wild parsnip pulling party. Be sure to wear work gloves, long pants, and a long sleeve shirt. Directions: From Hwy. 18/151 west of Mt. Horeb, go south on Cty. F for one mile to the junction with Cty. Z. Continue on F to the southwest for another mile and watch for signs and a parking lot on the right side of the road.

**Reinventing Lost Landscapes: The Scientific Basis For Oak Our Mission**

The Blue Mounds Project is a community based organization that seeks to inspire, inform and empower private landowners in the Southwestern Wisconsin region to enjoy, protect and restore native biodiversity and ecosystem health.

**Our objectives:**

- 1) Promote understanding, appreciation and conservation of native woodlands, prairies, wetlands and savannas and their special species in an economically viable manner, through community outreach programs and private contacts.
- 2) Act as a clearing house for information from people and organizations involved in preserving native biodiversity including information about plant, animal and habitat identification, management, restoration, seed sources, native plant nurseries and invasive, non-native species.
- 3) Encourage cooperative, volunteer restoration and management activities.
- 4) Identify public and private land use changes that may affect ecosystem health and promote community-based stewardship of the unique natural heritage of the Blue Mounds and the Southwestern region of Wisconsin.

**Savanna Restoration**

**Mark Leach, Restoration Ecologist, University of Wisconsin Madison Arboretum**

**July 8, Saturday, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM**

**Amcore Bank, 100 S. 1st Street, (downtown at the corner of Main St. and 1st St.), Mt. Horeb**

In the 1830s, fire-swept oak savannas dominated the landscape of southern Wisconsin. Despite Wisconsin's leadership in plant-community ecology and ecological restoration, oak savannas long remained little studied. Hence, there has been considerable debate among conservationists regarding the nature of oak savanna and their species-rich groundlayer. To address this problem, Mark Leach and collaborators initiated a series of research projects. In this presentation for the BMP, Dr. Leach will explain how scientific advances can improve our efforts to restore oak savanna. If you own or are restoring oak savanna, this talk is for you. If you want a better understanding of the habitat that formerly dominated southern Wisconsin, this talk is for you.

Mark Leach is the Research Program Manager and a restoration ecologist for the University of Wisconsin Madison Arboretum. He has published several scientific papers on prairies and savannas and was co-editor, with Laurel Ross, of the Midwest Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan, published by the Environmental Protection Agency.

**North American Prairie Conference**

**July 16-20**

**Mason City, Iowa**

The mother of all prairie conferences. For full particulars: <http://www.niacc.cc.ia.us/~nappc/index.html>. To receive registration materials send an email to Carol Schutte at [schutcar@niacc.cc.ia.us](mailto:schutcar@niacc.cc.ia.us).

<b>BMP Board of Directors</b>	<b>Other Board Members</b>	<b>Staff Ecologist</b>
President-Carroll Schaal	Mike Anderson	Bob Wernerehl
Vice President-Vacant	Reed Cockrell	
Secretary-Mary Fritz	Wendell Burkholder	
Treasurer-John Bird	Kent Mayfield	
	Mary Michal	
	Peter Weil	
	Jim Zerwick	

The Blue Mounds Project is sponsored by Community Conservation, Inc., a nonprofit organization.

The Blue Mounds Project Newsletter is published quarterly. Send your comments, suggestions, submissions, and advertisements to: Newsletter Editor, Blue Mounds Project, PO Box 332, Mount Horeb, WI 53572.

## Blue Mounds Project Membership Form

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal. \_\_\_\_\_ New member. \_\_\_\_\_ I cannot join at this time, please keep me on your mailing list.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

General (individual or family) \$25.00 / Year \_\_\_\_\_

Student/limited income (individual or family) \$15.00 / Year \_\_\_\_\_

Other contribution to further the BMP mission \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law\*\*

### SITE VISIT REQUEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if you would like to receive a site visit from the BMP ecologist (we will contact you for additional information and to arrange the visit).

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND RETURN TO:**  
BLUE MOUNDS PROJECT/CCC, PO BOX 332, MT. HOREB, WI 53572

Englishmen George W. Featherstonhaugh was hired in 1834 by the U.S. Government as its first geologist. In 1837 he described the land between Madison and Blue Mounds:

We got into one of the most exquisitely beautiful regions I have ever seen in any part of the world. ...In whatever direction our eyes were turned, the most pleasing irregularities of surface presented themselves. But that which crowned the perfection of the view, and imparted an indescribable charm to the whole scene, from the knoll where we stood to the most distant point, was the inimitable grace with which the picturesque clumps of trees, that sometimes enlarges themselves into woods, embellished this rural landscape from the hand of Nature... America will justly boast of this unrivaled spectacle when it becomes known, for certainly it is formed of elements that no magic could enable all Europe to bring together upon so great a scale.

**TIME TO RENEW?? Please check the address label for your membership expiration date.  
If you're receiving a complimentary copy, please consider joining.**