

2022 FALL/WINTER

THE CANOPY

The Official Seno K/RLT Conservancy
Newsletter



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SENO K/RLT CONSERVANCY

**"FOSTERING A MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE LAND THE WATER
AND THE PEOPLE."**

3606 Dyer Lake Road
Burlington, WI 53105
262-539-3222
senokrlt@senokrlt.org

SPECTACULAR SUMMER, FANTASTIC FALL

2022 in Review

Summer at Seno K/RLT Conservancy is always a wonderful time of the year! The greenery is in full force, life is everywhere. We embraced the heat and headed out to Racine and Kenosha for summer programs in Southport Park.

We spent our second summer of Discovering Nature programs having fun with the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha, ELCA's Neighborhood campers, Harborside Academy, and the Kenosha Public Library. We had a wonderful second summer of our programs, and it has allowed us to learn so much about the communities in Racine & Kenosha we serve. We had the chance to meet so many amazing young future land stewards and scientists!

As summer wound down, we prepared for an eventful October. Spending September connecting with Burlington area residents through a Business After Hours event, as well as working with Gathering Waters, Wisconsin's Land Trust Alliance. We joined with other local land trusts to help create and fine-tune tools that will assist Southeast Wisconsin land trusts in making land protection decisions

that are impactful in the face of climate change and other ecological pressures. We enjoyed seeing the creativity of kids and adults alike at Kenosha Kite Fest where we paid homage to animals in flight with a tree cookie painting activity!

Our second annual Autumn Open House and a Fall Paddle on the Root River kicked off the month with a beautiful bang! For only our second go at this, we were blown away by everyone who came out to support Seno K/RLT for our Open House! We had so much fun showing new and familiar visitors alike what we think is so special about Seno K/RLT Conservancy, and why conservation is so important. With one last hurrah before the cold set in, we hosted a Mix-N-Mingle with "Celebrate Our Town" and enjoyed getting even more members of our community acquainted with land trusts and Seno K/RLT! Now as we settle into the holiday season to reflect on 2022 and look forward to 2023, we are feeling more and more excited about what will come next and thankful for all the support we received from people like you!





Autumn



"WHY I VOLUNTEER"



By: Mark Lesko

Seno K/RLT Conservancy Board President



FILM NEGATIVE

In early November, Seno K/RLT Conservancy hosted the Burlington Area Business community with a barbeque dinner. These events, orchestrated by Celebrate Our Town, are called "Mix-N-Mingle" and I was asked to say some words about our nonprofit land trust, woodland management center, and conservancy.

So I wondered "What would they want to hear me say?" Never once believing I was TEDtalk material nor very inspirational, I decided to tell the group why I am inspired to volunteer for Seno KRLT Conservancy. Why have I volunteered for "Seno" for roughly 20 years?

To state it simply, I am passionate about our natural resources, and I consider any time I spend in the woods, prairies, or on or near wetlands to be therapeutic for me. I feel I have a duty not only to appreciate natural biotic communities, but to preserve and improve the habitat that is home to invertebrates, mammals, amphibians, birds, reptiles and all the other life forms.



FILM NEGATIVE

So I told this to the business crowd in November. I told them about the 127 acres of woods, prairies,

and wetlands on the property in Burlington, and that we have almost 3 miles of hiking trails for public enjoyment; yeah they missed the show of sugar maples in rapturous colors, but there is always next year.

I added that Seno, as a land trust, maintains oversight of over 1200 acres in Racine and Kenosha Counties with many enrolled in conservation easements, essentially preserving additional unique habitats ...FOREVER. Think about that word "forever". The bulldozer will never destroy these habitats. This oversight will continue long after I'm gone. It's not about me. It's about the habitats of many creatures that call these places "home".

Continued on Page 4...

"WHY I VOLUNTEER" (CONT.)

Examples? Did you know that the Blanding's Turtle was photographed at Seno? This turtle is endangered through the progressive loss of wetland habitats throughout its range. It's here! Did you know that the Bluestem Goldenrod exists at a property in Racine County where Seno holds the conservation easement? This plant is endangered also through loss of suitable habitat. It's here and under our oversight.

And then in October, we found the Bluestem Goldenrod on yet another property in Racine County under our conservation oversight. This property has been enrolled in a conservation easement for several years, but no prior mention of this plant from the landowner(s). It's flourishing and propagating. Now that is unique!

So I wonder what other species, endangered or not, might be out there on the other properties we protect? What other species exist on properties not yet protected, and possibly subject to development and habitat destruction? Protection, preservation, and habitat managed as a community vs. commodity, that's what inspires me!



MARK LESKO IS THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE SENO KRLT CONSERVANCY, PAST SECRETARY, LAND MANAGEMENT AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE CHAIR, AND LONG TIME VOLUNTEER.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: A LANDOWNER'S PERSPECTIVE

An interview with Chuck & Jill Haubrich

What are some of the unique qualities that can be found on the acreage of the land you placed in a conservation easement that you thought were worthy of protection and preservation?

My land is made up of rolling hills covered with 34 acres of mature oaks, 17 acres of younger ones and scattered cherry, hickory, aspen, and maple. Surrounding the woods are a 6 acre rare sedge meadow wetland unencumbered by cattails or phragmites, a 1.5 acre six year old prairie, and 21 acre farm field planted in 1995 with 18,000 white spruce, pine and cedar; red oak, black walnut, sugar maple, jack pine, nine bark and red pine. The variety of habitat is ideal for wildlife.



Chuck & Jill with their canine companion Bebop

Continued on Page 6...

What kind of labor and activities have you completed to maintain or improve the conservation value of your property?

When the land was purchased in 1987, I had never heard of invasive species. By 2004 I realized that garlic mustard and buckthorn was a growing menace. The former is well controlled with annual herbicide treatment in late spring. Buckthorn required three forestry mower cuts and herbicide treatments in the following two years. Efforts peaked in 2018 with 530 man hours of contractor and my time. In 2022 I spent about 150 hours spraying mostly buckthorn and believe a similar ongoing effort will be required to keep the invasive species at bay.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: A LANDOWNER'S PERSPECTIVE (CONT.)

An interview with Chuck & Jill Haubrich



The Haubrich property's large diverse scenery, including Prairie (Left) and Woodlands (Right)

Lastly, what was your motivation/incentive to establish a private conservation easement?

Growing up in the 60's in Pleasant Prairie, my buddy and I lived in the outdoors. In 1987 I found woods similar to that which we used to camp and hunt. I was able to buy it and built a home. Depressingly, those woods of yesteryear were turning into subdivisions as was farm land near my new abode. Within a few years I had developed a bond with the land and wildlife and was determined to protect them. In 2000 the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust, now Seno K/RLT Conservancy, appeared on the scene with a mission to permanently preserve land. The conservation easement on my 88 acres was their first enrollment.

The following poem, written by my wife, memorializes the refuge we leave to the flora and fauna and hope it sets an example to those who follow.

*We bought the land at one high price
And though costly, it's still nice
To look upon the woods at night
With wildlife, a lovely sight*

*For we were really left no choice
We spoke for those who have no voice
The oaks, the asters, the orioles, the deer,
Can forever inhabit safely here*



UPCOMING EVENTS



Winter Wildlife - January 28th

10:00 AM - 12:00PM at Seno Woodland Center
 Registration via our website or Facebook Event Page
 \$5 Kids under 13 and \$7 Adults



Maple Sugaring - March 4th

10:00 AM - 12:00PM at Seno Woodland Center
 Registration through our website or Facebook event page
 \$5 Kids under 13 and \$7 Adults



S.A.W.W Chainsaw Safety Level 1 Class - April 1st

8AM-4PM at Seno Woodland Center
 \$125 fee/person, RAIN OR SHINE
 Registration through our website or Facebook event page



S.A.W.W Chainsaw Safety Level 2 Class - April 3rd

8AM-4PM at Seno Woodland Center
 \$125 fee/person, RAIN OR SHINE
 Registration through our website or Facebook event page



VISIT OUR WEBSITE'S EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS PAGES & FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS AND OTHER UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & EVENTS!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Environmental Education Volunteers

Help run educational programs both at our Seno Woodland Center in Burlington and throughout Racine and Kenosha counties. 2-4 hours per program + training days.
 Contact Nancy Carlson at education@senokrllt.org for details

Board Members

Help direct and grow Seno K/RLT Conservancy! Board members are expected to participate in 6 meetings annually & serve on a committee. If you have an interest and experience in natural habitat management, fundraising, natural resources education, or marketing we'd love to have your expertise!

Contact Stacy at stacy@senokrllt.org for more details & information

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS & SUPPORTERS:

Charles Haubrich
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BECOME A MEMBER OR MAKE A DONATION

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Every donation towards Seno K/RLT Conservancy is used to support our mission of providing environmental education, promoting sustainable management of forests, wetlands, prairies, and wildlife, and opportunities for permanent land preservation. We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit education organization and land trust. All dues and donations are tax-deductible under IRS rules.

Your Information

Name:(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Membership Level (Please check one)

- ____ Individual\$25
- ____ Friend of Seno \$50
- ____ Forestry Friend\$100
- ____ Land Protector\$500
- ____ Patron \$1000
- ____ Benefactor\$5000
- ____ Other amount\$

All dues and donations are tax-deductible under IRS rules.

We also accept donations via our website: senokrlt.org/donate--membership

Make your check payable to Seno K/RLT Conservancy and send with this form to:

Seno K/RLT Conservancy
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 Burlington, WI 53105



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