

# Laudato Si' Project

Newsletter



*Restoring Our Natural Connection*

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

Winter 2019



## Wacky Wisconsin Winter Weather

Snow, ice, extreme cold, repeat. This seems to be the mantra on our wacky Wisconsin winter this year. The old adage "if you don't like Wisconsin weather, wait ten minutes" has never been so true.

This weather has provided us with some great winter recreational opportunities including a snowpack for the candlelight hike and winter carnival (pg. 2). The weather also presented some challenges for Laudato Si' Project stewardship projects, two of which had to be cancelled because of extreme cold or rain.

If you need a little warming up, see page 3 for volunteer opportunities cleaning up invasives on Golden Lake, Oconomowoc.

*-Joe Meyer, Executive Director*

*Cold and chill, bless the Lord;  
praise and exalt him above all  
forever.*

*—Daniel 3*



Laudato Si' Project

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Page 1

# Candlelight Hike

Every year on the first weekend in February, Laudato Si' Project partners with Tall Pines Conservancy and Heiliger Huegel Ski Club to put on the Langlauf Winter Carnival.

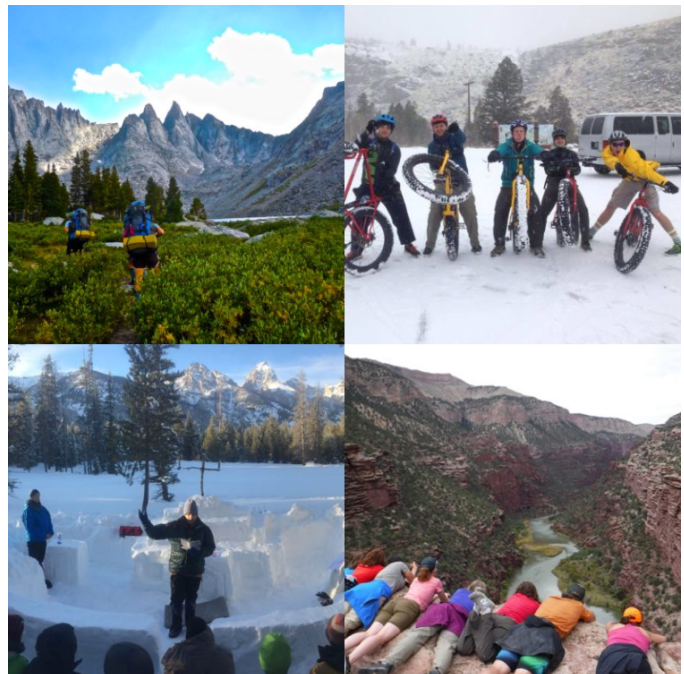
The event kicks off on Saturday with a candlelight hike throughout the HH Ski Club property and neighboring 51 acre Schoofs Preserve. LSP volunteers place 300 reusable luminary bags filled with sand and a candle along 1.25 miles of trail.

People gathered by the warm bonfire before the hike for fellowship and s'mores. The hike ends at the HH ski club chalet with a chili dinner, fireworks and a German polka band. If that doesn't scream Wisconsin fun in winter, I don't know what does.



## Wyoming Catholic College Reflections

Laudato Si' Project is proud of our continued partnership with Wyoming Catholic College. Starting this past winter and continuing into the spring, we are featuring Wyoming Catholic College on our blog as part of our *Outdoor Adventure Series*. This 4-part series will consist of essays written by students who participated in one of Wyoming Catholic College's COR Expeditions: a 21-day backpacking trip infused with faith, community, virtue and beauty. Check it out online: [naturecatholicblog.com](http://naturecatholicblog.com)





# Living in the Web of Creation



Waukesha County Green Team has just established the *Waukesha County Creation Care Network*, which is an ecumenical partnership between several parishes and organizations, including Laudato Si' Project. The goal is to collaborate with other people of faith in the area to help bring about a care for our common home within our faith communities. The first meeting took place in mid-February and was attended by over 50 people. For more information on how to join, contact Laudato Si' Project at [laudatosiproject@gmail.com](mailto:laudatosiproject@gmail.com)

## 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)



# Waukesha Catholic and Queen of Apostles Retreats

We are very excited to be partnering with one new school and one new parish. Welcome aboard to Waukesha Catholic School and Queen of Apostles. We ran a retreat for Queen of Apostles religious education high school students in January at the Holy Hill Basilica. Waukesha Catholic 7<sup>th</sup> graders took part in our retreat in early February at St. John Neuman parish in Waukesha. It is always inspiring to see the faith and energy of the youth!

*What really matters in life is that we are loved by Christ and that we love Him in return.*

*-St. John Paul II*





# Upcoming Events

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

## **Wednesday, April 24 9:30am-12pm Trail Marking.**

Tall Pines Conservancy Camp Quad Easement

Help us mark the hiking trails on this beautiful 300+ acre property near Holy Hill. Lunch will be provided.

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



## **Friday, April 26 7pm-9pm Live Owl Program and Owl Prowl.**

Tall Pines Conservancy Camp Quad Easement

Join Laudato Si' Project as we run this great family program for our friends at Tall Pines Conservancy.

We will begin with a program, featuring live owls, describing the adaptations and survival strategies of our owls and other nocturnal creatures. Meet live owls including Great Horned, Screech, Saw-whet and more. At 7:45pm, we will journey on our Owl Prowl through the wilds of Camp Quad calling, listening and looking for owls. Enjoy an outdoor bonfire, weather permitting, with s'mores. Family friendly.

Advanced registration required. Limited to 60 guests.  
\$10 per adult or \$20 for family of four (or more).  
Visit [tallpinesconservancy.org](http://tallpinesconservancy.org) to register.



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

See Page 3 of this newsletter for more details.



## **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.

# Laudato Si' Project Turns 3 Years Old

## *LSP Board of Directors*

It has been a very fruitful 3 years for Laudato Si' Project. Thanks to all our members, board of directors and volunteers for spreading our vital mission. We look forward to what God will be able to do in the coming years.

Nathan Lasnoski *Chairman*

Ryan Grusenski *Secretary*

Andy Schoofs *Treasurer*

Matt Vogel

Quentin Maxwell

## By The Numbers: 3 Years Caring for Our Common Home

We have worked with over 2400 youth, families and adults

**Education:** We have held over 175 hours of educational programs.

**Stewardship:** We have logged over 1200 volunteer hours.

**Recreation:** We have hosted 60 hours of recreational outings.

