

2022 SPRING/SUMMER

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."**

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SPRINGING INTO SUMMER

CONTINUED GROWTH AT SENO K/RLT CONSERVANCY



Like most of you, Seno K/RLT Conservancy was eager to welcome spring this year. We had so much to look forward to after all! In the meantime, we enjoyed hosting Simple Solutions Apothecary's Mediation Series to kick off the year and begin some of those good habits we always hear about. We continued our ongoing efforts to prepare for Land Trust Alliance Accreditation with a policy & procedure audit, and prepped for our first program of the coming spring; our second annual Maple Sugaring Program!

In what turned out to be a banner year for tapping due to the cold temperatures, we took our class out and about at the Woodland Management Center to tap some trees, learn, and warm up around a fire with a story afterward. While Seno K/RLT hasn't started making our own syrup yet, we hope maybe one day we will be able to tackle the entire sap-to-syrup process and make our very own "Seno Syrup".

Seno K/RLT then took the show on the road to table at Ecofest Racine. We loved teaching everyone about identifying animal tracks, what we do as an organization, and making animal track tree cookies for people to take home. April was a whirlwind from beginning to end, kicking off with a weekend of Chainsaw Safety classes and a Willow

Basketry workshop. Our level 1 class even braved the elements in

an April snowstorm! We spent the next weekend planting 1400 white oak seedlings with help from almost 50 volunteers on 4 acres of former Ash stands. Our amazing volunteers made record time and planted both areas in only 2 hours! We could not be more amazed and grateful for their help. The following week blended teams of AgVets, Veterans Corps, and Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps (GLCCC) planted the remaining 500 red oak and walnut seedlings at Seno.

We wrapped up April with a Tree & Shrub ID class taught by our board member and UW-Parkside professor Dr. David Rogers to get beginners on the road to curing their plant blindness and stopped by Woodland Waters conservation subdivision to host a refresher class on monitoring their bluebird trail installed last spring. In May we joined GLCCC and the WaterSHED Program to take Jefferson Lighthouse students to the Root River for a trash clean-up as part of the EPA's Trash Free Waters Project where they collected 20 bags worth of trash!

We're looking forward to a summer of workshops, field trips, and "Discovering Nature" programs and are ever thankful for our supporters and volunteers that allow us to keep fulfilling our mission and better serve our communities. We hope to see you this summer and fall, whether it's in a workshop or on our trails!





SPONGY (FORMERLY GYPSY) MOTH RETURNS

By: Kevin Nolan
Certified Arborist #MW-4399A
Seno KRLT Board of Directors Secretary

Forests and residential properties have noted a dramatic increase in the population of Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) historically referred to as Gypsy Moth. The name change reflects a cultural shift as the peoples formerly referred to as "Gypsy's" reclaim their preferred nomenclature of Romani or Romany. While the name has changed, the pest remains the same.

Spongy Moth was introduced to North America in 1869 by Mr. L Trouvelot, an artist who wanted to study their silk production. Unfortunately the moths escaped captivity and quickly took to their new environment. With few natural predators the pest flourished and spread across the country.

Female moths lay a buff colored egg mass of approximately 500 eggs in late summer. The larvae mature until they are nearly ready to hatch before entering a form of stasis that renders them nearly impervious to winter weather. These eggs hatch in late spring (typically Mid-Late May) and begin seeking food immediately. When populations are high they will climb to a tall point and descend on a strand of silk. This strand acts like a parachute and winds can disperse them over 150 feet. Upon landing, the nearest tree is sought out and feeding begins.



Photo Credit: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Photo Credit: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The next 4-6 weeks are spent feeding on vegetation. This aggressive feeding can completely defoliate trees and creates quite a mess of small, pelletized excrement on every surface below. Once satiated, Spongy Moths seek out a sheltered area and form a cocoon to pupate in. Adults emerge in late summer and begin mating to restart the cycle. Male moths can be seen flying at this time while the female moths are flightless.

Continued on Page 4...

SPONGY (FORMERLY GYPSY) MOTH RETURNS (CONT.)



Spongy Moth Egg Mass
Photo Credit: Bob Queen, WI DNR.

The damage can be quite shocking to observe! A healthy deciduous tree can survive defoliation and will draw on energy reserves to produce a second generation of leaves. Repeated annual defoliation or defoliation of a weakened tree will lower a tree's reserves. This can cause plant decline and leave trees more vulnerable to other pest and disease issues. Evergreen trees can be severely weakened or killed in just one season as their ability to produce new growth is much slower than that of a deciduous tree.

Several control options are available to reduce the impact of this destructive pest. Foliar sprays of traditional insecticides are effective; however, these products tend to be non-specific and will kill many native insects that are not necessarily harmful. BTK (*Bacillus thuringiensis Kurstaki*) is a bacteria commonly used to control the caterpillars. When treated foliage is ingested the caterpillar's digestive tract is damaged by the protein crystals this bacterium produces. Both options require the ability to cover leaf surfaces or make direct contact with the pest. Tall trees will require the use of a lift truck and sprayer to

effectively cover the foliage. The fungus *Entomophaga maimaiga* has been used to obtain more widespread control. While effective, the spread of spores and inoculation of caterpillars is largely a function of a wet Spring and therefore cannot be entirely relied upon.

Trapping caterpillars that have reached the ground and are beginning to climb can be done by applying a sticky substance to the trunk of the tree. Several products are available at most garden centers but one can always wrap duct tape around the trunk of the tree with the sticky side facing outwards.

Burlap tied in a specific shape can also be effective, there are numerous videos online demonstrating the proper technique. This will trap many climbing caterpillars but will need to be replaced periodically. This is a good reduction technique but will not provide significant control if pest populations are high. Pheromone traps will only attract and contain male moths as the females are flightless. While an excellent way to detect the presence of Spongy Moth these traps do little to control the population.

Should Spongy Moth be observed on your property, more information can be found online at the Wisconsin DNR Website.



A burlap band to trap Spongy Moths
Photo Credit: Bill McNee, WI DNR

Properties with tall trees requiring treatment can also reach out to a local Certified Arborist for treatment options.

**"WE ARE NOT ALONE
AS WE FIGHT FOR THIS
PLACE
WE SING ALL TOGETHER
WITH THE SOIL
AND TREES
AND SKY
AND THE WHOLE
MATERIAL WORLD"**

-Madeleine Jubilee Saito

HIDDEN GEM: JEAN MCGRAW MEMORIAL NATURE PRESERVE



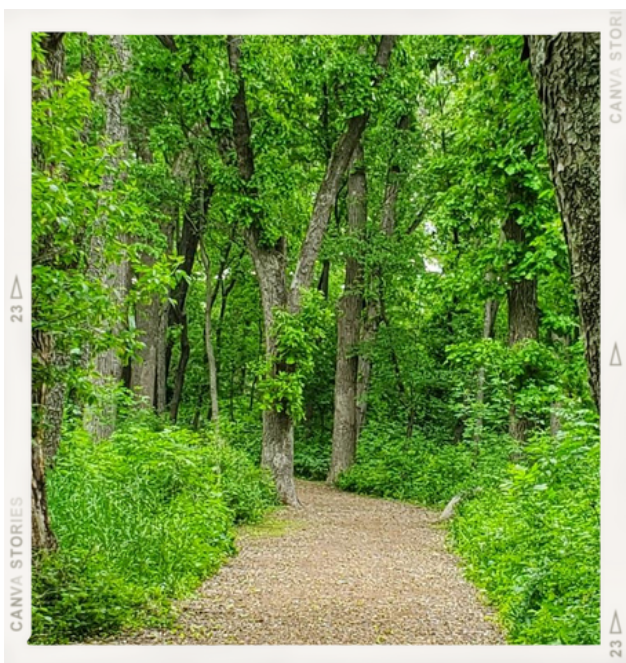
Jean McGraw Memorial Nature Center
120th Ave, Kenosha, WI 53142

Along the incredibly developed I-94 corridor, there is an *almost* secret collection of preserves along the Des Plaines River. In 2006 the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust (K/RLT) saw an opportunity in the Des Plaines River Watershed in Kenosha Co. where advancing urban sprawl had brought problems with flooding, water pollution, soil erosion, and deteriorating natural resources within the watershed. Thus started a Des Plaines Lowlands Conservation Project. The goal of the project was to connect existing contiguous acres of quality wildlife habitat and enhance and restore the primary environmental corridor and wetlands along the Upper Des Plaines River. The first land acquisition was 14.4 acres purchased from the Spitzer family which was

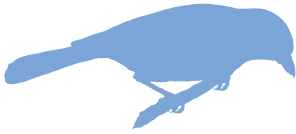
dedicated in memory of Jean McGraw one of the founders of the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust. Jean helped develop the organization as a board member and was an avid environmentalist in Southeast WI belonging to the Nature Conservancy and Sierra Club. She often found herself going head to head with then-Congressman Les Aspin over environmental issues. K/RLT had purchased both the Spitzer and neighboring Coker property with grant funding from

the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Gaylord Dorothy & Donnelly Foundation, and the DNR's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund along with a 28-acre property donated by the Village of Pleasant Prairie.

Today Jean McGraw Memorial Preserve is the only one of the three properties to have an established trail. Just off of the I-94 frontage road of 120th Ave you can find a short & sweet 0.2-mile looped trail that is perfect for fishing, birding, or just catching your breath amongst nature. Seven species listed as Wisconsin "species of greatest conservation need" have been identified on the property including American Woodcocks, Willow Flycatchers, Short-eared Owls, and Eastern Meadowlarks. We are grateful to the LUMW foundation which continues to fund regular management of the property to maintain the trails and control invasive species. We hope the Jean McGraw Preserve will continue to be a hidden refuge for both people and wildlife and to one day expand upon the Des Plaines project started by K/RLT many years ago.



UPCOMING EVENTS



NRF Field Trip: Eastern Bluebird Workshop - June 18th

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Seno Woodland Center

Registration through the NRF website. \$18/Adult, \$8/Child. Trip #123

Infused Honey - July 23rd

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM at Seno Woodland Center - \$50 fee

Ticketing through our website or Facebook event page

Heritage Wheat & Bread Workshop - August 14th

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM at Seno Woodland Center - \$30 fee

Ticketing through our website or Facebook event page



NRF Field Trip: Paddle on The Root River - October 1st

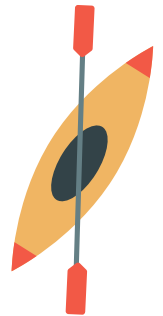
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Root River Parkway County Park

Registration through the NRF website. \$18/Adult, \$8/Child. Trip #243

Broom Making - Hearth Brooms - October 30th

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM at Seno Woodland Center - \$60 fee

Ticketing through our website or Facebook event page



Autumn Open House - October 8th (MORE INFO COMING SOON)

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@senokrlt.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@senokrlt.org for more details & information

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VERY GENEROUS DONORS & SUPPORTERS:

- Charles Haubrich
- Suzy Bittmann
- Bill & Judy Stone
- Stuart A. Hansen
- Dr. John S. & Shelly Berget
- Terry & Katie Simenson
- Micheal Deutsch
- Tim & Mary Jo Sullivan
- Mary Ann Ortmeyer
- John Uher
- Dr. Steven Ryder
- Mark & Ryszarda Edens
- Rick & Amy Johnstone
- Arthur & Vicki Rothschild
- Dennis McGraw
- Paula J. Putenney
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- Eric Gernand
- Barbara Meyocks

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 [@SENOKRLTCONSERVANCY](https://www.instagram.com/SENOKRLTCONSERVANCY)

The LUMW Foundation



BECOME A MEMBER OR MAKE A DONATION

.....

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: _____
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 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
 3606 Dyer Lake Road
 Burlington, WI 53105



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