

# Laudato Si' Project

Newsletter



*Restoring Our Natural Connection*

**Mission: To restore humanity's connection to the natural world through faith, education, stewardship and recreation.**



Spring 2019

## The Hope of the Easter Season

The season of Easter is one of new life, hope and awakenings. What happens on the forest floor in a Wisconsin woodland should be the same in our spiritual life; new growth, reaching toward the heavens in praise and the hope of tomorrow.

Spring is a wonderful time to get schools and parishes active in retreats, stewardship projects and educational programs. There are ample opportunities to use God's classroom of creation to help instill a sense of wonder and foster a stewardship ethic to care for it.

As you and your family set on on adventures this spring and summer, remember to open your eyes to the little treasures God wants to share with you.



Treasure of creation; Spring Ephemerals like bloodroot carpet the woodland floor.  
More on page 4

*-Joe Meyer, Executive Director*

Laudato Si' Project

[laudatosiproject@gmail.com](mailto:laudatosiproject@gmail.com)

[www.naturecatholic.org](http://www.naturecatholic.org)

5443 Shannon Road Hartford, WI 53027

262-308-6641

# Easter Season Retreats

Our mission of integrating authentic Catholic faith with hands on encounters with creation is so clearly demonstrated in our retreats. Prayer, reflection, team building and stewardship projects are just a few ways our retreat make an impact. The joy and hope that is the Easter season is so easily seen in the faces of the nearly 150 students that took part in Laudato Si' Project retreats this spring.

“The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.” - *Pope Benedict XVI*



# Tresures of Creation; WI Spring Ephemerals

In order to better appreciate the floral treasures of a Wisconsin spring woodland, we wanted to show you some of the common plants that make their debut before the trees leaf out. All these plants are extremely valuable to wildlife and especially our early pollinators.



Wild leek aka ramps. An early spring plant that is sought after as a wild edible for cooking. It is best sautéed like onions.



Bloodroot, named for the color of its root, is a short-lived flower important for early pollinators. Ants transport and plant the seeds.



Hepatica, named for the shape of leaf resembling a liver, is a beautiful flower that barely reaches above the leaf litter.

## Aquatic Invasive Volunteers Needed This Summer



As part of an aquatic invasive removal project, volunteers are needed on Golden Lake in Oconomowoc to assist scuba divers remove invasive pond weeds like Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Volunteers will lift weed nets from scuba divers into boats and haul net bins onto shore. Orientation is provided on site the day of.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Dates: Saturdays June 8, 22 and 29

Time: 11:30am-5:30pm

Where: Golden Lake, Oconomowoc

Please Contact Joe Meyer if interested

262-308-6641 or [laudatosiproject@gmail.com](mailto:laudatosiproject@gmail.com)

# The Secret Lives of Owls



We surely enjoyed running the live owl program and owl prowl for Tall Pines Conservancy. It was an amazing sold out crowd of 60 people at Tall Pines Conservancy's Camp Quad conservation easement property near Holy Hill.

We taught about all the amazing adaptations of our Wisconsin nocturnal creatures with a focus on owls. A special thanks to Marty from Wanakia Wildlife Rehabilitation for bringing the live owls.

We had a beautiful starlit night hike searching for owls and witnessing the woodcock sky dance. The hike ended with a campfire and s'mores...doesn't get any better!

# The "Stew" Crew

Stewardship projects are service projects that are meant to foster an ethic to care for our common home through hands on restoration. This spring we continued our partnership with Cristo Rey high school for the third year. We also brought a volunteer group from Marquette High School to Tall Pines Conservancy's Camp Quad easement property.



# Upcoming Events

Join us for these great public events. Check facebook for up to date information.



**JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS**

## **Saturday, June 8 9:30am-noon Butterfly Garden Planting**

Laudato Si' Project welcomes the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for a morning of stewardship on the Schoofs Preserve. We will be planting another native butterfly garden and doing some spring stewardship on the existing Schoofs Legacy Butterfly Garden.

Meet at the Schoofs Preserve at 5401 Shannon Road Hartford



## **Saturday, June 22 Pewaukee Clean Water Festival**

Spend the day on the shore of Pewaukee Lake learning all about the aquatic treasures that surround us. The education tent is packed full of information, interactive displays and various activities take place throughout the day. Visit [cleanwaterfestival.org](http://cleanwaterfestival.org) for more information.

## **Saturdays, June 8, 22 and 29 11:30am-5:30pm Golden Lake Invasive Species Removal**

See Page 3 of this newsletter for more details.



## **Tuesday, July 9, 6:30pm Prairie Restoration Tour**

Join Joe Meyer as he gives a guided tour of prairie restorations to the Menomonee River Chapter of Wild Ones, an organization focusing on native plants and natural landscapes. The tour will begin at Heiliger Huegel Ski Club, an 8-acre prairie Joe planted in 2016, and also the 14-acre Meyer prairie and Schoofs Legacy Butterfly Garden on the Schoofs Preserve. Tour will begin at the HH Ski Club at 5482 WI-167 Hubertus



**Sustainability Fair**  
Discover. Connect. Engage.

## **Saturday, August 24 9:30am-2:30pm 2019 Sustainability Fair**

Retzer Nature Center

The 2019 Sustainability Fair brings together dozens of organizations and business with hands-on activities, presentations and programs to help you live more sustainably. FREE

Laudato Si' Project is part of the Sustainability Fair Planning Committee.

# Care for Creation

## LSP Board of Directors

In our continued partnership with St. Catherine of Alexandria in Milwaukee, we had a blast running a care for creation program for their 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Topics included our Catholic call to be stewards of creation every day, prairie ecology in Wisconsin, and the diversity and importance of pollinators.

Nathan Lasnoski *Chairman*

Ryan Grusenski *Secretary*

Andy Schoofs *Treasurer*

Matt Vogel

Quentin Maxwell



## By The Numbers: Spring Care for Our Common Home

### Education

Laudato Si' Project has conducted **23 hours** of presentations, educational programs and retreats.

### Stewardship

Laudato Si' Project has contributed **158 volunteer hours** in stewardship projects to better the ecological value of our world's outdoor places.

### Recreation

Laudato Si' Project has sponsored **5 hours** of recreational outings to visit, explore and learn about our natural world.

*Laudato Si' Project* is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization that depends on membership and donations to continue its vital mission. Thank You!