



# THE BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

*Promoting Ecological Restoration and Stewardship of Native Habitats*

Winter 2002 Vol. 5 No. 1

## **BMAP ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 a.m. to noon**

We hope you'll attend this year's annual meeting. We want to update you on last year's accomplishments: the forestry grant related workshops, stewardship plans, and landowner surveys we completed; the status of our quest to become an official nonprofit; our fund raising successes.

We want to share our plans for this year: how we'll use the Turkey Stamp funds we've been awarded to purchase land management equipment for your use; how we'll be involved with making the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program a success; and how we'll help protect our local rivers and streams.

We need to hear your thoughts, opinions, and suggestions. How would you like us to direct our energy? How can we better fulfill our mission of protecting and restoring native habitats? Where will we find the funds to continue? Come and tell us what's on your mind.

We'll be nominating and electing several new board members. We need your help to do this. Perhaps you'll even consider joining our board.

And, for the first time, we'll be presenting an award to a BMAP member for outstanding land stewardship. This award, entitled the *Bur Oak Award for Outstanding Land Stewardship*, will be part of the annual meeting beginning this year.

If that's not enough, we'll have free food and beverages, too. Bring a friend, relative, or neighbor to the meeting and help them become a member. We'll thank you, the land will thank you.

The meeting will be February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Amcore Bank, 100 S. First Street in downtown Mt. Horeb, at the corner of Main Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street (one block west of the downtown stop light). We'll start at 10 a.m. and be done by noon. \*

## **Did You Notice?**

Did you notice our new logo? After much discussion, a little debate, and some hand wringing it's ready for use. You'll find a text-free version at the top of this page and a full text version next to your mailing label. A big "thank you" to Julie Raasch for giving us our new logo! \*

## **Thank you, Departing Board Members!**

The BMAP offers its special thanks to departing board members Wendell Burkholder, Education and Events Committee; Mary Fritz, Secretary; Jim Zerwick, Treasurer and Membership Committee; and Kent Mayfield, Fund Raising Committee, who together have provided many years of quality service and support to the Project.

Without their dedication and involvement the BMAP could have easily fizzled out years ago. We hope you are enjoying your well-deserved free time, but we also look forward to continuing to work with you in a more limited capacity. Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!! \*

## **The First Annual Bur Oak Award for Outstanding Land Stewardship**

Although proper land stewardship creates its own rewards, we believe that landowners who go the extra distance, plant the extra acre, nurture the system, or turn back invading weeds deserve special recognition.

Thus, we have created the Bur Oak Award for Outstanding Land Stewardship. This award will be given annually to a BMAP member who exemplifies our mission to protect and restore native habitats.

We'll make the award each year during our annual meeting, beginning with this year's meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. \*

## **BMAP's Big Beautiful Brochure**

As promised in the last newsletter, our new brochure is ready for distribution. We'll be sending you a couple of copies as an enclosure with the Annual Report. Look for them in a month or so.

If you can't wait that long, the brochure will be available at the annual meeting or you can request copies by sending an email to [info@bluemounds.org](mailto:info@bluemounds.org) or by calling 608-795-4244.

Thank you Julie Raasch for donating your graphic art skills and thank you Mike Anderson for crafting the brochure text. \*

## Message From The Board

Carroll Schaal, President

Dear Member,

Our winter newsletter marks the time to prepare for our annual meeting of the membership. This year's meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> has added significance, compared to years past, because it's a transition year for the Project. Many changes are occurring, and we need your involvement and input. We've accomplished a lot in the last year, and there are some exciting prospects, as well as challenges, on the horizon.

At last year's annual meeting, we conducted a brainstorming session on where the project should focus its activities. We used this feedback to develop a strategic plan and have followed its direction for managing our organization and the services we provide. Many of these recommendations have been implemented but many more remain to be done. At the annual meeting we'll check in on this plan, see how we are doing and have an open discussion on needed modifications.

Organizationally we have been moving in a more formal and focused direction. We completed bylaws and articles of

incorporation, filed with the State as a nonprofit corporation and applied to the Internal Revenue Service for tax-exempt status. We've instituted a committee structure to tackle policy issues, develop work plans, and manage various tasks.

The immediate challenge for the Project is that four of our eight Directors will resign after the annual meeting. We need to replace these people and keep the leadership of the BMAP strong. All four have pledged to remain active and be involved on committees. This is a great opportunity to add to our Board while retaining some of our institutional knowledge and working members on active committees. Our bylaws call for a nominating committee to present a slate of Director candidates for election to the Board at the annual meeting. The committee has been soliciting individuals, so far with little success. If you are, or know someone who may be, interested in serving on our Board of Directors, please contact me at (608) 437-6247 or bring a nomination to the annual meeting. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself.

In the field, we've tried to maintain a focus on directly assisting landowners with management and restoration efforts with thematic links to our educational programs. Much of last year's activities centered on forest stewardship. Hundreds of people (and 150 6<sup>th</sup> grade students) participated in various aspects of the program funded by grants from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board and the DNR Forestry Program. We supported workshops and talks on ecological forest management and helped develop detailed stewardship plans for approximately 500 acres. Many others received assistance and were enlightened to the unique needs of managing the oak savanna with native species and biodiversity as a goal.

To build on the momentum of our forest stewardship activities, we have secured a small grant from the DNR Turkey

Stamp Program to purchase burn and other management equipment for clearing and enhancing oak openings. What's good for the turkey is good for the savanna and all its other ecological components. This equipment will be available in programs to assist landowners in restoration efforts, implementing another goal of our strategic plan calling for more hands on land management assistance.

As I discussed in this space in a recent newsletter, we've been working with a diverse coalition of groups and agencies (increasing partnerships and networking with other conservation organizations is another strategic goal) on a multifaceted grassland conservation initiative in parts of Iowa and Dane Counties. Known as the Historic Perry-Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Group, this effort is tied to the implementation of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and The Nature Conservancy's Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Project. This emerging initiative has tremendous potential to advance native species conservation in the Blue Mounds region. As part of this initiative, we have a modest grant and contractual financial assistance from the DNR to do landowner assistance and community education.

These are some of the exciting opportunities for our future, but they also represent some major challenges. First, these activities require matching funds and currently our cash reserves are very low. (Please check your mailing label to make sure your membership is current!) At the annual meeting we will discuss these initiatives and launch a fund raising campaign to help complete their budgets. However, we need more than money. It takes people to make these things happen. As these projects unfold, we need your advice and guidance to ensure they support your needs.

The annual meeting will provide a forum to discuss these initiatives and other issues. It is your opportunity to influence and shape the direction of the BMAP. It's more than a formality or progress report. Please plan on attending **your** annual meeting, February 23, 10:00 a.m. at the Amcore Bank building in Mount Horeb (see article on page 1 for full details). It will be an opportunity to share our successes and a great time to share your ideas on where you would like us to go. \*

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### Take A Minute....

Please take a minute to turn to the back page and check your mailing label to see if your membership has expired. If it has, or is close to expiring, we would greatly appreciate your renewal. If you've been receiving a complimentary copy, please join.

This cost of producing and mailing the newsletter is one of our highest recurring expenses. Your membership provides us with the funds we need to be able to continue producing the newsletter. It also shows us you support our efforts. Renewing without being asked saves volunteer time and BMAP money that can be used for land protection. \*

## Calendar of Events

### **\*BMAP ANNUAL MEETING\***

**February 23, Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon**  
**Amcore Bank, 100 S. 1st Street, (downtown at the corner of Main St. and 1st St.), Mt. Horeb**

See page 1 for the details of this important meeting. \*

### **Garden Expo**

**February 8-10, Friday-Sunday**  
**Alliant Energy Center, Madison**

Huge display of vendors offering land management and gardening tools, native plants and seeds, garden art, local conservation nonprofits, landscapers, and the opportunity to ask the experts. Talks and demonstrations on prairie restoration, seed collecting and cleaning, shoreline restoration, landscaping with native wildflowers, rock gardening, attracting birds, medicinal herb gardening, composting, pruning, and much, much more. \*

### **Woodland Owners Conference**

**February 16, Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**American Family Insurance Headquarters, Madison**

Learn about restoring native ferns and flowers, managing established forestland, preventing tree diseases, establishing and managing prairie, and cooperatives and land trusts. Land management and restoration vendors and displays. \$30. For more info: (608) 224-3718 or email [habecker@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:habecker@co.dane.wi.us). \*

### **14<sup>th</sup> Annual The Prairie Enthusiasts Conference**

**March 8-9, Friday evening and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**University of Wisconsin-La Crosse**

Always a good time with good folks for a good cause (prairie conservation). The banquet, Chapter Awards, and an after-dinner talk entitled *Prairie Ecosystems in the Midwestern United States: Their Origin, Development and Demise* will be Friday evening. Saturday will feature concurrent talks on prairie fungi, controlling exotic species in prairie, fire effects, the Karner Blue butterfly, conservation easements and land trusts, grassland birds, unexpected moths, and an *Ask the Experts* session, as well as an auction and raffle, a Kids Conference, and the opportunity for a archaeological field trip to nearby Perrot State Park. For more info: Barb Christie, (414) 421-5928, [EdBarbC@webtv.net](mailto:EdBarbC@webtv.net) or visit [www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org) and click on the conference link for details, directions, and a registration form. \*

**Native Landscaping Conference, Wild Ones/UW-Arboretum**  
**March 16, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Alliant Energy Center, Madison**

This year's conference is entitled "Sustainability-Seeking an ECO-Balance." Five tracks of learning beneficial to the beginner and the experienced natural landscaper, as well as the private landowner, the developer, and the local government official. The ECO-Beginner track will outline how to plan, implement, and maintain native prairie landscaping. ECO-Systems will include sedges, woodlands, and savanna ecology.

ECO-learning will provide three sessions devoted to the educators among us. The ECO-citizen track will include a new study on the effects of prairie restoration on soil fertility (with some possibly controversial findings-you won't want to miss this one), a buckthorn removal program from Minnesota, and the Dark Sky-what you can do to reduce light pollution. The Eco-Developer track will include an update on rain gardens in a planned development, roadside prairie restoration, and a round-table discussion of corporate and local government cooperation in developing a native plant restoration project. Cost is \$25, or \$30 after March 6<sup>th</sup>. For a brochure, contact the Arboretum, (608) 263-7888, or visit [www.wisc.edu/arboretum](http://www.wisc.edu/arboretum). \*

### **2002 North American Prairie Conference**

**June 23-27**  
**Kirkville, Missouri**

All things prairie. This year's conference theme will be "Promoting Prairie," with subtopics including: prairie biodiversity, restoration and reconstruction, initiatives to preserve prairies, education and outreach, native landscaping, and use of prairies for environmental improvement. Easy drive from southern Wisconsin. Visit [www.napc2002.org](http://www.napc2002.org) or call Sharron Gough at 417-876-5226 for more information. \*

**Want to list an event? Mail it to Michael Anderson, 2505 Richardson St., Fitchburg, WI, 53711 or email it to [biologic@chorus.net](mailto:biologic@chorus.net).**

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## Woodland School Offers Classes

The Woodland School was formed in 1998 by a group of resource management professionals who believe the sustainable management of private lands is essential for maintaining the integrity and diversity of our native habitats. The Woodland School strives to offer private landowners training in multi-resource land stewardship, conservation management, and ecological restoration at an affordable price. The Woodland School is currently coordinated by the Aldo Leopold Foundation, and BMAP continues to cosponsor several classes.

Although the class schedule is still being finalized, the likely list of classes includes:

- Fire as a Management Tool, April 12, (raindate April 19), Baraboo area.
- Controlling Woodland Invasive Species, April 27, Spring Green area.
- From Trees to Trillium: Identifying Forest Plants, May 5, Baraboo Hills.
- Managing Forests for Biodiversity, June 1, Baraboo.
- Controlling Grassland Invasive Species, June 22, Spring Green area.

For more information or to request a catalog: The Woodland School, PO Box 77, Baraboo, WI 53913, phone (608) 355-0279, send an email to [rob@aldoleopold.org](mailto:rob@aldoleopold.org), or visit [www.thewoodlandschool.org](http://www.thewoodlandschool.org). \*

**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>
President–Carroll Schaal	Michael Anderson	Bob Wernerehl
Vice President–Vacant	Wendell Burkholder	
Secretary–Mary Fritz	Kent Mayfield	
Treasurer–John Bird	Peter Weil	

The Blue Mounds Area Project Newsletter is published quarterly. Send your comments, suggestions, submissions, and advertisements to the Editor: Michael Anderson, Blue Mounds Area Project, PO Box 332, Mount Horeb, WI 53572 or by email to [biologic@chorus.net](mailto:biologic@chorus.net).

## Blue Mounds Area 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 BMAP 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 BMAP ecologist (we will contact you for additional information and to arrange the visit).

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

Ecological ignorance breeds indifference: what we know, we may choose to care for. What we fail to recognize, we certainly won't.

Robert Michael Pyle, in *The Rise and Fall of Natural History: How a Science Grew that Eclipsed Direct Experience*, Orion, Autumn 2001



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD  
PERMIT #5  
BLACK EARTH, WI 53515

PO Box 332  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

## TIME TO RENEW??

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