



# THE CANOPY



## Seno K/RLT Conservancy

### Inaugural Issue

#### We Are One

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Seno K/RLT Conservancy's newsletter! With the merger of the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust and the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Foundation complete, our new Board of Directors, currently comprised of members from both organizations, and staff are working to make one seamless organization. This combined effort will result in one newsletter, one yearly membership drive and one education program. That is why we chose the name, "The Canopy". It is symbolic of all that is encompassed beneath and within the canopy of a venerable old Oak – just like the ones at Seno. We invite you to join us in this new endeavor. It is pretty exciting. All of us look forward to your continuing support. And - we sincerely hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

#### Kenosha/Racine Land Trust and WWOA Merge

Since being established in 1993, the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust has focused on permanently preserving land and restoring wildlife habitat. Coincidentally, during that same time period, the nearby WWOA Foundation (a.k.a Seno Woodland Education Center) has directed efforts from its 213 acre facility in western Kenosha County toward educating the public about sustainable forestry and related environmental issues. To leverage the strength of each, as of June 20, 2014 the two organizations officially merged. The name of this organization is now Seno K/RLT Conservancy. The missions of each organization will remain prominent in all endeavors. Environmental education, sustainable forestry, natural resource conservation and land preservation in perpetuity remain the guiding principles and primary goals. Together the combined organization will be financially stronger and better able to achieve its land preservation mission through forestry and education.

Seno Woodland Education Center was founded in 1994 as a non-profit foundation by the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) with 130 acres of land donated by Dr. Elvira Seno. Its Articles of Incorporation provided for acquiring land for conservation purposes and educating the public on prudent land management for sustainable forestry practices with related benefits to wildlife and natural beauty.

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#### News and Events Seno K/RLT Conservancy

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Wish List

## **Seno K/RLT Conservancy**

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### **Board President**

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### **Vice-President & Treasurer**

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### **Secretary**

Betty Adelman

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Dan Grosse

### **Newsletter Editor & Webmaster**

Jerry Lapidakis

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### **Legal Counsel**

Tom Hall

### **Senior Forester**

Jerry Lapidakis

### **Land and Property Manager**

Juan Gomez

## **Merger cont'd**

Dr. Seno established a tree farm on her late 1800's wooded farmstead that she eventually wanted used as an education center focused on sustainable forestry. To prepare for that day, Dr. Seno and her brother Les Seno planted 50,000 trees. She also included a generous monetary gift in her estate plan to renovate the barn for related classroom work.

Coincidentally, Dr. Shirley Petersen had a vacation property about 3 miles from Seno, and she too wanted the woods and wetlands she called Drumlin Farm preserved and used for environmental education. To bring her dream to fruition, she donated her 83 acre farm to WWOA along with a generous funds that were turned into an endowment to support environmental programming.

The Kenosha/Racine Land Trust owns 53 acres in the Pleasant Prairie/Des Plaines River Basin and holds 19 conservation easements on approximately 1,000 acres in Kenosha and Racine counties. When combined with the 213 Seno/Drumlin acres, it raises the land protected in perpetuity to 1,266 acres. And, the merger affords the land trust the brick and mortar facility it requires to conduct in depth environmental education programs.

Both organizations share a passion for sustainable land management and land preservation. Both organizations want Wisconsin's forests to remain healthy and robust, producing commercial wood for generations to come. Both organizations are committed to preserving wetlands, farm lands and sustainable resource use. Both organizations are committed to education. The Seno K/RLT Conservancy provides a stronger and more resilient platform for these invaluable objectives.



The wetland at Seno in July. It teems with a diversity of life including Tamaracks (*Larix laricina*) and Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*).

## Introducing Nan Calvert...

Hello to everyone. I have the distinct pleasure and honor of being your new Director of Education for Seno K/RLT Conservancy.

I am pretty certain I could not be more thrilled or grateful to have been chosen for this position. Between Seno and Drumlin Farm, my outdoor offices are absolutely beautiful. Woodlands, wetlands, prairies and wildlife everywhere I turn. Add to that the inspiring legacy of land conservation and sustainable resource use that Dr's Peterson and Seno gave us all – well, for me, it is a dream come true.

Environmental education for adults and kids has been my profession and passion for about 20 years now. I have a special focus on native plants, native landscaping and native lands management. And now, I have the great privilege of using my experience and background at Seno K/RLT Conservancy.

There is so very much to be done. Seno is an unknown in southeastern Wisconsin. My chief task is to get people to fall in love this amazing place and the spaces within like the forests, the ponds, the Tamarack bog, the prairies – all of it. Seno and Drumlin Farm are nothing but possibility and potential for connecting people of all ages to the natural world and sustainable resource use. Together we can build an environmentally literate and engaged society.

Please accept my invitation to come out for a visit. Go for a hike. Sit a spell on a Leopold bench under our trees. (Remember your camera.) Register for a program. Tell everyone you know about us! We look forward to seeing you.

Call me at 262.539.3222 or email me at [nan@senocenter-krllt.org](mailto:nan@senocenter-krllt.org), I would love to introduce you to this amazing place now known as Seno K/RLT Conservancy.

### Kendra Johncock Memorial Garden

In memory of Kendra Johncock we plan to create a native garden in her name at Seno. Kendra was Education Director for Seno until her death in August of 2013. If you would like to donate toward the garden, send your contribution to Seno K/RLT Conservancy, 3606 Dyer Lake Road, Burlington, Wisconsin, 53105. Any amount is appreciated and will be put to good use.

## Just Add People

Seno Conservancy is ripe with possibility and full of potential.

All we need is you and your time and talents.

Help us build these groups

- **Astronomy Club**
- **Photography Club**
- **Phenology Group**
- **Habitat Healers**
- **Teaching Volunteers**
- **Event Volunteers**
- **Buildings & Grounds**

If you have interests and abilities outside these categories, give us a call or send us an email at [nan@senocenter-krllt.org](mailto:nan@senocenter-krllt.org) or 262.539.3222. Looking forward to hearing from you.

## You're Invited!

### Volunteer Open House

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> Noon – 3 p.m.

Time for Seno to meet new people and enjoy our long time friends as well. Enjoy a presentation, a guided tour and light refreshments. Invite everyone you know.

**Free and Everyone is Welcome**

## Coming Attractions

### Prairie Seed Day

*October 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

Get up close and personal with Seno's prairie plants. Learn the basics of plant i.d. and seed harvesting. Register through the Natural Resources Foundation.

### Pig Roast

*October 11<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m. Dinner at 6:30*

Delicious food, beverages, Bluegrass music, silent auction, cool people and a gorgeous setting.

Tickets for the entire event :

**13** years and over \$10

**5** to **12** years - \$6 Children under **5** are free

Tickets for music only:

**13** years and over - \$5

**5** – **12** years - \$3 Children under **5** are free

**BYOB and wine.**

### All Hallow's Eve

*October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 – 10 p.m. \$7 admission*

Hike the Trail of Terror if you dare. Meander the Haunted Barn Maze. Enjoy crafts, games, and sweet treats. Then, roast some marshmallows at the bonfire to end the frightful festivities. This event is a friend and fund raiser.

***Parents –please use your discretion. The Terror Trail and Haunted Maze are scary!***

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### Paper Arts

*December 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. \$25/person*

Enjoy the experience of papermaking right on time for the holidays. All equipment and materials are included as well as lunch. Make as much as you desire. Call 262.681.4899 to register.

## Chainsaw Safety Class Level I

The woodlands at Seno Conservancy did not escape the devastating effects of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Four acres of White ash (*Fraxinus americana*) have sadly succumbed. Their demise offers Seno an opportunity to hold a chainsaw safety course and the trees will be felled at that time.

The course will be conducted by Ben Parsons of FISTA on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The four acres of dying and dead trees will be divided into 0.5 acre plots. Jerry Lapidakis, Seno Staff Forester, estimates that there are about 10 cords of wood per acre.

Registration is required. Contact Ron Rasmussen at [ron@senocenter-krlt.org](mailto:ron@senocenter-krlt.org) to register and for fee information.

## Barn Roof and Bats

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, a new barn roof will go on in November. With donations totaling over \$6,500.00, the Board of Directors authorized the remaining funds required to complete the project.

Since June, the nursery colony of bats in the barn have been closely monitored by Carthage College biology professor, Dr. Deanna Byrnes, and three of her students. Thus far they have determined that there are approximately 100 bats in residence and most likely they are Little Brown Bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) based on their distinctive call patterns.

A number of bat houses will be erected as alternative housing. The goal is to keep this colony at Seno – just not in the barn. If you would like to build and donate a bat house, please contact Nan Calvert for the plans at [nan@senocenter-krlt.org](mailto:nan@senocenter-krlt.org).

## Kenosha/Racine Land Trust Donation

The Kenosha/Racine Land Trust has donated \$5,000.00 to the New Munster Wildlife Area. The funds will.....

### Visit Seno K/RLT Conservancy

Seno is open to the public daily from dawn until dusk. There is no admission and membership – though most appreciated – is not required.

In the upper parking, adjacent to the trail head there is a big, green mailbox with trail maps, brochures and books. They are there for you to use during your visit. You will also find a journal. Leave us a note in the journal and let us know what you saw and how you liked your visit. We enjoy hearing from our friends!

### Membership

Would you like to receive this publication via email? Let us know and we would be happy to oblige

### Wish List for Seno

Gift Cards to the following:

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

And these:

- Straw bales and corn stalks for Halloween
- New projection screen for presentations and movies
- New Atroscan telescope
- Bi-fold display units on wheels
- Banners for the lower barn
- New railings for the ramps to the building
- Funds for a sign with our new name and logo to replace the old one at the front of the property
- Little Library

**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 place at Seno K/RLT Conservancy.**