



THE CANOPY



Newsletter of Seno K/RLT Conservancy



Seno K/RLT Conservancy
3606 Dyer Lake Road
Burlington, WI 53105
262.539.3222

News and Events

Spring /Summer
2016

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Trumpets and Fanfare for Mighty Acorns

IT IS OFFICIAL!! Seno is a Mighty Acorns partner and St. Charles Borromeo in Burlington is our very first Mighty Acorns school. Beginning the second week in September, the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes will begin regular visits to us to connect with, learn from, and build a lasting relationship with our woods, prairies and wetlands.

Mighty Acorns is an environmental education program that connects students to multiple, meaningful and sustained interactions with their local ecosystems. Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts guide and inform the curriculum.

This E.E. program has been around for a bit over 20 years and was recently revamped to keep it fresh, timely and relevant. Last year, our education director, Nan Calvert, met with some of the teachers who've been participating in Mighty Acorns for anywhere from 2 decades to just a few years. To a person, the teachers expressed their great love for the program because of the impact it has on the students, the ease with which they can use the curriculum and the relationships they and their students build with the partnering sites and educators.

Mighty Acorns, while all about ecosystems and science, is equally focused on helping students to build a (hopefully lifelong) connection with the natural world and to realize the kind of impact they can and do have on that world. Each grade will be visiting Seno for field studies three times per school year to explore our diverse habitats, learn about the issues that threaten the balance and biodiversity of our ecosystems and then discover how they can take action to care for the natural world in a wise and reciprocal way. What a great way to introduce them to forestry.

Do you know of a school that might be interested in becoming a Mighty Acorns School? Give us a call at 262.539.3222

To learn more about Mighty Acorns, visit their web site @www.mightyacorns.org

Seno K/RLT Conservancy is dedicated to forestry, natural resource education, conservation, and land preservation.

Reforestation at Seno by Mark Lesko – Board Director, Seno K/RLT Conservancy

There were 1,570 seedlings awaiting new homes on the frosty morning of April 9th, 2016, including white pine, black cherry, shagbark hickory, red oak, and white oak. A small army of 35 volunteers had amassed at the Seno to get the planting done. Boy Scout Troop 303 rose to the occasion with 27 representatives, with undiminished ambition for the task at hand. But then, Mother Nature threw us a challenge.

You see, many of the holes for seedlings had been made the week prior by our property manager, Juan Gomez and fellow DNR wardens, using an auger. It rained on April 8th and freezing temperatures set in overnight. Project leaders arrived the morning of the 9th, looking at hundreds of little frozen volcano-like auger holes in the fields. While volunteers were huddled in the heated barn eating treats and receiving orientation to the project at hand, two volunteers were given propane tanks and torches. After a quick demonstration and safety briefing, the torches were ignited and thawing of the auger holes began. While waiting for the sun and the torches to warm the soil mounds, Juan and the Boy Scouts moved brush piles. Many hands made light work of that project.

By 10 a.m. the sun had warmed the dark earth, providing the necessary thaw to get 2 acres of seedlings planted. Several senior volunteers and our Board President, Ron Rasmussen, provided planting demonstrations using the auger holes, and the traditional spud bar method. There was interest in knowing whether the augured holes versus the spud bar method improved tree viability.



The remainder of the day was characterized by a focused and concerted seedling planting effort. Scouts and adults formed small teams, with some members planting, some running for tree "refills" from the trailer, and some digging the holes with spud bars. Because of all of the volunteers, we were able to put 1,570 seedlings in the ground in one day! Ron Rasmussen said that he had never participated in a more organized and efficient effort.

Troop 303 represents some of BSA's finest youth and they are to be commended for their drive and willingness to work. There is no doubt that we could not have accomplished this without all of the volunteers who participated in this enormous project.



As of June 12th, 2016: The frequent post-planting rains have resulted in good seedling viability.

Mark Lesko viewed the tree field on 3 random occasions and found all of the seedlings to be thriving. Not one single dead one was located. The early growth – pictured at right – is extraordinary.



Scenes from Planting Day – April 2016



A Wisconsin spring results in frozen planting holes. It was no match for the torch, the sun and our intrepid crew.



Seedling Planting 101 with Mark Lesko



Board President, Ron Rasmussen (center) and Board member, Mark Lesko strategizing.



Make way for seedling delivery.



The Planting Crew beginning to assemble.

There is a right way and a wrong way to plant trees whether you are landscaping a yard or planting a forest for the future. Your tree's health and longevity depend on it.

There are also optimal times of the year for planting depending on the species.

Another consideration is the habitat your tree prefers. Contact us for more information.

262-539-3222



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 Juan Gomez

Creating a Future for Seno K/RLT Conservancy

There is a good vibe at Seno – lots going on not only in front of the camera – to use a phrase – but, behind the scenes as well.

As of February, 2016, we have officially embarked on creating a 3 year strategic plan that will guide this great organization into the future. Jeffrey Schultz is leading a core group comprised of Ron Rasmussen, Mark Lesko, Chris Litzau, Robert Leick and Nan Calvert through this fascinating and intense exercise.

It is good work and the core group is deeply committed to the process. The Vision and Mission Statements will soon be fleshed out with objectives and goals for all that Seno seeks to accomplish in the 36 months following the plan's completion.

So, stay tuned! There will be much to do and we will be looking for people to help us do just that.

Welcome to Our New Volunteers

Boy Scout Troop 303
 Sophie Couillard
 Todd Eckert
 Marie Hrabrich
 Kim Rusk
 Suzann Sasso
 Lee Solock
 Joan Wansart
 Richard Wadleigh

**We could not do what
 we do without you!!**



Yep – no two ways about it – we need volunteers to carry Seno's good work forward. Training is available. Volunteer opportunities are many and here are but a few:

- ❖ Care of the Land
- ❖ Committee Work
- ❖ Event Planning
- ❖ Buildings and Grounds
- ❖ Education and Outreach
- ❖ Board of Directors

Call us at 262-539-3222 or email nan@senokrllt.org



Coming Events - Mark Your Calendars

Woodland Festival Barn Dance and Pig Roast

2 p.m. to 9 p.m. **September 17th, 2016**

What could be better? Great food, live music, and dancing in the barn. Also included are the Silent Auction, Demos, Vendors and Tours.

Dinner by reservation. Vegetarian fare also available.

Email for pricing information.

See our web site for details as well.

Music provided by Frogwater

All proceeds support the work of Seno K/RLT Conservancy

Rolling Vista Ride

7 a.m. to Noon **October 1, 2016**

Our first ever cycling event for Seno. Four routes from easy to Metric Century through the rolling hills of three counties surrounding Seno.

\$25 per adult until 9/18/2016. \$30 after that date

Kids under 16 are free

Spaghetti Lunch \$5.00 per person

All proceeds support the work of Seno K/RLT Conservancy

Dracula! A Live Theatre Performance

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. **October 15th, 2016**

Celebrate this time of year with live theatre in the rustic barn and woodlands of Seno. Creative Outlets Theatre Troup will perform the timeless story of the Count that will include a 10 minute pursuit of Dracula along a woodland path.

Reception to follow the play. Meet the actors.

Tickets are \$20.00

Email nan@senokrllt.org for tickets and information

Wish List for Seno

Gift Cards to the following:

- Local hardware stores
- Michael's Crafts
- Gooseberries
- Office Depot
- Woodman's
- Acorn Naturalist
- Aldi
- Joanne Fabrics
- Barnes and Noble

And these:

- New members
- New projection screen for presentations and movies
- New Astroscan telescope
- New railings for the ramps to the building
- Portable display unit for events
- Funds for a sign with our new name and logo to replace the old one at the front of the property
- Little Library
- New CD/DVD player
- Kid sized waders

Most of all we are looking for skilled and energetic volunteers. There is something for everyone at Seno. Feel free to stop by or give us a call. We would be happy to help you discover your niche at Seno K/RLT Conservancy.

Membership is vitally important to Seno. By joining, you directly support our mission and vision. And, it is tax deductible. We urge you to join today!

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Become a Member of the Seno K/RLT Conservancy

Every donation towards the Seno K/RLT Conservancy is used to support our mission of providing environmental education, promoting sustainable management of forests, wetlands, prairies, and wildlife as well as opportunities for permanent preservation of these lands. 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
- Family \$40
- Forestry Friend\$100
- Land Protector\$500
- Patron \$1000
- Benefactor\$5000
- Other amount\$_____

Additional donation for land acquisition \$_____

All dues and donations are tax deductible under IRS rules.

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

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