



---

# 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

Winter 2000

---

## Message From the Board

Carroll Schaal, President

**Greetings in the new millennium!** Hope you're having a great winter. The Blue Mounds Project enters the new century on a high note!

In the last newsletter we kicked off a fund raising effort announcing an anonymous **\$1,000** donation with the challenge that we needed to raise an equal amount by the end of the year in order to receive the donation. As evidence that Project is providing meaningful services and is supported in the broad "community" of SW Wisconsin, I am happy to report that you have more than met the challenge! We not only raised the needed \$1,000 match, we more than doubled our modest goal, netting \$3,335, including the \$1,000 match, in three short months!

***Thank you all for your donations and belief in the mission of the Blue Mounds Project!***

This money will go a long way, but alone is not enough to sustain the Project's level of activity for one year. We still need to "match" it again (and again) with grants and cooperative efforts to maintain our outreach efforts. We currently have pending a pair of applications to the DNR and the WI Environmental Education Board (WEEB) for grants targeted at improving private land forestry management and forestry education. We are hopeful that one or both of these will be awarded so that in the coming field season we can expand our efforts by raising greater awareness of forestry issues and assist landowners with developing management plans. If we receive these grants, we will be looking for landowners with substantial woodlands and savannas that may want to participate in, and benefit from, these forestry-based projects.

On a shorter time frame, you will see, on page 3, an announcement for a February 5th talk by Dr. Don Waller from the UW Botany Department. Dr. Waller's talk on the impact overabundant deer have on the native landscape is very timely. Deer browse and other damage is a concern we hear about frequently from the membership. The Project Board has agreed to participate on an exploratory committee, proposed by a local sportsmen's club, that will investigate the possibility of promoting a voluntary regional management approach to deer herd management on private lands. This proposal and your potential role will be discussed after Dr. Waller's talk. Many of the points Dr. Waller will cover in his talk will be key to understanding how such an effort could work.

Finally, we hope you will make an effort to attend our **Annual Meeting on March 4**. You will hear about the year's accomplishments as well as more information about our grant proposals and planned activities. It's also a time for you to provide input into the organization and influence its future

direction. A continuing theme for us, and many other volunteer and nonprofit conservation groups, is maintaining a strong and functional organization.

To help us explore ways to maintain and enhance our organizational capacity, we've enlisted Vicki Elkin, Executive Director of Gathering Waters Inc., to speak at our meeting. Gathering Waters is a nonprofit organization created to assist land trusts and other nonprofit conservation groups like ours. Vicki will discuss the growing world of private land conservation and nonprofit organizations in Wisconsin and provide some options and insight on efforts we can undertake to continue and evolve the BMP.

Hope to see you there!

---

## Board Meeting Schedule

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

March 7, 6:30 pm, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb.

April 4, 6:30 pm, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb.

May 2, 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 just west of Yapp's Antiques. Enter through the back door and go up the half flight of stairs on the left.

---

## Big Thanks To Donor\$

While grants and membership dues are the main funding sources

— **Annual Meeting** —  
**Our annual meeting is March 4<sup>th</sup>.**  
**The Calendar of Events on page 3 has full details.**  
**Mark your calendar.**

for the project, private donations are important too! These unexpected gifts, often added to a membership contribution, can be real budget savers during tight times. We would like to acknowledge and thank our members who have gone "beyond

the call of duty". **Many thanks to all!** If you were inadvertently left off the list, please let us know.

- Mike Anderson
- John & Connie Barnes
- Evelyn Batchelor
- Robert C. Becker
- Ron & Carolyn Behnke
- Alan & Sandy Bemis
- Tom Bernthal
- John & Barbara Bird
- Merel Black
- Dan Bohlin
- Barbara L. Borns
- Earl & Shirley Brandt
- Beatrice Briggs
- Kathy & Tom Brock
- Helen & Erv Bruner
- Paul & Kathy Burkholder
- Wendell Burkholder
- Sandra Cannon
- Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve
- Nan Cline & Barb Sheldon
- Reed Cockrell
- Lyman & Margaret Crittenden
- Jerry Dahlen
- Bruce Ellerson
- Jim Elleson
- Gary & Mary Fritz
- Brenda Gasch & Mark Mittelstadt
- Steven Gauger
- Jane & Seth Goodman
- Patrick Handrick
- Vicki Harris
- Julie Hayward & Don D'Alessio
- Rich & Kathy Henderson
- Brende Hofer
- Bob & Donna Huntington
- Maggie Jones
- Pam & Randy Laufenberg
- Mary Michal & David Haskin
- Madeline & Steve Morgan
- Mound Vue Garden Club
- Bill Olson
- Mary Lou Rashke
- Eugene M Roark
- Betty & Max Rosenbaum
- Roland Rueckert
- Carroll & Pam Schaal
- Dan & Calico Schmidt
- Ruth Ann Schmitt & Steve Jensen
- Jim & Rose Sime
- Ron & Paulette Smith
- Mark & Mary Trewartha
- James Van Deurzen
- Anne Woodson
- James Zerwick

Mills changed their name to Community Conservation Inc. (CC Inc.). Something we don't speak to enough is the support we receive from CC Inc. They provide our tax-exempt status, making your donations charitable, as well as some bookkeeping, payroll, and insurance services. Staffers Kathy Fairchild and Robert Horowich are great to work with and always ready to help. Robert has been a mentor and advisor to the Project since day one. Unfortunately, Rob is now recovering from lymphoma, with a positive prognosis, and his traveling is mostly limited to home and the office in Gays Mills. This must be quite a change for the globetrotter, who is active in conservation efforts in Latin America and Asia. If you would like to send Rob a note or card, or would like to find out more about CC Inc. you can write him at Community Conservation, Inc., Rt.1 Box 96, Gays Mills, 54631 or via email at: [communityconservation@mwt.net](mailto:communityconservation@mwt.net).

**PRAIRIE LAND**

Prairie land  
 Really tall grass  
 And flowers  
 I love the  
 Rolling land  
 In fall I like it best. It  
 Even

Looks like  
 A  
 Natural  
 Dream

*Catherine Pierattini age 9*

---

### Site Visits

Project Ecologist, Robert Wernerehl, finished another busy season this fall conducting site visits. Due to time and funding constraints, he has not finished writing up all the reports. If you received a visit, but have not seen the report yet,

be patient. Bob says he will finish them up before Spring.

---

### Membership Committee Update

Vicki Harris & Jim Zerwick

The Blue Mounds Project has 195 paid members as of the end of 1999. Our goal was 200 to 250 and we came close to meeting it. Our membership growth rate remains very high: 49% in 1998 and 37% in 1999. We currently have 452 supporters who receive either our printed newsletter or announcements by email. Our list of email-accessible supporters has now reached 139. Please send us your email address at [jz212@aol.com](mailto:jz212@aol.com) if it has changed or if you'd like to be added to the list. If we have your email address we'll be able to send you announcements of events we weren't able to list in the newsletter and other timely information.

---

### Calendar of Events

#### Program and Education Committee

Mike Anderson, Wendell Burkholder

**Effects of Deer Herbivory in Southern Wisconsin  
February 5, 2000, Saturday 10:00-11:30 AM**

---

### Changes at Community Conservation Consultants, Inc.

Last year our "parent" organization Community Conservation Consultants and Howlers Forever, Inc. of Gays

**Amcore Bank, 100 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, (corner of Main St. and 1<sup>st</sup> St.), Mt. Horeb**

Large herbivorous mammals, such as the white-tailed deer, interact with their environment in complex and important ways and are a significant factor causing habitat change. Join us as Don Waller, UW Botany Professor and researcher, discusses the effects of deer herbivory on the plants and animals of Southern Wisconsin. You'll learn how deer herbivory causes the local extinction of some plant species, alters successional trends in native plant communities, and negatively impacts birds, small mammals and other wildlife. Don will also discuss why recent attempts to reduce the deer population have failed and offer alternative techniques.

Following Don's talk there will be a short presentation and discussion by a local organization that is working to solve the deer overabundance problem by working with landowners (hunters and non-hunters alike) to form cooperative hunting agreements that extend over large areas. The group also plans to develop a model hunting lease agreement that will obligate hunters to abide by strict harvest practices, develop programs for hunter and public safety, and teach and stress humane harvest practices and respect for the sensibilities of non-hunters.

**Thomson Prairie Work Party  
February 12, Saturday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon  
Iowa County, South of Blue Mounds**

This is a Nature Conservancy event. Help Kristin Westad remove invading shrubs and trees to open up this dry limestone prairie. Your chance to learn about prairie ecology and management first hand. Call Steve Richter, (608) 251-8140, for more information. Directions: From U.S. Highway 18/151 west of Mt. Horeb, go south on County Highway F for one mile to the junction with County Highway 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. Dress appropriately for outdoor, grubby work. Be sure to bring work gloves and drinking water.

**BMP Annual Meeting \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
March 4, 2000, Saturday 10:00-12:00 noon  
Mt. Horeb Community Center, Mt. Horeb**

In addition to our annual report, committee updates, and the opportunity to share your comments and suggestions, the annual meeting will feature Vicki Elkin, Executive Director of Gathering Waters, Inc. Gathering Waters is a nonprofit organization created to assist other nonprofit conservation organizations and groups like ours. Vicki will speak to us about the roles of nonprofits in local conservation efforts and share with us how Gathering Waters can help us continue to evolve and be an effective leader in community based conservation. Refreshments served. **Plan to attend.**

**Barneveld Prairies Work Party  
March 11, Saturday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon**

**South of Barneveld, Iowa County**

This is a Nature Conservancy event. Help Kristin Westad remove invading shrubs to connect two high-quality prairie remnants. Your chance to learn about prairie ecology and management first hand. Call Steve Richter, (608) 251-8140, for more information. **Directions:** One mile west of Barneveld on U.S. Highway 18/151, go south on County Highway T for about 0.75 mile. Park along eastern side of road and look for preserve entrance about 0.25 mile east of the roadside. Dress appropriately for outdoor, grubby work. Be sure to bring work gloves and drinking water.

**10th Annual Native Landscaping Conference—Sponsored  
By The UW Arboretum and the Madison Chapter of  
the Wild Ones**

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Stewardship Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter  
of The Nature Conservancy**

**12th Annual Prairie Enthusiasts Banquet and Conference  
March 18, Saturday, 9 AM to 4 PM, banquet at 6 PM  
Dane County Expo Center, Madison**

An ecological triad! Beginner and advanced level presentations on prairie, savanna, and wetland restoration and management, prairie animals, prairie ecology, growing ferns, butterflies, the history of bison and elk in Wisconsin, banquet dinner, raffle/auction and a keynote presentation by Canadian author Lorraine Johnson, a well known champion of native landscaping. Vendor displays and sales. Always a good time, and the proceeds benefit local conservation and restoration efforts. Contact (608) 263-7888 for more information.

**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/~npsc/index.html>. To receive registration materials when they are available send an email to Carol Schutte at [schutcar@niacc.cc.ia.us](mailto:schutcar@niacc.cc.ia.us).

---

## 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, but 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).

<p><b>MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND RETURN TO:</b> BLUE MOUNDS PROJECT/CCC, PO BOX 332, MT. HOREB, WI 53572</p>
--

## **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.

The Blue Mounds Project is sponsored by Community Conservation Consultants (CCC), a nonprofit organization.

The Blue Mounds Project Newsletter is published quarterly. Send your comments, suggestions, and submissions to Mike Anderson, editor, BMP, PO Box 332, Mount Horeb, WI 53572.

**The Blue Mounds Project  
PO Box 332  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572**

**Address Correction Requested**

**TIME TO RENEW?? Please check the address label for your membership expiration date.**

**If you're receiving a complimentary copy, please consider joining.**