

**For Immediate Press Release**

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**The greater prairie chicken, 'drummer of love'**

Every spring, the Buena Vista Marsh is alive with the wild voices and stomping feet of the *Tympanuchus cupido*, better known as the greater prairie chicken. With a scientific name that means "drummer of love," the prairie chicken is known for its annual mating ritual during which the males dance in a circle with their wings over their heads, jump in the air, make a loud booming call and square off against one another in order to attract a hen.

Experience this breathtaking performance from behind an observation blind through an annual program held by Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Reservations are now being taken for the early mornings of April 1-30 at the marsh, located eight miles south of Stevens Point. Participants will view the mating ritual while recording valuable information about the birds that will help the WDNR manage Central Wisconsin's threatened prairie chicken population.

"This is not only a fabulous opportunity to help preserve the breed, but it is also a beautiful start to an April morning," says Katie Brashear, a Wisconsin BOW graduate assistant and viewing coordinator. "Participants contact me for weeks afterwards stating what an amazing experience they had. They are always so thankful to witness this amazing feat in Wisconsin's natural history."

To make a reservation, contact Brashear at (715) 346-3259 or call toll free at (877) BOWOMAN. Registration is \$15 for non-students and \$10 for students on a first come, first serve basis. Scholarships are available.

For more information, visit the BOW Web site at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/bow/wihome/index.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/bow/wihome/index.htm).

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