

## Events Calendar Winter 2012

### **A Geologic Romp through the Driftless Area: Thursday, January 26th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

Dr. Richard Slaughter, UW Geology Museum Director, will explore the geology of southwestern Wisconsin and what makes it so special. While this region is known for having been spared from glaciers during ice ages, there is so much more to its geologic history. This is your chance to learn more about the rock layers, caves, fossils, and mines of the Driftless Area. Location: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History's Research Collections and Education Center, 211 S. Blue Mounds St. in Mt. Horeb Directions: Heading south on Blue Mounds St. from West Main Street it's the first building past the Military Ridge State Bike Trail heading down the hill. Free and open to the public.

### **From Weeds to Wildflowers on Gobbler Ridge: Thursday, February 23rd, 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

Tim Eisele, outdoor writer and free-lance photographer, will show how he and his wife Linda restored prairie to their 100 acres in Crawford County. His unique color photographs will show what their land was like when they began the project in 1990, how management shifted the vegetation and what's required for upkeep. Close-up photos of the plants, insects, birds, and other wildlife that now live there are sure to make for a pleasurable evening. Location: Mount Horeb branch of the State Bank of Cross Plains. Directions: 1740 Business Hwy 18-151 E. (Main Street) in Mount Horeb (next to Culvers Restaurant). Free and open to the public.

### **Land Management Workshop: Saturday March 3, 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**

Come learn from the experts about several land management issues. Three concurrent sessions will run about one hour each. Plus receive a helpful binder of resources and have the opportunity to ask questions. Location: Iowa County Health & Human Services building, 303 W Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI Cost: \$10 per person by February 17, \$15 per person after Feb. 17 or at the door. Refreshments will be provided. Questions? Contact Katie Abbott at (608) 935-2791 x134 or [katie.abbott@rcdnet.net](mailto:katie.abbott@rcdnet.net). Registration form available at [www.militaryridgeprairie.org](http://www.militaryridgeprairie.org). Planned topics include:

- **Prescribed fire:** Fire is a great land management tool, but requires planning and training to be safe and effective. Learn some tips for using prescribed fire on your property, basics of how a prescribed burn works, and key elements of a burn plan.
- **Intro to prairie and grassland birds:** Find out why so many conservation groups are working in this area: the rare ecosystems and species that once flourished in Wisconsin are still here, but declining. Find out how landowners can help.
- **Reading the Driftless Area: A handbook for landowners.** Understanding the environmental and human history requires some sleuthing that bears

results. The land contains clues for why some areas are problem areas and others are quality remnant habitat. Set goals and prioritize projects and/or habitat area restoration efforts as you learn to "read the landscape". Come willing and prepared to discuss issues you face on your own property.

- **Invasive plants:** Invasive plants are one of the biggest challenges landowners face. Learn about control techniques, prioritization, prevention, and CRP rules for invasive species control.
- **Woody and grass biomass prospects for landowners:** "Biomass" is a buzzword, but are there opportunities for landowners to get involved? Find out the latest information and what other groups in the area are doing.
- **Advanced land management:** Do you already have a project underway or completed? Come with your questions and learn tips about adaptive management, long-term planning, monitoring, and seasonal management needs.

### **Blue Mounds Area Project Annual Meeting: Thursday, March 8th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

Mingle with other BMAP members, get an update, and provide some input to your Project. Program by Steve Swenson, Ecologist with the Aldo Leopold Foundation. Similar to BMAP, the Aldo Leopold Foundation has done landowner visits for 13 years, primarily with an interest in prairie and savanna management. Steve will talk about their current project to connect willing landowners with Woodland Advocates (other landowners with experience) and ultimately professionals (in this case, foresters). Location: Mount Horeb branch of the State Bank of Cross Plains. Directions: 1740 Business Hwy 18-151 E. (Main Street) in Mount Horeb (next to Culvers Restaurant). Free and open to the public.

### **The Nature Conservancy Work Parties:**

**Saturdays January 14, February 11, March 10, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Monday January 16, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Volunteer activities will include cutting invasive brush and weedy trees like buckthorn and box elder and cleaning up the debris in the cleared areas. Meet at the Hwy K parking lot south of Langberry Road. Dress appropriately for outdoor, grubby work, including sturdy footwear and work gloves. **Contact:** Jim Lesniak (608-576-3310). **Directions:**

Approximately 0.2 miles east of the village of Barneveld, turn south on Cnty Hwy K. Follow Hwy K for 2 miles and turn into the Nature Conservancy parking lot on the right. If you pass Prairie Grove Road, you have gone too far.

**The Prairie Enthusiasts Work Days** Be sure to wear appropriate clothing for the weather (dress in layers). Do not wear synthetic fabrics near burn piles. Sturdy footwear and work gloves are required. Bring drinking water. **Brush cutting:** Chainsaw operators with their own equipment are welcome, but must have safety chaps and headgear. Bring pruners or loppers, if you have them. **Always contact the leader before the work party to confirm the schedule and work site!**

- **Jan. 22 (Sun.), Mar. 4 (Sun.), Noon to 4:00. Tree/brush removal at Shea Prairie noon to 4:00 PM.**

**Contact:** Eric Preston (608-257-1513). **Directions:** From the intersection of US Hwy 18/151 and County F (south of Blue Mounds in western Dane County), take F south for 2.7 miles. Turn right (west) onto Prairie Grove Road, and proceed 1.0 miles. Turn left (south) onto Arneson Road and proceed 0.5 miles to a parking lot and kiosk on the right. From the parking lot, we will be traveling cross-country nearly a mile to the work site. Don't be late. (Note: A half mile down F from 18/151, pay close attention to the road signs, for F turns to the right & the straight ahead road becomes County Z. Stay on F.)

- **Jan. 28 (Sat.), Feb. 19 (Sun.), 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Tree/brush removal and brush pile burning at Schurch-Thomson Prairie. Contact:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065). **Directions:** From the intersection of US Hwy 18/151 and County F (south of Blue Mounds in western Dane County), take F approximately 5 miles south. Turn right onto Reilly Road, and proceed to parking lot and kiosks at the end of the road (past the barn). (Note: A half mile down F from 18/151, pay close attention to the road signs, for F turns to the right & the straight ahead road becomes County Z. Stay on F.)

### **Woodland School Classes:**

Sat., Feb. 11th, 2012 and Thurs., Mar. 8th, 2012 - Ties to the Land

Thurs. - Fri., March 29th - 30th, 2012 - Introduction to Prescribed Burning

Every Thursday and Friday in April - Join Our Burn Crew for a Day!

Saturday, May 12th, 2012 - Herptiles and Insects

Visit <https://www.aldoleopold.org/woodlandschool/courses.shtml> for details!