



# THE BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

*Promoting Ecological Restoration and Stewardship of Native Habitats*

Fall 2003 Vol. 6 No. 3

## Restoring Local Stream Diversity

Carroll Schaal

Our efforts promoting stream protection along German Valley Creek in southwestern Dane County will begin paying big dividends in the coming year for landowners and fishers. In 2002, the DNR contracted BMAP to contact landowners along this stream to promote the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and other cooperative efforts aimed at improving stream habitat. Based in part on the response to this work, the Dane County Land Conservation Department was recently awarded a \$133,000 Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant from the DNR to fund various activities designed to improve habitat in the stream and along its banks.

For years, intensive agricultural use and other human disturbances slowly degraded many area streams, turning them cloudy and warm, and filling them with sediment. Aquatic life steadily declined, including the extirpation of brook trout, the region's only native trout. Implementation of the Clean Water Act and improved farming practices gradually improved water quality. More recently, high participation rates in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) have made a significant difference. Through CRP, thousands of acres of highly erodible farm fields have been converted to a continuous cover of grasses and trees, reducing runoff, trapping sediment, and allowing water to soak into the ground and recharge natural cold water springs.

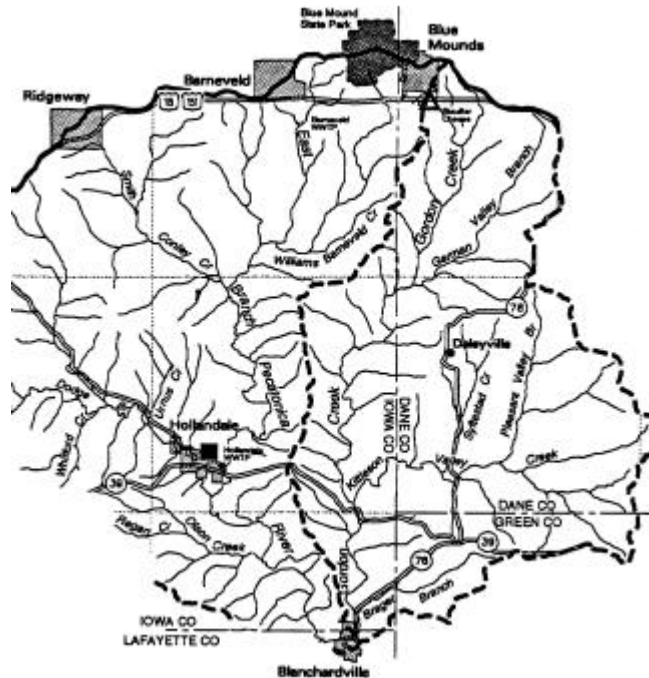
While DNR monitoring indicates these practices have steadily improved water quality, the years of abuse have eliminated much of the physical (structural) habitat elements necessary to support a cold water sport fishery. German Valley Creek, a significant tributary of the Blue Mounds Branch (also known as Big Spring and Gordon Creek), is on the USEPA 303(d) list of impaired waters (lowest designation) while the

Blue Mounds Branch is classified as an Exceptional Resource Water (second highest designation).

Poor habitat due to excessive siltation is the basis for the 303(d) designation. However, recent water quality monitoring indicates that the headwaters may again be able to support brook trout (Dave Marshall, WDNR, Cold Water Habitat Evaluation Project Blue Mounds Branch Watershed – FY 2001-2003 Progress Report). Currently, poor habitat is the only limiting factor. Thus, habitat restoration would likely allow the reintroduction of brook trout into German Valley Creek, as well as allow the Creek to shed its impaired waters status.

The TRM project will provide cost-sharing to landowners to remove dense stands of box elder trees, reshape stream banks, plant grasses, and install LUNKER structures that help narrow and deepen the stream and provide overhanging bank cover. This project is very similar to those being conducted by the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, as reported in our Winter 2003 newsletter.

Successful implementation of this project has the opportunity to impact and improve cold water fisheries on a watershed scale and improve native species diversity both in the water and on the land. German Valley is in the western edge of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Project Area and complements that project's goals for increasing grassland bird habitat.



German Valley Creek is within the Gordon Creek Watershed indicated by the heavy dashed line (Upper Rock River Basin Water Quality Management Plan, WDNR 1995).

For more information on the TRM project, contact the Dane County Land Conservation Department at (608) 224-3730. To find out more about stream health and monitoring activities in the Blue Mounds Branch Watershed, a copy of the DNR report referenced above is available on our website ([www.bluemounds.org](http://www.bluemounds.org)) under Headwaters Protection Initiative. \*

# An Important Message from the Board

Carroll Schaal, President

Hello. If you think it's been a while since you've seen your newsletter, that's because it has been. The BMAP Board took a time-out the last few months to do some long range planning. Having achieved many of the goals set out in our three-year-old strategic plan, we weren't sure where to go next or even if BMAP needed to continue. Thus, we skipped an edition of the newsletter so we could focus on planning.

The recent membership survey was part of the planning effort. More than half of you returned your questionnaire – THANK YOU! We received lots of positive feedback and your written comments were particularly encouraging, helpful, and gratifying. Your responses were so strongly supportive that one board member half-jokingly grouched, "I wish they would have been more critical." While we're gleaning lots of ideas for improvements, you overwhelmingly told us that what we do and how we do it is on the right track. This is the same thing I hear when I meet with other environmental organizations and talk to other conservationists. What the BMAP is doing and how we do it is held in high regard.

In short, with all this reinforcing feedback we are reenergized, refocused and ready to update our strategic plan and move forward. **But, we need your help!** Our grant-funded projects are coming to an end and we delayed pursuing new grants while we were busy focusing on long range planning. We've started on new grant proposals, but it takes time to reap the rewards. We need to raise enough money to sustain us during this interim and so that we will have sufficient funds to match grants.

In the survey you confirmed your appreciation and belief in BMAP's core mission of informing, inspiring, and supporting landowners. Please help us **now** so we can continue doing great things. Help us by renewing your lapsed membership. Help us by going beyond membership renewal by making a donation of \$50 or \$100 or more. Help us by giving a gift membership to a friend.

## What will you be supporting?

First and foremost, continuation of the core education and landowner assistance programs you've told us are important. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find articles on some of our accomplishments and our plans, including a savanna and wild turkey habitat restoration workshop and a stream restoration project in German Valley. We have the support and commitment of the Mt. Horeb Historical Society to develop a display of the area's natural history in the large gallery space the Mt. Horeb Museum. This is an exciting project that can really blossom in the next year **if we receive your support.**

Finally, there are two large-scale conservation-planning efforts in the area where the BMAP is forging lasting partnerships and can play an important support role if we can meet our on-going expenses. The Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area Project

(MRPHA) involving many partner organizations is an effort to implement a 10,000-acre grassland habitat conservation plan south of the Military Ridge between Mt. Horeb and Ridgeway. The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association and the Natural Heritage Land Trust are beginning a similar cooperative effort to create a conservation plan for the watershed that covers a triangular area bounded by Mt. Horeb, Verona, and Belleville.

Both these projects are working cooperatively with landowners, organizations, and other interested parties to address the variety of environmental challenges facing our growing area. At the heart is the desire to accommodate growth while preserving, conserving, and even restoring the natural landscape values we all cherish.

These are some very exciting developments—things that will have a positive impact on the future of our area. **BMAP needs to be a part of this. Please help us.**

P.S. If you need more information, or perhaps feel compelled to sponsor a particular project, please feel free to contact me directly at (608) 437-6247. \*

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**We need to raise enough money to sustain us during this interim and so that we will have sufficient funds to match grants.**

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## Seeking Nominations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bur Oak Award for Outstanding Land Stewardship

Do you know someone who exemplifies the BMAP mission of "protecting and restoring native biodiversity and ecosystem health?" Then nominate him or her for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bur Oak Award for Outstanding Land Stewardship.

Send your nominations to us at PO Box 332, Mount Horeb, WI 53572 or via email to [schaal1@mhtc.net](mailto:schaal1@mhtc.net). We'll announce the recipient and present the winner with an award during the Annual Meeting on March 6, 2004. \*

## BMAP 2004 Annual Meeting

The BMAP Annual Meeting will be **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** from 10 a.m. until noon in Mt. Horeb. Save the date.

Details are still being finalized, but we're planning a more informal, open house atmosphere this year. We'll have a guest speaker and present the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bur Oak Award. We may have Internet demonstrations and other displays. And we'll be giving away a brand new truck. Well, maybe we won't be giving away a truck, but you'll still want to attend.

Mark March 6<sup>th</sup> on your calendar today and check the next newsletter for details (mailed in early February). \*

# Turkey Habitat Project Takes Off

On May 31, a small, but enthusiastic, crowd attended a daylong BMAP workshop on restoring and managing oak savanna to provide wild turkey habitat. The workshop, featuring several local experts, was partially funded by the WDNR Turkey Stamp Program.

BMAP ecologist Bob Wernerehl started the indoor morning session with a discussion of the native ecosystems of southwestern Wisconsin and how these ecosystems have changed since the arrival of European settlers. Oak savanna has fared very poorly: fewer than 500 acres of the original 5,500,000 acres remain. Bob concluded by acquainting participants with oak savanna plants and wildlife through his beautiful collection of slides, setting the stage for what we would see during the outdoor portion of the workshop.

Wild turkeys were abundant in southern Wisconsin in the early 1800s, but were extirpated by the late 1800s due to unregulated hunting, loss of habitat, and infectious diseases from domestic poultry. Bill Ishmael, DNR wildlife biologist, discussed the long history of wild turkey reintroduction into Wisconsin, which began as early as 1887, including several humorous (in retrospect) false starts. Wisconsin's turkey population is now more than 200,000.

Many landowners believe wild turkeys damage crops. However, Bill shared research suggesting that turkeys eat mostly insects, acorns, and fallen grain, and that most of the crop damage attributed to turkeys is actually caused by deer and raccoons knocking down the crop plants at night. Turkeys then feed on the fallen grain during daylight, are easily seen, and are then blamed for the damage. Bill did note, however, that turkeys can trample and damage young plants, mostly while pursuing insects, and can be attracted to fruit bearing ornamentals.

Next, oak savanna restoration techniques were discussed by Mike Anderson, BMAP vice president and the owner of BioLogic Environmental Consulting. Mike noted that the first step of any restoration is to do a thorough assessment of existing conditions: vegetation, soil, groundlayer light conditions, current and historic land use, and adjacent land use.

This information is then used to determine the best method for preparing the site, selecting appropriate species for planting, and the best planting time and technique. Mike also noted that it is very important to recreate savanna light conditions before doing

any planting. This typically requires some clearing of unwanted trees, such as box elder and elm, and shrubs, such as buckthorn and honeysuckle.

Moving into the field for the afternoon, participants lunched at long time BMAP members Doug and Kathy Robichaud's home and then toured their savanna restoration. Doug noted that he started seeing many new native herbaceous plants after he began clearing trees and brush and burning.

Ed Prochaska, co-owner of Middleton Power Supply, demonstrated several pieces of power equipment useful for land restoration and management, including chain saws, brush cutters, and brush mowers. The walk behind Billy Goat brush mower was particularly impressive for its efficiency in clearing small (up to one-inch diameter) woody vegetation. Ed made several swaths through an overgrown thicket, and said he thought he could clear about an acre



Ed Prochaska (r) discusses the use of a Billy Goat mower with workshop participants.

per hour. Middleton Power Supply rents and sells Billy Goat mowers.

Pleasant Valley Conservancy, a stunning 140-acre site owned by BMAP members Tom and Kathy Brock, was the final stop of the afternoon. Here, participants could clearly see the positive and restorative effects of selective tree removal, tree girdling, regular prescribed burning, overseeding, and invasive species control. The resulting diverse, open savanna offers excellent turkey habitat and a glimpse of the landscape that greeted the early settlers. More details on the Brock's property and the techniques they've used to restore it are available at [www.savannaoak.org](http://www.savannaoak.org).

Workshop attendees were offered the opportunity to put into practice the techniques they learned during the workshop by conducting oak savanna restoration under the guidance of the BMAP ecologist. To date, three landowners have committed to restoring 20 acres of land.

Watch the BMAP announcement email list and your mailbox for a possible field event this January or February. This event is still in the early planning stages (as of mid-November) but will likely showcase three different means of rapid woodland clearing: two different pieces of large power equipment and an experienced chain saw crew. Attendees will see and learn the advantages and disadvantages of each method, and can meet crews and contractors. \*

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**Doug noted that he started seeing many new native herbaceous plants after he began clearing trees and brush and burning.**

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## BMAP Members Speak Up Membership Questionnaire Results

Donn D'Alessio

Remember the Membership Questionnaire you received in the mail? The one where we asked for feedback on our activities and for your suggestions on where to concentrate our future efforts? Well, as of November 1, we have received 83 completed questionnaires, about half of our membership. While this is very gratifying, we want to hear from everyone. If you've misplaced the questionnaire, you can download a copy from [www.bluemounds.org/files/quest-fall03.pdf](http://www.bluemounds.org/files/quest-fall03.pdf).

The survey information has been very helpful and we expect to learn more as we analyze the results more fully. The following is a summary of your responses to date, but note that these are preliminary results that will change as we receive more surveys. Also note that totaled responses may exceed 100% in some instances because respondents were able to check more than one answer to a question.

**Where You Live.** 64 % are rural residents, 22% are urban residents who own rural property, and 14% percent are urban residents.

One hundred percent of the respondents with urban property use native plants in their landscaping.

**Newsletter.** 99% find the newsletter useful or very useful—a landslide!

**Public Lectures.** 96% of the members who've attended think they are useful or very useful. However, 38% of survey respondents have never attended a lecture citing lack of time, inability to attend evening meetings, or travel distance as the major barriers.

**Web Site.** The main finding here was that 54% of respondents knew about the site, but had never visited it, while 7% were not aware of the site (hint: [www.bluemounds.org](http://www.bluemounds.org)).

**Announce List.** 48% find the list useful or very useful, 11% not very useful, and 34% either did not open the list emails or did not know about the list.

**Interactive List.** 28% find the list useful or very useful. However, 31% know about the list, but don't subscribe and 25% do not know about the list (hint: see *The BMP-List* article on page 5).

These responses indicate the newsletter and lectures provide our members with interesting and useful information. However, we're concerned that so many members either don't use or don't know about our Internet delivered services (web

site, announce list, and interactive list). These provide the most rapid and inexpensive means of information and opinion exchange.

**What You Want to Learn More About.** Oak savannas 70%; prairies 68%; controlling invasive plants 61%; woodlands 57%; streams and wetlands 37%; native wildlife habitat 35%; conservation easements 29%; dark sky initiatives 25%.

Based in part on your responses, we've scheduled a talk on conservation easements for January 15 and a talk on controlling invasive species for February 19 (see page 7 for details). Your responses will greatly aid us in planning additional events.

**Participation in Government Conservation Programs.** The most popular programs are Managed Forest Law (42%) and the Conservation Reserve Program (32%). 15% of you are in the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, only 7% are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

**Conservation Easements.** 13% have a deed restriction for conservation purposes or have a conservation easement.

**Site Visit Program.** Of the 40 respondents who've had a site visit by the BMAP ecologist 83% found the visit very useful and 17% somewhat useful. No one thought the site visit

was "not useful." Several members commented they thought their site visit was highly valuable.

**Major limitations to maintaining or restoring land to a natural condition.** Not surprisingly, the lack of time and/or muscle power (82%) and financial constraints (45%) were the two most cited limitations.

**Interest in sharing labor and equipment with other members.** 65% are interested.

**Usefulness of a directory of members interested in work party participation and equipment sharing.** 72% think such a directory would be useful. The Board considers a directory a high priority issue.

**Interest in helping with events, the newsletter, fund raising, or membership.** Only 16% of you are willing to help with one or more of these activities. Comments from many of those who declined indicate that you're very busy. Several respondents mentioned commitments to other organizations that limit more active BMAP involvement.

Again, thank you to everyone who completed and returned a survey. If you haven't, please do so as soon as you can. We'll share the final results of the questionnaire at a later date. We'll also let you know in more detail how we're going to use your suggestions and ideas. \*

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**Not surprisingly, the lack of time and/or muscle power and financial constraints were two most cited limitations to land management and restoration**

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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.  
Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 2

Meetings begin at 6:30 PM and end at approximately 8:30 PM. They're held at the Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
315 East Main Street in downtown Mt. Horeb, a few blocks east of the downtown stop light.

The front door is handicap accessible.

## The BMP-List: Your Email Connection to BMAP Member Expertise

Paul Kaarakka, BMAP board member

In BMAP's recent membership survey, members agreed they look to our organization for practical information about how to be a good land steward. They also agreed they are interested in helping each other by sharing information, labor, equipment, and other resources. BMAP works to accomplish these exchanges through lectures, the newsletter, and web services. Each of these methods has its strengths and weaknesses, but together they complement each other and provide an excellent way to meet our members' needs.

BMAP's email discussion list (called the *bmp-list*) is an important part of that strategy, and gives us an easy way to contact each other and the BMAP ecologist. The *bmp-list* is a community forum where any kind of restoration or stewardship issue can be bandied about, from controlling thistles and parsnip, to discussing tools, to suggesting BMAP lecture topics. When you need help, it is THE quickest and easiest way to contact your BMAP friends, many of whom have had experiences similar to yours or might have muscle power to offer. Unfortunately, the survey also revealed that many members don't know about the list, or haven't used it. Here's a quick review to get you started.

You can subscribe or unsubscribe to *bmp-list* at any time. All you need is a computer with access to the internet and an email account. If you don't have a computer, or if your computer isn't hooked up to the internet, you can go to your local library and use one of theirs. (Check out the videos of previous BMAP lectures while you're there!) If you don't have email, you can get a free email account through a number of web sites such as yahoo.com or hotmail.com.

Signing up for the *bmp-list* is easy and under your complete control. Just visit the BMAP web page ([www.bluemounds.org](http://www.bluemounds.org)) and click on the "Mailing List" link at the top of the page. There you'll find information on the *bmp-list* and its sister, the BMAP announce list. The last paragraph tells you how to join by entering your email address and picking a password. The password allows you to change your subscription settings without anyone else being able to get at them. Contact us at [list@bluemounds.org](mailto:list@bluemounds.org) if you need help getting setup.

Once you're signed up, you can choose whether you want to receive list emails individually, or whether you'd like to receive a whole day's worth of list messages at once. This "bundled" batch of messages is called the digest. Digest delivery reduces the number of email messages you receive, but you lose some of the interactive quality of the list since the digest isn't sent until after the previous day's messages have been aggregated.

Addressing an email to [bmp-list@bluemounds.org](mailto:bmp-list@bluemounds.org) sends it to everyone subscribed to the list and is how you get your questions answered or share information with the other subscribers. To reply to the whole list, make sure you choose "reply to all" in your email program. Otherwise your reply will go just to the sender. You can tell who your message is going to by looking at the "To" part of your reply message.

Of course, group discussions only work when there is a group

participating. So check out the *bmp-list*. I'm sure you'll find it a useful component of your land management and restoration toolbox. It's a comfortable and easy way to offer advice and get answers to your land stewardship questions. See you there! \*

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## Websites of Interest to Conservationists

Interested in knowing more about the character of your property prior to the arrival of European settlers? It's never been easier now that the **field notes and plat maps of the public land survey of Wisconsin** are available on line at <http://libtext.library.wisc.edu/SurveyNotes/SurveyNotesHome.html>. Search by township, range, and section or start at the county level to find your land. Printable results.

Another site of interest is the **Dane County Land Information Office** which offers **DCiMap**. DCiMap is Dane County's online geographic information system (GIS). It provides interactive mapping capability to view and query map and database information. DCiMap can help you answer questions such as: What are the lot dimensions of a property? What subdivision is the property in? What is the zoning district? Does the parcel have a conditional use permit? What does the aerial photograph show about this property? Log on at <http://dcimap.co.dane.wi.us/dcimap/index.htm>.

Here's yet another reason to visit the Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin's website—a recent update on using **herbicides for invasive species** control. You'll find it at [www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org). They're also looking for people who are able to contribute material on particular invasive species, such as crown vetch, leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and black locust. Contact Tom Brock at [tdbrock@wisc.edu](mailto:tdbrock@wisc.edu) to contribute.

Interested in creating a **rain garden**? Then visit <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden/index.html> where you'll find two downloadable documents (PDF). The first contains an overview of rain gardens and general step-by-step instructions on how to build one. The second document is a detailed manual that covers rain garden sizing and siting, construction details, planting, and maintenance.

**Protecting Our Waters—A Guide to Responsible Development.** While this website focuses on the Milwaukee River watershed, its information can be applied to any township, village, county, or municipality concerned about deteriorating surface water conditions. It covers a wide variety of topics like rain gardens, illicit discharges, non-point source pollution and subdivision design. Find it at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/plan/>.

If you're one of the survey respondents who indicated an interest in dark sky initiatives you should find the **Sensible Shoreland Lighting** publication available at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/shorelight/lighting.pdf> of value. Although the 11-page publication focuses on reducing stray light along shorelines, its information readily transfers to upland areas. Sometimes being in the dark is a good thing. \*

# The Butternut Tree: From Regal to Rare

Keith Woeste and Michael Ostry, USDA Forest Service

Butternut (*Juglans cinerea* L.), also called white walnut, lemonnut, or oilnut, is a small- to medium-size tree, frequently 40 to 60 feet tall that seldom exceeds 75 years of age. It is native to the Northeastern quarter of the United States and the southernmost parts of Canada. As its name suggests, butternut is a member of the walnut family, and it produces a large, thick-shelled nut, typically one and a half to two inches in length (see illustration). The husk or hull of butternuts is yellow-green and covered with sticky hairs. The nut inside is usually football-shaped with a distinctly pointed end and four or eight prominent seams. The nutmeat is rich in oils and sweet. Its flavor makes it a favorite of wildlife and those people lucky enough to find them and patient enough to crack them.

The butternut tree is similar in appearance to the common eastern black walnut, which is abundant throughout southern Wisconsin, but there are several features that distinguish the two species. Butternut bark usually (but not always) has wide, somewhat shallow, smooth-topped ridges superimposed on darker fissures. Thus, butternut stems often appear shiny and pale gray, rather than the medium to dark color of walnut bark.

Butternut twigs contain pith that is dark brown and chambered, the twigs are often hairy and the bud scars (the point at which last year's leaves were attached) are surrounded by a fringe of hairs. Butternut terminal buds are also hairy and pointed. Conversely, black walnut twigs have light-brown pith, the leaf scars are hairless, and the terminal buds of the twigs are smooth and somewhat blunt.

Over the last 40 years or so a fungal disease known as butternut canker has killed 80 to 90 percent of the butternut trees in the United States. Butternut canker is lethal and it spreads quickly. It has been found in every part of the butternut's range. Most butternuts are highly susceptible to the disease, and all ages and size classes of trees can be infected. Infections appear first in the upper crown on one or two year old wood. These cankers are often elliptical in shape and slightly sunken. They will later develop an inky black center.

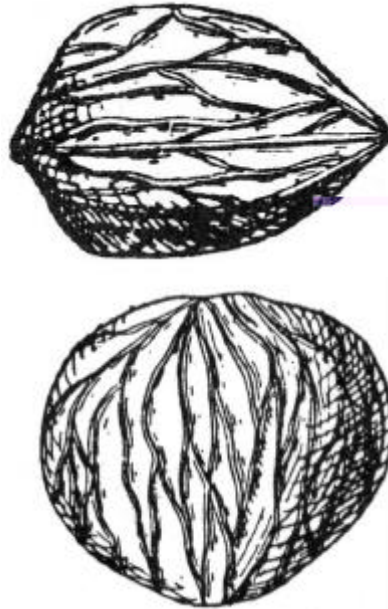
There are a few simple things that landowners who have butternut trees on their property can do to keep them healthy. Butternut is a relatively short-lived tree, and stress from old age and competition often leads to tree death unrelated to butternut canker. If butternut canker is responsible for the loss of crown volume, there is almost always evidence of stem canker. Butternut canker proceeds from the top of the tree downward. Trees that have dieback and cankers on large branches or signs of oozing cankers on the trunk are almost certainly doomed. Dead trees should be

removed and burned.

Butternut is a splendid, useful tree, and there is grave concern over the long-term genetic impact of this epidemic. For example, butternut is now extremely rare in the upper South, and butternut may be permanently lost from many of the midwestern streambanks and woodlands where it once thrived. In Wisconsin, butternut is a Special Concern species. Scientists with the USDA Forest Service

have, for the past dozen years or so, been attempting to identify butternuts that are resistant to butternut canker. Their long-term goal is to breed disease-resistant, locally adapted varieties of butternut that can be used for reintroduction of the species to its former habitats.

We are happy to report there have been some important successes in the effort to conserve butternut. Several butternut trees have been identified that appear to have moderate to good levels of resistance to butternut canker, and the use of these trees for breeding is being investigated. Surprisingly, a common feature of these apparently more canker-resistant trees is their thick, often darkly-colored bark. Surveys have been undertaken by both State and Federal agencies to try to identify habitats in which butternut was once common so that the number and health of trees there can be monitored. These habitats are also candidates for butternut



Butternut (u) and black walnut (l) nuts without husk at life size.

reintroduction in the future.

Some butternut trees that survived this epidemic were isolated and escaped infection, other trees appear to have resistance to the disease. Dr. Mike Ostry and Dr. Keith Woeste, both of the USDA Forest Service North Central Research Station, are attempting to learn about the location of living (and especially healthy) butternut trees. If you know of the location of a living butternut, please contact Woeste or Ostry using the contact numbers and addresses below. A lot of landowners, natural resource professionals, environmentalists and tree care professionals still do not know about the butternut canker epidemic. And they are in a position to help.

You can learn more about the butternut story at: [www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht\\_but/ht\\_but.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_but/ht_but.htm); [www.forestry.state.al.us/publication/100/Butternut.pdf](http://www.forestry.state.al.us/publication/100/Butternut.pdf); and [www.lrconline.com/Extension\\_Notes\\_English/pdf/btrmt.pdf](http://www.lrconline.com/Extension_Notes_English/pdf/btrmt.pdf).

Dr. Keith Woeste works with the USDA Forest Service and the Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center at Purdue University. He can be reached at (765) 496-7255 or via <http://www.fnr.purdue.edu/Htirc/woeste.html>. Dr. Michael Ostry works with the North Central Research Station in St. Paul, MN, and can be reached at (651) 649-5113 or [mostro@fs.fed.us](mailto:mostro@fs.fed.us). \*

# BMAP Winter Lecture Series

According to the recent membership questionnaire, 96% of the BMAP members who've attended our talks rated them useful or very useful. If you haven't been attending, here's your chance to see and hear what you've been missing. The talks are free and the public is encouraged to attend—bring a friend. All talks are in the Mt. Horeb Community Center, directions are below.

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## Conservation Easements: A Win-Win Land Preservation Tool

Jim Welsh, Executive Director of the Natural Heritage Land Trust, will provide us with an overview of conservation easements and answer your questions. A conservation easement is a tool landowners can use to permanently protect important features of their land, such as prairie, forest, or prime farm soil. It is a legally binding agreement between the landowner and a conservation organization or a unit of government. Under a conservation easement, the landowner voluntarily limits some uses of the land, like building new houses and roads, but retains other uses, like hunting, farming, and forestry. The landowner continues to own and live on the land and can sell it or pass it on to heirs. Public access is not required. A landowner can receive fair market value prices for the rights given up or can donate those rights, possibly receiving a charitable tax deduction.

The Natural Heritage Land Trust is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting natural areas, farmland, and open space in Dane County and vicinity. The Land Trust was established in 1983. Jim Welsh has more than ten years of experience in land conservation and management with the Natural Area Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy.

Please join us on Thursday, **January 15**, 2004, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Mt. Horeb Community Center (second floor).

## Identifying and Controlling Invasive Species of Southwest Wisconsin

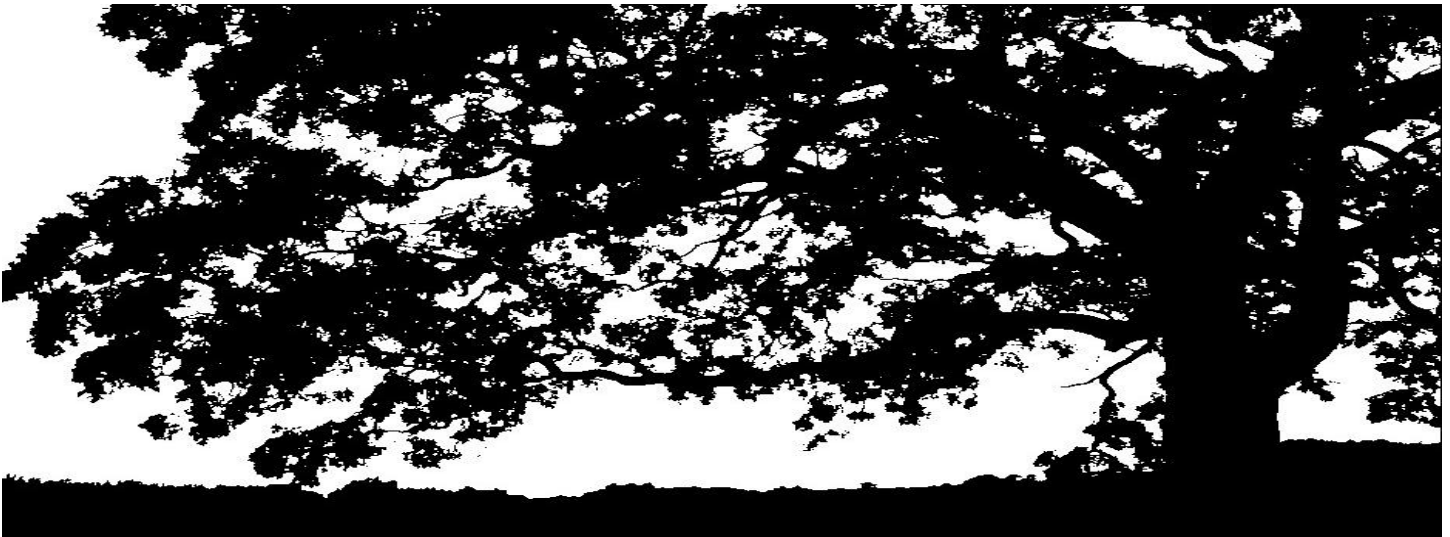
Battling buckthorn? Need help identifying a weed? Want to learn the latest invasive species control techniques? Then plan to attend this talk! Kelly Kearns, a regional expert on invasives species, will discuss the primary invasive plants of southwestern Wisconsin and show how they are affecting our woodlands, wetlands, and prairies. She'll demonstrate identification techniques and show aggressive nonnative plants that are commonly mistaken for benign wildflowers. Ms. Kearns will discuss how these plant invaders can be most effectively combated, the techniques that show the most promise, and which species to watch for as new plant pests enter our region from neighboring states and other countries.

Kelly Kearns is the Plant Conservation Program Manager for the Bureau of Endangered Resources of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She is responsible for conservation efforts with rare plants throughout the state. In addition, she coordinates efforts on invasive plant education, policy, and control.

Please join us on Thursday, **February 19**, 2004, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Mt. Horeb Community Center (second floor).

### Directions

All of the talks will be at the **Mt. Horeb Community Center**, 107 N. Grove Street, Mt. Horeb, in the former library building. From the downtown stop light intersection of Main Street (also County Highway ID) and Second Street, go west on Main Street and take the first right onto N. Grove Street. We'll be in the upper level meeting room.



# Thank you New and Renewing Members and Donors

## Member Changes Since the Last Newsletter

### New Members

Cynthia and Robert Borcharding  
 Frank Fetter  
 Bill Grover & Greta Guenther  
 Madelyn Leopold & Claude Kazanski  
 Scott Taylor

### Renewal

Andrew Anderson  
 John & Eleanor Asmuth  
 Alan & Sandy Bemis  
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 William DeRonne  
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 Wayne Hakes  
 Patrick Handrick\*

### Renewal, continued

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 Deborah Joseph (Lime Creek Farm)\*  
 Jan Kettle  
 Pete Kiel  
 Mark A. Koepl (Catnip Hollow)  
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 Ruth Ann Schmitt\*  
 Mary & Joe Skupniewitz  
 James Van Deurzen\*  
 Percy Werner  
 Scott Wiener  
 Tom Wise\*

\* indicates an additional donation

### Donation

James Zerwick

### Services For The Landowner

~ Native Restoration ~  
 site analysis, species selection, design,  
 site prep, installation, management

~ Consulting ~  
 plant and animal surveys,  
 site-specific management plans

~ Management ~  
 prescribed burns with insured crew,  
 exotic species control, brush removal

~ Native Seeds and Plants ~



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**Our Mission:**

The Blue Mounds Area 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.

| <b>BMAP Board of Directors</b> | <b>Board Members</b> |             | <b>Staff Ecologist</b> |
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 The Blue Mounds Area Project Newsletter is published quarterly. We welcome your comments, submissions, and advertisements. Send them to the Editor: Michael Anderson, Blue Mounds Area Project, PO Box 332, Mount Horeb, WI 53572 or by email to biologic@chorus.net.

## Blue Mounds Area Project Membership Form

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

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

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

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New member \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership for \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:**

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

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**Other contribution to further the BMAP mission** \_\_\_\_\_

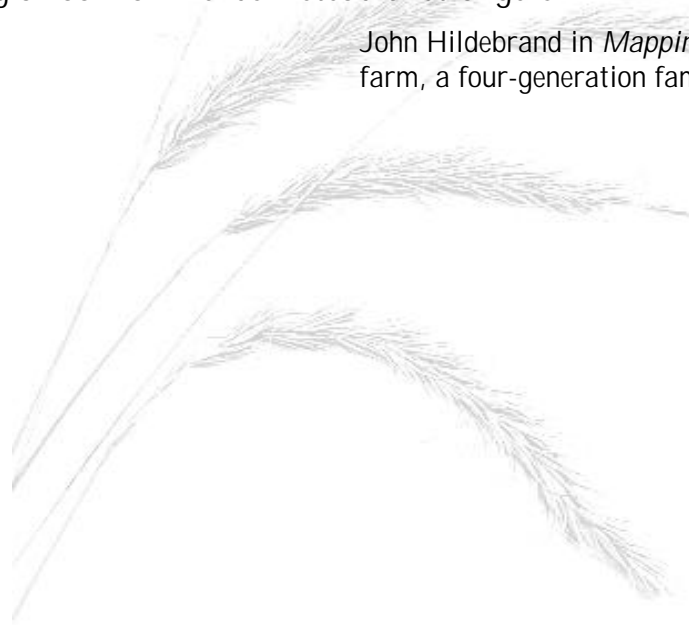
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\*\*All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law\*\*

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND RETURN TO:**  
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The common names for plants—like “prairie smoke” for *Geum triflorum*, for instance—are memorable precisely because they’re metaphoric, nicknames based upon prior associations rather than the cold logic of Linnaean taxonomy. They are terms of familiarity, and walking through a meadow calling the plants by name is like entering a room of friends instead of strangers.

John Hildebrand in *Mapping the Farm*, the story of the O’Neill farm, a four-generation family farm in eastern Minnesota



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