



BARABOO RANGE
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Range Steward

Fall 2006

Newsletter of the Baraboo Range Preservation Association

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Annual Meeting October 14

THIS YEAR'S annual meeting will be held Saturday, October 14th at Devil's Lake State Park. We've reserved the Red Oak Shelter at the south shore of Devil's Lake --so no matter the weather, we'll at least have great views, wonderful food, warmth, and good conversation.

The annual meeting will begin around noon with a potluck lunch and short presentation updating you on Baraboo Range Preservation Association's activities and providing you an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and dialogue about BRPA's current and future work.

After lunch and the meeting, Ken Lange and Mike Mossman will provide guided hikes at Devils Lake. Ken Lange, retired Devils Lake naturalist, will lead a hike in the park shortly after our meeting. Mike Mossman, DNR ecologist, is favoring a late afternoon hike so that participants have a greater chance of seeing Turkey Vultures return to their roosts at Devils Lake.

Betty Thiessen, owner of nearby Ski-Hi Orchard, will give a brief tour of her apple business in the early afternoon. Betty is a devotee of the Baraboo Hills and has protected her orchard and woodlands with a conservation easement held by Sauk County's Baraboo Range Protection Program and, to a minor extent, BRPA. If we're lucky, Golden Russets may be available!

Avid bicyclist and board member Wayne Maffei will lead a bike tour in the Hills. If you intend to join Wayne on this activity, we'll need notice from you no later than October 7th.

Maps will be available of Baraboo Range Preservation Association's protected lands and current projects for those of you who would enjoy a drive in the Baraboo Hills during the fall color season.

Whether you participate in any of the hikes or other activities, we hope you'll come celebrate

the work of your organization and enjoy the beauty of Devils Lake on October 14th. For those of you who plan ahead, please let us know you are coming and what activities you're interested in so that we can plan accordingly. BRPA will provide coffee, tea, cider, and water and some drinking and eating implements. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plate and eating utensils. There is a grill available as well as several electric outlets and bathrooms.

Details: Our meeting place is the Red Oak Shelter which is located on the lakefront next to the South Shore Concession building. There is a parking lot nearby. If you don't have a State Park sticker, you'll need to pay for a day pass to the park.

Directions: From Highway 12, once you've climbed the Baraboo Bluffs and the Highway changes from divided highway to two lane, turn right at the first road (Ski Hi Road) which will have a sign for the Ski Hi Apple Orchard. Follow Ski Hi Road until you get to a stop sign (the road "T's" here) and turn right. After a short distance, turn left to drive into Devil's Lake State Park. You'll drive along the south shore of the lake, and once you've passed the lake will see a picnic area on your left. Continue following the road until you can enter the picnic area. You'll be asked to pay for a day pass at this point if you don't have a State Park sticker.

From Highway 113, once you've crossed over the Wisconsin River on the Merrimac Ferry, follow Highway 113 until you get to the base of the Baraboo Bluffs (just after the intersection with County Highway DL going to the right). Turn left onto South Lake Road and follow about 2.25 miles until you get to the entrance to the picnic area at the South Shore of Devil's Lake.

Land Protection Update

IT WAS a very long time coming. Arlie and Rosie Holloway and Jim Froelich finally completed their land protection agreements with Baraboo Range Preservation Association this June. Both landowners gracefully endured a prolonged process.

Arlie & Rosie and BRPA overcame a set back in funding last fall to complete their easement. Thanks to Arlie & Rosie's bargain sale of development rights (they donated over \$55,000 in appraised value); a grant of \$30,000 from a local organization, Farming and Conservation Together; and a grant of \$80,750 from DNR's Stewardship Program; we were able to complete our land protection agreement. Arlie & Rosie also donated a generous sum to BRPA's monitoring endowment, thereby assuring long term monitoring and enforcement of their agreement. Arlie & Rosie are truly appreciated for their deep commitment to the long term care of their land and other lands in the Baraboo Hills.

Arlie & Rosie's property expands on Baraboo Range Preservation Association's protection work on the east side of the Lower Narrows by adding 80 acres to the previously protected 329 acres of the Coller property. Another adjacent landowner has agreed to protect his 26 acre parcel. BRPA has submitted a grant to help purchase this easement, but additional funds will be needed to complete the transaction.

Meanwhile, on the west side of the Lower Narrows, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recently purchased a 66 acre parcel from the Kraemer Company and may create a new state natural area. A portion of this property is a retired quartzite quarry which has benefited from a prairie planting by the Youth Environmental Projects of Sauk County with assistance from the Kraemer Company and coordination by Matt Bremer of the Sauk County Planning & Zoning Department. The larger, undisturbed portion of the parcel provides habitat for several state threatened species. The Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation owns a 37 acre parcel north of this new state property. BRPA has been in contact with both WDNR and Ice Age Trail staff over the past few years about the Lower Narrows and looks forward to cooperating with both organizations in the

coming years. Perhaps someday we'll see a new segment of the Ice Age Trail help hikers appreciate the natural wonders of the protected lands in the Lower Narrows!

Jim Froelich was one of the proponents of purchasing a small parcel next to the Village of Rock Springs' Weidman Park. You may remember from past newsletters, BRPA's purchase, retention of conservation easement, and then gift of the six acre parcel to the Village of Rock Springs. Not only did Jim help with fundraising and promotion of BRPA's purchase, he agreed to protect a portion of his own property which also borders Weidman Park.

Jim is an outspoken man of action and so the "easement endurance test" was difficult for him. We completed a land protection agreement on 25 acres of wooded land over two and a half years after our first



Rosie and Arlie Holloway and BRPA President John Taapken enjoying the easement completion.



Executive Director David Wernecke, Jim Froelich and BRPA President John Taapken at the Froelich closing.

conversation. Jim donated half the appraised value of his easement and DNR's Stewardship Program funded the other half. Jim also donated to BRPA's monitoring endowment fund.

Jim is one of the people we can thank for helping Baraboo Range Preservation Association choose the Weidman Park and Abelman's Gorge State Natural Area as one of its protection focus areas in the Baraboo Hills. We hope that his example inspires other landowners and members to support protection of lands in this ecologically and geologically important area of the Hills.

Five other easements approved for funding are winding their way through the DNR Stewardship Program's careful review process. We expect to complete four of these easements before the end of the year.

Finally, initial ranking of BRPA's latest three grant requests to the Stewardship Program put them just below access to available funds. While disappointing, changes in the status of projects ranked higher can make funds available for BRPA's projects. In fact, that's what happened the last grant cycle when funds became available for three of BRPA's projects.

As always, BRPA has several other land protection projects brewing and will keep you posted when an initial agreement is reached.

Witwen Parade:

TEDDY Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold made a surprise visit to the Witwen Parade this year. They joined the Baraboo Range Preservation Association banner carriers and the supporters of YEPS (Youth Environmental Projects of Sauk County) in the parade. The famous conservationists brought along their driver, Bill Gruber, and his Model T, while Shirley Gruber gave the YEPS group a ride in her 60's vintage Lincoln Continental. Teddy learned to use a microphone to bring his conservation message to the crowd while the crowd was treated to various sweets by the other volunteers. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and enthusiasm for this community event: Jane & Savanna Stevens, Harley "Teddy" Vodak, Gerd "Aldo" Muehllehner, Bill & Shirley Gruber, Nina Leopold Bradley, Tessa & Nicole Pittman, and Rachel, Gary, and McKenzie Stieve and family.



New Tax Incentives to Protect Land

IF YOU'VE been putting off protecting your land, you may want to take advantage of recent changes in easement related tax law at the national level. The new law increases the amount of an easement donation which qualifies for a tax deduction from 30% of an individual's adjusted gross income up to 50%. Since donated easement value often involves fairly large amounts, this deduction currently may be carried forward over fifteen years - up from five years before the new law. One benefit of the changes is to help landowners with lower current income take full advantage of the tax deduction while protecting important natural resources. If the landowner is a farmer, the deduction limit is raised to 100% and can also be carried forward for 15 years. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in taking advantage of this incentive to protect impor-

tant lands, please know that the change in law is only in effect for easement donations or bargain sales completed in 2006 and 2007. Even donated easements take some time to complete, so if this opportunity interests you, please begin soon.

Another significant change in federal charitable giving law is that for the next two years, people 70.5 years and older may exclude up to \$100,000 of distributions from traditional IRAs from their gross income as long as the amount is donated to a qualified tax-exempt organization. Certainly, your tax advisor is already well informed about these changes in tax law. Descriptions of varying detail are also becoming available on the internet as is the law itself. We hope that those of you who take advantage of the new tax incentives will consider Baraboo Range Preservation Association's work as worthy of your support.

Die Buckthorn Scum!

By John Exo

Ok, that sounds a little harsh, but it got your attention. And if you read on you'll understand why fall is a great time for landowners and managers to control buckthorn and other invasive plants that threaten the health of our Baraboo Hills forests.



Buckthorn.

There are several reasons why fall is an ideal time to do exotic invasive control. First, many of these plants, like buckthorn, honeysuckle and others hold their leaves much later than other trees and shrubs, some as late as early December. While walking through the woods, especially if snow is on the ground, the fully-leaved branches of buckthorn will stand out like weeds in your garden. Second, fall is an ideal time to use herbicides

because plants are transferring carbohydrates and other energy to their roots. Herbicide applied to foliage or freshly-cut stumps travels readily through the stem to the roots, where it will quickly kill the plant. Also, most native perennials are dormant in fall, so herbicides will do them little if any damage. Third, like most outdoor activities, the weather is much more favorable in the fall for woods work. And since herbaceous growth like stinging nettles, ragweed and others have died back for the year, finding your target species is much easier.

Here are a few specific suggestions to help you get started on a plan. It's important to first identify which species you have, then prioritize those that pose the most threat. Field guides and County and private foresters or other resource professionals can help you with this step. Then, rough-out the locations of those plants on a map or aerial photo of your land. Finally, mark the specific locations of plants or plant populations in your woods with flexible plastic tape, wire flags or other marking devices.

Once you've made your plan, what control work should you do in the fall? Control work is best done by placing invasive plants into categories based on their biology and life cycles. Are they woody perennials, or herbaceous biennials or perennials? Control is generally the same for plants in each category. Let's look at some examples and specific control actions you can take this fall.

Woody Perennials

The usual suspects in this category include buckthorn, honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, autumn olive and prickly ash (which is actually an invasive native shrub). A good strategy is to cut all stems, then treat them immediately with a solution of 50% glyphosate concentrate (Roundup or generic equivalents) and 50% water applied with an old paint brush. A bit of powdered clothing dye dissolved in the solution will help you recognize stems already treated. Make sure you thoroughly read and follow all label herbicide requirements.

Herbaceous Biennials

Garlic mustard is the best example in this category, but others include burdock and Canada thistle. These plants complete their life cycle in two years. Seeds that germinated this growing season will "bolt" or send up a flower stalk next summer. The first-year plants are called rosettes, and are sometimes harder to identify, but nonetheless are easy to control with a timely application of glyphosate or 2,4-D applied to the foliage. The best time to spray is mid-September, or about the time of the first frost. Garlic mustard is susceptible to glyphosate well into November as long as the air temperature is above freezing.



Garlic mustard.

Herbaceous Perennials

Fall control for these plants is much the same as for the biennials, but not always. So my recommendation is to call me at the Sauk County UW-Extension office at 355-3250 for recommendations. Examples include wild parsnip and Canada thistle.

For all species, remember that because they are prolific seed producers and are often spread by animals or people, follow-up monitoring for seedlings is imperative. Think of invasive plant control like weeding your garden—it pays off but you have to do it every year. And hopefully you get smarter about preventative measures.

Once you do, you will relish the sight of those dying buckthorn scum—and a healthier woods!

President's Message

By John Taapken

AS WE approach the fall with so much change built into the season, I've been thinking of some changes of my own. I've been thinking about how I use my time – my 168 hours every week. And I've been thinking about things I'd like to add to my 168 hours and things I want to drop. What I want to keep, and build on, is the time spent furthering the goals I support and the missions that are important to me. Another theme that has been on my mind as of late is the ways we are using, squandering and sharing our common resources. The question of sustainability on a local and global scale is at issue everyday more than ever. It is a tangled web we've woven – but I have some sense that there is yet hope for us to figure out new ways not only to conserve and protect, but to implement. It is a big topic, and it can be hard to know where and how to jump in, but there are things we can do to support the people fighting the good fights and doing the hard work right in our own backyards.

One such event in our own backyard is the 2006 Parade of Preserves. Gathering Waters Conservancy is highlighting five sites to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and we've still got time to feast our eyes on these spectacular places and support the partnerships that are extending rich conservation traditions into the future. Put on your boots because the following are coming up: Faville Grove on September 17th, Lulu Lake Preserve on September 23rd, Wild Rivers Legacy Forest also on September 23rd and Fitzsimmons Woods on October 7th. You won't be sorry if you take a few hours out of your weekly 168 to hike around the prairies, woodlands and lakes that have been pro-

tected for generations yet to come. For more details, descriptions of the trips and good maps of the locations visit www.gatheringwaters.org/parade.

One book I have enjoyed a great deal lately is *Earth From Above – 366 Days* by Yann Arthus-Bertrand.

From his own description of the project, in which he photographs the earth from above in all its splendor and varying degrees of destruction, he states “the present levels and methods of consumption, production and exploitation of resources are not viable in the long term.” He says it well when he writes this of a necessary movement towards sustainability: “to respond to the present needs without compromising future generations to respond to theirs.” We can all take action today by reducing consumption and putting pressure on government and industry, again right in our own backyards, to adopt sustainable practices. As it is for many of us, it is for me – a picture speaks a thousand words. Arthus-Bertrand's images are no exception. They will encourage, inspire and infuriate. Check it out and let me know what you think.



Best, John

Baraboo Range Preservation Association

MISSION

The Baraboo Range Preservation Association is a land trust which works to preserve and protect the qualities and culture of the Baraboo Range through promotion of ecologically responsible land use.

We achieve our mission through collaboration with groups having similar goals, community education, and land trust projects.

More Hikes in 2006!

MEMBERS and friends have enjoyed two great summer hikes: exploring native plants and their culture at Bluestem Farm with Scott Weber and Muffy Barrett, and searching for and identifying mushrooms at Devil's Lake State Park with Laurel Redmon and John Thuesen. Many thanks to Scott, Muffy, Laurel, and John for their graciousness, enthusiasm, and knowledge shared with participants! The remaining hikes of the year are:

Sunday, September 24th at Noon, WILD MEDICINAL PLANTS OF THE BARABOO HILLS, with Jane Stevens of Nature's Acres. Take a hike with Jane to identify and learn about medicinal uses of woodland plants. The hike will take place at Jane and David Stevens' property in the Baraboo Hills and site of Jane's herbal business, Nature's Acres.

Directions: Take County Highway W west out of Baraboo from the intersection of W and Highway 12. After about 5 miles you will come to a stop sign at the intersection of W and PF. Turn left (south) and at the next stop sign about an 1/8 mile away go straight onto Freedom Road. After about three miles (and at the top of the "hill") will be an intersection with Weinke Road –turn right onto this road. Around 1/4 mile down Weinke Road on the right is Jane and David's place: Fire Number E8984.



Saturday, October 28 at 1PM. OAK REGENERATION ON PINE BLUFF with Toni Ankenbrandt and Rick Livingston. Take a hike with Toni on one of the Baraboo Range Preservation Association's newest easement projects, a prominent Bluff with one of the few red pine relicts in the Baraboo Hills. Sauk County Forester, Rick Livingston will describe oak regeneration and other forest management efforts on the Ankenbrandt property.

Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend this hike (608-355-7512 or brange@merr.com).

Directions: From Baraboo, take Highway 33 east about 4 miles to the intersection of 33 and County X. Follow X until it merges with W and continue east on W approximately 2 miles until you arrive at the Ankenbrandt farm: Fire Number E14454. From the Interstate, take the Highway 33 exit and head west toward Baraboo. After approximately 8 miles, you'll cross the Baraboo River and drive through the Lower Narrows. Once through the Lower Narrows, take the first left turn which is County X. Follow X until it merges with W and continue east on W approximately 2 miles until you arrive at the Ankenbrandt farm: Fire Number E14454.

Pine Bluff



Thank You!

BARABOO Range Preservation Association's ability to protect the land is only as strong as its membership base. We extend a sincere *thank you* to the following individuals and businesses for their membership renewal and response to appeals over the last four months.

Supporters

Joe Anderson & Nancy Mustapich
Deane & Edith Arny
Judith Ashford
Frank Bowen
William & Marian Brewer
Patrick & Joan Brophy
Win & Sandra Byers
Marsha Cannon
David & Bevra Cole
William Cronon
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Jim Froelich
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Warren & Linda Mohar

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Alice Popp
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Juanita Schadde
Shirley Seireg
Jane Adele Spear
Judith Stoeckman
David & Marcia Swanson
Seth & Stephanie Taapken
Arnold & Judith Utzinger
Michelle Vahldieck
Harley Vodak
Kimberlee Wright
John & Tonia Young
Scott Zupanc

In Memory of Genevieve & Alvin Haugen, who passed on a special regard for the environment
John & Diane Haugen

In Honor of Helen Vukelich & the late George Vukelich
Kaye Exo

In Honor of Harold Kruse
R & A DeMay

In Honor of Nedra Askey, one of the most creative, energetic and caring people I have ever known.
Lesleigh Luttrell

In-Kind Donations

Muffy Barrett
Mary Brock
Dana Chabott
Will Clark
Bill & Shirley Gruber
Lisa Hartman
Harold Kruse
Wayne Maffei
Ralph Middlecamp

Angus Mossman
Mike Mossman
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Jane Stevens
Savanna Stevens
Donna Taapken
John Taapken
John Thuesen
Mark Tully
Harley Vodak
Scott Weber

*Expand
Your Legacy*

**Help Protect
Natural Areas &
Working Lands in
the Baraboo Hills**

PLEASE consider naming Baraboo Range Preservation Association as a beneficiary in your will, retirement or estate plans. For more information, please contact David Wernecke at (608) 355-7512.



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Become a Supporting Member or make a \$100 or more contribution and we'll send you a copy of Harold Kruse's *Natural Areas of the Baraboo Hills* as a thank you gift!

- I am RENEWING my membership. This is a NEW BRPA membership.
 Individual \$25 Family \$35 **Supporting \$100** Sustaining \$500 Patron \$1,000

____ Copies of *Natural Areas of the Baraboo Hills* (\$12.50 ea. including postage)
(one copy is included with a \$100 supporting membership)

____ Copies *Birds in My Life* by Harold Kruse (\$6.50 ea. including postage)

____ Sets of four **note cards** by Todd Persche (\$11.50 ea. including postage)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return to: **Baraboo Range Preservation Association**
P.O. Box 205
107 Walnut Street
Baraboo, WI 53913
