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RESTORATION PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GAIN MOMENTUM

By Heidi Royal

Community volunteers and students from UW-Madison's Wildlife Ecology classes spent a brisk autumn morning piling brush along Highway 12 near the former Badger Plant; these brush piles will be burned during the Alliance's final Restoration Work Day for the 2009 season. The Alliance is helping to restore remnant prairie in and around the former Badger Plant. To date, local community volunteers have contributed approximately 500 hours to the Alliance's Restoration Program for 2009!

Inventories of plant and animal species conducted at Badger between 1993 and 1998 indicate that although much of the property is overrun by invasive species of grass and woody plants, there is still an abundance of native species to be found. Volunteers are helping to pave the way for these native species to rebound, by removing non native plants. Already this year, new populations of native prairie plants have been found in areas that were formerly covered in a dense growth of solid honeysuckle--great evidence that restoration work parties are making progress toward a new future for Badger!

As work at Badger continues to progress, the Alliance is excited to announce the receipt of a grant from the Greater Sauk County Community Foundation in support of community based restoration work! These funds will go a long way toward growing the Alliance's Restoration Program and envisioning a new prairie future for Badger.