



# THE BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

Promoting Ecological Restoration and Stewardship of Native Habitats

Winter 2003 Vol. 6 No. 1

## Private Landowners Need To Be Involved

Robert Wernerehl, BMAP Ecologist

*Editor's note: Steve Swenson was a December 4<sup>th</sup> BMAP Winter Lecture Series speaker.*

With an intriguing image projected on a screen of an older landowner smiling while sitting on the freshly cut trunk of a downed tree, Steve Swenson, ecologist for the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo and Blufflands Project manager, began his talk with the story of farmers in northwestern Sauk County. These farmers had deeply ingrained conservation practices that began in the 1930s and had come about through the tutelage of the Soil Erosion Service, the predecessor to the Soil Conservation Service. Approached by a new county agent who suggested they could plant more corn, which would have led to more erosion, these farmers were known to say, "That's not the way my father did it," and they kept their soil conservation practices in place. Swenson stated that if we want to solve the conservation problems on our private lands, we need to get to the point where private landowners have this same deep-seated sense of continuing conservation traditions on their own land.

But a paradox exists, for landowners also often have to learn to accept new practices to help native species. The photo of the landowner sitting on the downed tree told the story of how Swenson had worked to convince the landowner to create better grassland bird habitat, which meant cutting down the pine fencerows the landowner had planted 40 years previous. In this case, the smile on the landowner's face showed he had realized the value of this new approach. Pointing out that almost 90 percent of Wisconsin land is held by private landowners, Swenson emphasized that working with these landowners is critical to the survival of most of our native species.

Swenson went on to give a brief overview of how the land in this area had been shaped by geology and fire. He then spoke at

length about his work quantifying prairie losses on the bluffs of the Wisconsin River and elsewhere. Using a large block of land around the Wisconsin Heights battleground, Swenson showed digitized black and white aerial photographs of bluff prairies dating back to 1937 (see accompanying photos). "Look how this area right here slowly changed from a bluff prairie, to partial tree canopy, to a closed forest," said Swenson as he pointed to the photographs. "We found that some prairies shrank 72 percent in

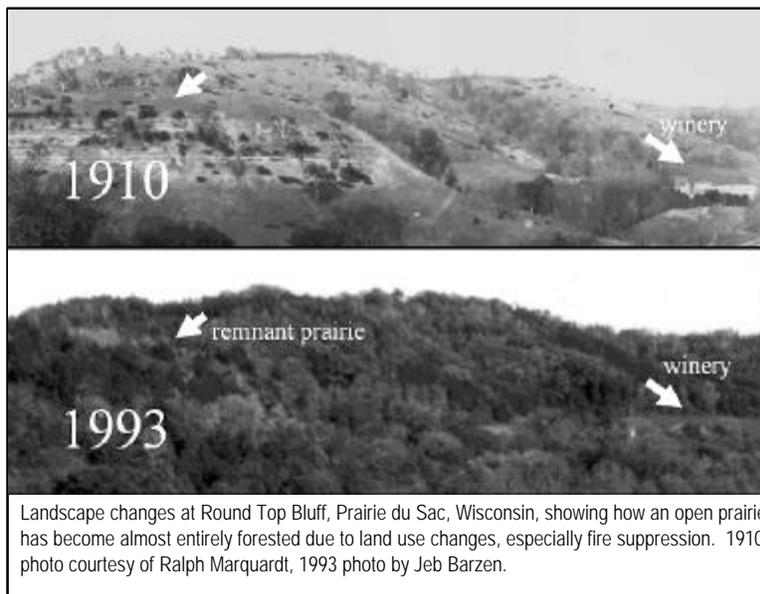
less than 60 years."

Further images showed how some rare native species popped up and began to flower after the Blufflands Project helped the landowner clear and burn off hundreds of red cedar trees from the bluff prairies.

This provided a segue for the audience to ask questions. "Are there enough of us to really make a difference," wondered Sharon Gaskill of the Town of Vermont. Swenson told how the Aldo Leopold Foundation has been able to organize many volunteers to help with burn crews and planting prairie restorations. At an early

November prairie planting near the Wisconsin Dells nearly 50 volunteers showed up to hand-plant 16 acres. "If I had known how many would come, I would have had the seed ready for many more acres," said Swenson with a chuckle.

Others asked about the difficulties of land management and obtaining insurance for things such as prescribed burns. Others wondered how small conservation organizations can survive financially. Swenson's strong optimism ended the evening in a positive tone. "Public lands and land trusts aren't going to save the native species on their own. We need private landowners to be involved with management," he stated. Swenson continued by saying that although many landowners need more education and more tools to do the job, they can accomplish much if given the chance. Steve Swenson has real faith in private landowners, saying, "I've never heard a landowner say, 'I'd like to leave my land in worse shape than it is now.'" \*



## Message from the Board

Carroll Schaal, President

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. At least it's finally acting like winter. First off, I'd like to thank everyone who responded to our recent solicitations and either joined the BMAP or renewed their membership. Many of you also made an additional generous donation. It's been a banner year, setting records in membership and the number of donations. Thanks for your support!

On February 19 we'll wrap-up our Winter Lecture Series with Mike Miller's talk on the effects of land use on streams and water quality (see page 5 for details). Mike is a WDNR stream ecologist and stream monitoring specialist. This year, to broaden our scope and demonstrate how the management of our uplands impacts the health of our area's valuable stream resources, we've tried to weave in talks on aquatic ecosystems along with the prairie and savanna talks.

I really hope you have been able to join us for one or more of the talks in our Winter Lecture Series. If you haven't been able to find the time but wish you could have, you'll be happy to know that we've videotaped them and are making the tapes available through the South Central Library System. We will be developing a complete list of titles and how to find them for our next newsletter. Feedback on our lectures has always been very positive (most times we have over 30 attendees) and the videos will allow us to reach an even larger audience with this valuable information. We are always looking for ideas, let us know if you have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic.

Speaking of planning, every year about this time we plan our projects and programs for the coming year.

There are some very interesting things being developed. In the theme of stream protection, we have been contacting landowners in the German Valley/Gordon Creek watershed to determine their interest in improving the stream habitat on their land. Based on the response, the Dane County Land and Water Conservation Department will be applying for a DNR grant to provide landowners with cost-share assistance to do projects such as removing woody vegetation, planting native grasses, and stabilizing stream banks.

In another exciting development, the Mt. Horeb Historical Society has offered us space in their museum to develop a display on the natural and cultural history of the area, with the latter aspect focusing on land stewardship and conservation. It will be a great way to showcase our work. We're developing a proposal for grant funding and beginning to plan the exhibit.

Finally, if approved by the DNR, we'll be hosting a major workshop on oak savanna restoration for improving wild turkey habitat sometime in May. If things go as planned, this will be a springboard to a larger initiative that will provide assistance and support for landowners and will create a volunteer network to do restoration work on local properties—much like our ecologically-based forestry stewardship project of two years ago.

Anyone interested in hearing more about these projects and helping make them a reality should plan on attending our Annual Meeting on March 8. The Annual Meeting is also your opportunity to learn more about what we've been up to, get answers to your

questions, and provide us with direction. See the Annual Meeting announcement on this page for full details.

On a closing note, while the BMAP is going well, we are always looking for help. Right now, the Board has identified two much-needed volunteer opportunities. First, we need help—just a few hours four times a year—to provide assistance with preparing our newsletter for bulk mailing and to drop it off at the Black Earth post office. Second, we need someone to help keep our library and resource materials at the Prairie Book Store in Mt. Horeb organized and updated, and to keep a scrap book on BMAP activities. If either of these interests you, please contact us or come to the Annual Meeting (or one of our monthly Board meetings) to discuss your availability.

See you at the Annual Meeting! \*

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## BMAP ANNUAL MEETING

**MARCH 8, 10 a.m. to noon**

For about the last eight years the BMAP has been promoting ecological restoration and stewardship of native habitats in southwestern Wisconsin. Maturity and stability are two words that could be used to describe the year 2002.

We hope you'll attend this year's annual meeting so that we can update you on last year's achievements: expanded working relationships with other organizations and agencies; promoting landowner participation in CREP to improve water quality; our nomination for the prestigious Virginia M. Kline Award for Excellence in Community Based Restoration; and the \$10,000 River Protection Grant we received from the WDNR, to name only a few.

We also want to share our plans for this year and 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? Let us know what's on your mind.

We need to nominate several new board members and we need your help doing this. Perhaps you'll even join our board. We'll be presenting the second annual Bur Oak Award for Outstanding Land Stewardship to a deserving member.

We'll also have a guest speaker: Frank Fetter, the Executive Director for the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association. Frank's talk is entitled "Status of the Upper Sugar River Watershed—a Resource Under Pressure." The Upper Sugar River is a diverse water body with segments classified as a Wisconsin outstanding water resource, while other segments are considered impaired water in need of rehabilitation. Frank will describe the qualities of this resource, the implications of its various official water quality designations, and what his organization is doing to protect and help manage it.

Please join us March 8 at the Amcore Bank, 100 S. First Street in downtown Mt. Horeb, at the corner of Main Street and First Street (one block west of the downtown stop light). We'll start at 10 a.m. and be done by noon. Bring a friend, relative, or neighbor to the meeting and help them become a member. \*

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**The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to learn more about what we've been up to, get answers to your questions, and provide us with direction.**

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# 2002 Gypsy Moth Trap Catch Results

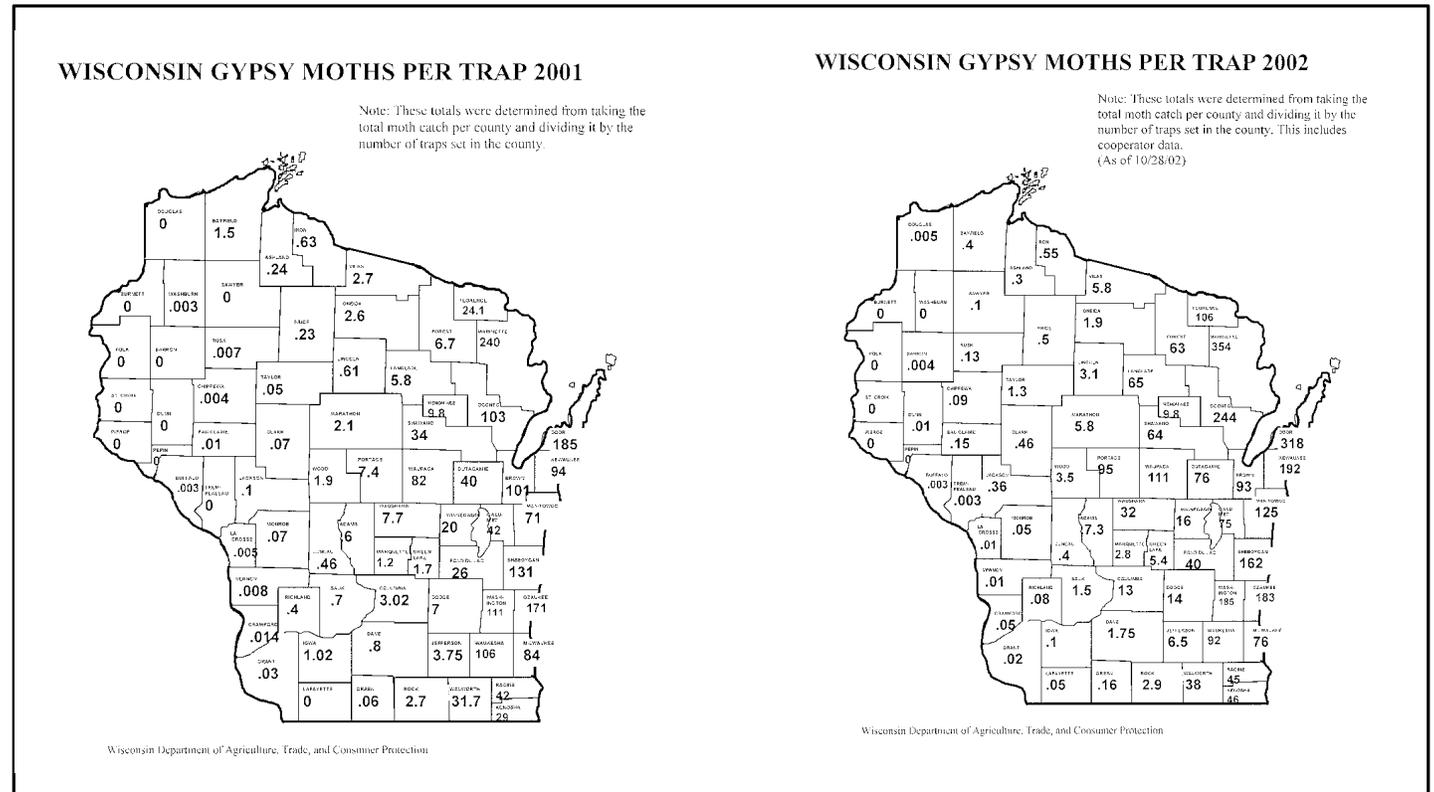
Mark Guthmiller, WDNR, and Chris Whitney, WDATCP

*Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the Wisconsin Urban and Community Forest newsletter (V. 10 No. 3), a quarterly newsletter of the WDNR, Forestry Division. We appreciate their permission to reprint the article.*

Gypsy moth trap catch counts continue to rise, especially in the eastern third of the state. This year a total of 623,798 gypsy moths (as of November 1, 2002) have been caught by Wisconsin Department of Agriculture gypsy moth trappers as part of the Wisconsin Cooperative Gypsy Moth Program. This is up from the 2001 moth trap catch of 378,939.

A number of factors make it hard to compare trap catch counts from one year to another. Trapping densities change as counties become quarantined, some areas may be delimited, which means setting a higher density of traps to delineate a possible infestation, or an area may have been treated with B.t.k. to kill caterpillars or with pheromone flakes as a mating disruption tactic. Areas treated with pheromone flakes are not trapped until the following year. The traps use the same pheromone that is used for mating disruption and would not be as effective in trapping moths in these treatment areas. Weather, such as late freezes and heavy downpours, also affects population levels year to year.

With these constraints in mind, here are the maps from 2001 and 2002 comparing average moth catch per trap for a county. Note that these totals were determined by taking the total moth catch per county and dividing it by the number of traps set in the county.



Although these “moths per trap” maps give a general idea of the population status of gypsy moth, a more visual color gradient map is available on the Internet at: [www.ento.vt.edu/~sharov/stsdec/d20023/krig.gif](http://www.ento.vt.edu/~sharov/stsdec/d20023/krig.gif).

The orange and pink gradient zones on the Internet maps are areas that have gypsy moth population levels high enough in some locations to cause damaging levels of defoliation. Previous year's maps can be viewed and compared by substituting the year of interest into the above address section /d20023/.

Based on the Web-site map and data collected in 2002, defoliation is likely to occur in portions of northeastern and eastern Wisconsin as well as in Portage, Waupaca, and Waushara counties of central Wisconsin. For the status of gypsy moth in your area, take a look at this gradient map at the above Web site. ✱

# A Tale of Three Mowers

## DR Field and Brush Mower

Andrea Hoerr, BMAP Board Member and Landowner

If you are a property owner like my husband and me, you may find yourself faced with the often-conflicting ideals of restoration and eking out relaxation in your free time. We've tried different tools to help combat nasty exotics like multiflora rose, buckthorn, and thistles, as well as brambles. Loppers aren't fast enough; string trimmers get tangled up with vegetation and are big pollutants. Full-blown tractors are both too big for our needs and not nimble enough to adapt to clearing woods and maintaining nascent prairie.

Early this past year we discovered a walk-behind mower that significantly helps with the effort needed for achieving our land management goals.

This is the DR Field and Brush Mower sold by Country Home Products. We spent quite a bit of time researching alternatives to this mower and found that there was nothing comparable to the DR for the features we were

interested in. They offer a 30-day trial so we decided to go ahead with the 15HP model.

There are several models of the DR Field and Brush Mower ranging from 9HP all the way up to a 17HP monster. Prices range from \$1,400 for the 9HP model up to \$2,400 for the 17HP model, not including attachments. All models come with a 1 year machine warranty and a 2-year engine warranty.

Some of the features that make this mower good for the type of work we do are: limited slip differential, 4-speed transmission with reverse, electric ignition, an optional heavy-duty brush blade that can take care of saplings up to 2 inches in diameter, and a 26-inch wide cut. The wheels are the type found on all-terrain vehicles and chains are yet another option. An important feature is the way the deck pivots to match the grade of the slope you're working on. Attachments that can be purchased separately include a lawn mower deck, a snow blade, and a snow thrower.

The mower appears to be very well designed with solid metal components made in Vermont and a two-cylinder Kawasaki engine. Most of the parts are easily accessible for maintenance. The only drawback is the poorly written and illustrated users manual. However, they do have a hotline that operates during standard hours during the week and some hours on the weekend.

We got our mower in late July, just in time to take out the maturing thistles invading our prairie. Doug started it up and four hours later finished a section saying, "Boy, I love this thing almost as much as my motorcycle!" Although I've yet to use the 350-pound mower in particularly challenging areas, I suspect that

maneuvering it around obstacles and controlling it on steep slopes and rough ground may be beyond the physical ability of some users.

All in all, the DR Mower promises to be an important addition to our toolkit. Restoration work is a major commitment and having good tools can only help maintain that commitment for the long term.

## Billy Goat and Bachtold Mowers

Michael Anderson

Ken Neitzke from the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation uses several types of mowers to maintain 45 miles of trail in Waukesha County. On average, about 30 miles are mowed every three weeks, a hefty workload.

The Billy Goat is Ken's largest mower. It has an 11HP four-cycle engine, is six feet long, cuts a 24-inch swath, and has three forward speeds and one reverse speed. Ken thinks the reverse is "a nice feature to have."

The mower has small

diameter, wide, pneumatic tractor tread-type tires that are heavier duty than the tires on the Bachtold mower he also uses. However, these tires can be punctured and their small diameter makes them less able to climb over obstructions.

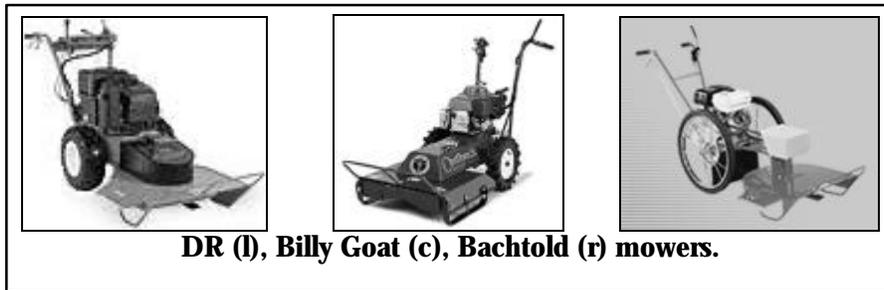
The Billy Goat is direct drive, so the speed of the mower is directly linked to engine speed, as well as which gear you're in. It does not have a brake, which Ken notes can sometimes make it difficult to control while going downhill.

Ken cautioned the mower has a high center of gravity and can be prone to tipping on steep side slopes. He also noted that the Billy Goat can be difficult for a small person to handle because it is large and heavy, and because the handlebars are high and have a limited amount of adjustment. Both hands are required to operate the controls: one hand engages the clutch, the other engages the blade.

Ken also uses an 8HP Bachtold Whipper model with a 26-inch cut. The mower has semi-pneumatic, large diameter bicycle-style wheels that can't go flat and can easily clear obstacles, although their relatively narrow diameter makes them less suitable on wet ground than the Billy Goat. The Bachtold's relatively short length makes it easier to turn than the Billy Goat, and Ken notes that it's particularly useful in brushy and wooded areas where a larger mower would be difficult to maneuver. There is only one forward speed.

Ken has used the Billy Goat mower for three years and the Bachtold for six years without any significant mechanical problems, other than occasionally breaking a blade on a rock.

*continued on the following page*



**DR (l), Billy Goat (c), Bachtold (r) mowers.**

**I love this thing almost as much as my motorcycle!**

### *A Tale of Three Mowers, continued*

He thinks both are good machines, but notes that the Billy Goat will handle five-foot tall grass, whereas the Bachtold won't. Both will clear 1.5-inch diameter brush.

Tim Malzhan, Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation, also uses a Bachtold mower with a 26-inch wide cut to maintain trails and cut firebreaks in Dane and Columbia Counties. The mower has two interchangeable blades: one for brush and one for grass. The brush head can be used to cut grass, although Tim notes that the grass tends to clump or windrow.

Tim has used to the mower for "quite a few years" and thinks it cuts blackberry canes very well, as well as brush up to about one inch in diameter. He considers it a tough, reliable machine, but recommends buying from a shop that offers qualified service. Tim also suggests buying the mower with the largest available engine, noting that "you won't regret it."

Given the variety of available features and the significant investment a mower represents, you might wish to do some test mowing before making a purchase. A-Z Rentals (Madison), Middleton Power Supply (Middleton), and Mt. Horeb Implement (Barneveld) rent the Billy Goat mower. McFarlanes (Sauk City) rents the Bachtold mower and United Rentals (Madison) rents Billy Goat, Honda, and Bachtold mowers.

More information on the mowers mentioned in this article can be found at the manufacturers' Websites: Billy Goat, [www.billy-goat.com](http://www.billy-goat.com); Bachtold, [www.bachtoldbros.com](http://www.bachtoldbros.com); DR mower, [www.countryhomeproducts.com](http://www.countryhomeproducts.com). You can also find information on a 700-pound, 18HP mower that's driven by independently powered rubber tracks that makes a 48-inch cut at [www.lawnvac.com](http://www.lawnvac.com).

*A big thank you to Andrea, Ken, and Tim for sharing their knowledge. Thanks also to Bob Wernerehl for his help interviewing Ken and Tim. \**

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### **Prairie and Savanna Atlas Again Available**

If you didn't get a copy of the *Atlas of the Wisconsin Prairie and Savanna Flora* before the first printing "sold out," you have a second chance because it's been reprinted. The atlas provides distribution maps and habitat descriptions for Wisconsin grassland and savanna plants and is useful for anyone interested in prairie and savanna flora, including those doing ecological restoration.

A limited number of copies are available for \$20. Contact Ted Cochrane, Dept. of Botany Herbarium, UW-Madison, Birge Hall, 430 Lincoln Drive, Madison, WI 53706, phone 608-262-2792, email [tscochra@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:tscochra@facstaff.wisc.edu). It's also available on line at [www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/PSAtlas.html](http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/PSAtlas.html). \*

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### **BMAP Winter Lecture Series Continues**

*The following talk is the final talk of our very successful Winter Lecture Series. The talk is free and the public is encouraged to attend—please bring a friend.*

#### **Effects of Land Use on Streams and Water Quality**

There is an intimate relationship between water resources and the land. Changes in land use can be directly linked to changes in the condition of our area's water resources, especially our fragile cold-water streams. Human population growth and land use changes are increasingly impacting aquatic environments. Protecting not only streams and rivers, but also groundwater, lakes, and wetlands requires wise land use.

Michael Miller, a stream ecologist and stream monitoring specialist with the DNR will talk about some of the effects land use has on streams and other water resources, and how land management can protect these resources. Landowners, public officials, and individuals interested in learning about how land management and land use decision-making can degrade or protect our water resources will find Mike's talk enlightening and useful.

Mike has been a biologist with the WDNR for 12 years, serving for the last 4 years as a stream monitoring specialist with the Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection.

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Amcore Bank in Mt. Horeb, which is located at 100 S. First Street in downtown Mt. Horeb, at the corner of Main Street and First Street, one block west of the stop light. \*

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### **Checklist of Wisconsin Vertebrates**

The WDNR has published a comprehensive and up-to-date listing of Wisconsin's vertebrate species entitled *Checklists of Wisconsin Vertebrates*. Dreux Watermolen and Matthew Murrell are the authors.

The 50-page book has checklists for all known native and introduced species. There are 693 documented species, including 159 fishes, 19 amphibians, 35 reptiles, 408 birds, and 72 mammals. Excluded and extinct species are noted and endangered, threatened, and introduced species are identified with symbols. Current scientific and standardized common names are provided.

The free publication is available from the WDNR through the Bureau of Integrated Science Services. Contact Martin Griffin at (608) 266-0842 or [martin.griffin@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:martin.griffin@dnr.state.wi.us). \*

## Time to Schedule Your Site Visit

Act now if you're interested in having the BMAP ecologist visit your land. A site visit lasts up to three hours, including the time required to create a written report. You're encouraged to accompany the ecologist and ask questions. The report includes a description of the site and its native plant communities, including presettlement conditions, a brief inventory of the native and invasive species observed during the visit, management suggestions, and a list of helpful resources.

Under the revised site visit policy adopted by the Board last fall, there is a \$100 fee for a site visit. Members living outside of a 30-mile radius from Blue Mounds may be charged an extra fee to cover travel time.

If you requested a site visit prior to the implementation of the site visit fee, you will still receive a site visit with verbal information and management suggestions at no charge. At your discretion, you may upgrade to the three-hour visit with written report by paying the \$100 fee.

If you're planning to manage or restore native biodiversity to your land, or if you just want to know more about your land, the BMAP site visit remains an excellent perk of BMAP membership. If you are a BMAP member and would like to schedule a visit for this year, please contact BMAP ecologist Bob Wernerehl as soon as possible at 608-795-4244 or by email at [rww@tds.net](mailto:rww@tds.net). \*

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## Woodland School Announces Spring 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 offers private landowners training in multi-resource land stewardship, conservation management, and ecological restoration at an affordable price. BMAP is a cosponsor of several Woodland School classes.

Classes offered this spring include:

- Your Land-Your Vision: Land Management Options
- Controlling Woodland Invasive Species
- Controlling Grassland Invasive Species
- From Trees to Trillium: Identifying Forest Plants
- Fire as a Management Tool-Grasslands
- Prairie and Savanna Restoration-Solving the Growing Pains
- Reptiles and Amphibians of Wisconsin
- Sustainable Forest Certification

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). \*



## Calendar of Events

### Effects of Land Use on Streams and Water Quality

**February 19, Wednesday, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

See "BMAP Winter Lecture Series" on page 5 for the details of this BMAP sponsored talk.

### Madison Area Woodland Owners Conference

**February 22, Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

#### American Family Insurance Headquarters, Madison

Sessions on forest tax law changes, landowner rights with endangered species, using fire and grazing to control invasive species, forestry impacts of the new farm bill, Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development, and chronic wasting disease. Vendor exhibits. \$25 in advance, includes lunch. (608) 224-3718 or [habecker@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:habecker@co.dane.wi.us).

### BMAP Annual Meeting

**March 8, Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon**

#### Amcore Bank, 100 S. First Street, downtown Mt. Horeb

See the announcement on page 2 for more information.

### Sustainable Woods Cooperative 5th Annual Meeting and Birthday Party: "Celebrating Members' Talents"

**March 15, Saturday, 4:00 until ???**

#### Folklore Village (6 miles SE of Dodgeville)

Silent auction, stories, announcements, a buffet dinner featuring organic beef from a member's property, much conversation and laughter, plus the business meeting. Phone 608-583-7100 or visit [www.sustainablewoods.com](http://www.sustainablewoods.com) for additional details.

### 13th Annual Native Landscaping Conference

**March 22, Saturday**

#### Alliant Energy Center, Madison

The big one. Sponsored by the UW-Arboretum and the Madison Chapter of the Wild Ones, the conference offers a variety of sessions for the general public, public and school officials, land-use planners, and others interested in learning techniques for creating ecologically sustainable and environmentally healthy landscapes. This year's topics include restoration for beginners, woodland shrubs and forbs, savanna plant communities, wetland restoration assessment, rain gardens and other storm-water management techniques, shoreline restoration, grassland insects, invasives control, and a special presentation by high school students of their prairie research projects. Early registration, through March 15, is \$30 for Friends of the Arboretum members. For more information, contact Mary Ann Pels at (608) 262-9591 or [mapels@wisc.edu](mailto:mapels@wisc.edu).

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual The Prairie Enthusiasts Banquet

**April 5, Saturday**

#### Northwestern Illinois

Planned events include the traditional banquet and auction, but also music, skits, games, and other entertainment. The hosts for this year's festivities are the Northwest Illinois and Prairie Bluff Chapters. Visit [www.theprairieenthusiasts.org](http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org) for full details as they become available.

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## Thank you New and Renewing Members and Donors

### Member Changes Since the Fall 2002 Newsletter

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#### Gift Memberships

Jan Hake & Pat Stevens

#### Donations

BioLogic Environmental Consulting  
Dean Lesser

#### New Members

Brian & LeAnn Haroldson  
Dean & Carol Rademaker

#### Renewing Members

\* indicates an additional donation

Michael Anderson\*  
Deane Amy  
John Asmuth  
Steve Austin & Anna Parise  
Jim & Barbara Ballard  
Earl & Shirley Brandt\*  
Paul & Kathy Burkholder  
Wendell Burkholder\*

Glenn Chambliss & Diane Derouen  
Barbara & Theo Cochrane  
Howard & Susan Cosgrove\*  
George Couch  
Lyman & Margaret Crittenden\*  
Vernon & Elizabeth Drape  
Jim Elleson\*  
Hildy Feen  
Mary Fritz\*  
Stephen Gauger  
Andrea Hoerr  
Brende Hofer\*  
Janet Huebner  
Paul Kaarakka  
Duane Kaufman\*  
Ruth M. Kellesvig  
Pete Kiel  
Robert Klebba  
Gigi LaBudde  
David Ladd  
Vern & Sylvia Lowell\*  
David Marshall & Wendy Weisensel\*  
Ronald & Martha Martin  
Kevin & Laurie McCabe\*

Myrna & Dobbin McNatt  
Mary Michal & David Haskin\*  
Mark Mittelstadt & B. Gasch  
Tom & Nancy Mohs\*  
Mound Vue Garden Club\*  
Wayne R. Pauly  
Joyce Powers (Prairie Ridge Nursery)  
John & Julie Raasch  
Eugene M. Roark  
Carroll & Pam Schaal\*  
Justin Schaefer  
Ruth Ann Schmitt  
Jim & Rose Sime  
Wayne Sutter  
Mark & Mary Trewartha\*  
James Van Deurzen  
Bruce Wachholz  
Don Waller  
Peter & Lynne Weil\*  
Anne Woodson  
Hyuk & Gail Yu\*  
Jim Zerwick\*

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### New BMAP Announcement Mailing List

Peter Weil, BMAP Webmaster

In the coming weeks, BMAP event announcements will be sent to you via a new mailing list called "BMP-Announce." There is no need to subscribe to BMP-Announce; anyone who has been receiving BMAP announcements by e-mail will continue to receive them automatically through this new list.

If you are not on our current e-mail list, but would like to receive BMAP event announcements by e-mail, please contact us at [lists@bluemounds.org](mailto:lists@bluemounds.org) and we'll sign you up for the new announcement list. \*

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### Stream Bank Restoration Pays Off

Upper Sugar River Watershed Association

2003 has been designated the Year of Water by the federal government in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clean Water Act. It also marks the fifth consecutive year of stream bank restoration and habitat enhancement work in the Upper Sugar River Watershed. These projects have brought significant changes to the river and attention from state agencies.

The Dane County Land Conservation Department, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA), Deer Creek Sports and Conservation Club, landowners and others have been working to remove debris, reshape stream banks and place habitat structures on the West Branch Sugar River and its tributaries

through funding provided by a Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant from the DNR. The DNR is considering recommending the removal of the West Branch from the EPA's impaired waters (303d) list partially due to the successful restoration efforts.

The first TRM project began in 1999 on Deer Creek and Fries Feeder, two Sugar River tributaries. Since then, the projects have focused on stretches of the West Branch of the Sugar River. The TRM grants fund the placement of habitat structures in the stream and installation of best management practices that inhibit erosion. Volunteers help maintain the easements that provide public access for fishing and hiking.

Steve Haak, dairy farmer, USRWA President, and avid Sugar River fisherman, has noticed a reduction in the amount of silt in the water, indicating improved fish habitat. DNR surveys have shown that cold-water fish species have responded positively to the projects.

Before the end of 2003, twelve miles of the West Branch Sugar River will have been restored. Approximately 150 LUNKERS (Little Underwater Neighborhood Keepers Encompassing Rheotactic Salmonids), or fish habitat boxes, are installed per stream mile, with two to three miles finished per year. LUNKERS were built primarily by the Deer Creek Sports and Conservation Club, the USRWA, and other non-profit groups and fulfilled the matching funds requirement for the grant. \*

# CATNIP HOLLOW BISON

Mark A. Koeppl, DVM

**Wholesale/Retail Bison Meat**

**Nutritious ~ Delicious ~ Heart  
Healthy**



**Steaks, burgers, brats, roasts**

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Mt. Horeb WI 53572  
phone 608.832.6278  
fax 608.832.4875



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BMP is now accepting advertisements for inclusion in our newsletter. The revenue generated helps defray publishing costs, which allows our grant monies to be used for other purposes more directly beneficial to our members.

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The Blue Mounds Area  
Project  
c/o Michael Anderson  
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*Making a  
difference for the  
generation to  
come*



The earth does not withhold, it is generous enough,  
The truths of the earth continually wait, they are not so conceal'd either,  
They are calm, subtle, untransmissible by print

– WALT WHITMAN, "A SONG OF THE ROLLING EARTH"

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Blue Mounds  
Area Project  
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**BMAP Annual Meeting**  
**March 8, 10 a.m. to noon**  
**See page 2 for the details**

## HAVE YOU EXPIRED??

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