

# Laudato Si' Project

Newsletter



*Restoring Our Natural Connection*

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

Fall 2019



## Future Catholic Ecology Center Land Tour

It was such a blessing to be able to host our second open house gathering on the future Catholic Ecology Center land in September. Although there was rain showers, it did not prevent nearly 40 people from coming and exploring the amazing property. It was a faith-filled and joyful occasion, celebrating the generous financial commitments of so many people to get us this far, Thank You!

If you were unable to come to the event but would like to tour the property, feel free to contact me to setup a tour.



Tour of the future Catholic Ecology Center land near Wales; September 22<sup>nd</sup>.



*Joe Meyer,  
Executive Director*

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# Faith the Size of a Prairie Seed



This Fall, we completed two prairie restoration projects. The first is a 1-acre educational prairie at Woodside Elementary in Sussex. Last spring, we planted a beautiful educational butterfly garden on the same grounds and with the addition of the 1-acre prairie, it will create an outdoor classroom for the whole school. Over 100 kindergarten students assisted with the seeding of the site.

The second project was on the Schoofs Preserve, owned by Ozaukee Washington Land Trust. This habitat improvement project will cover nearly 7 acres for use by wildlife, especially pollinators, and the enjoyment of visitors to the preserve.





# Fall Retreats and Speaking



We always enjoy the opportunity to speak to parishes, schools and organizations about integrating our life of faith with our call to be stewards of creation. This Fall, we were blessed to present to St. Jerome, Good Shepard, Legatus Milwaukee and the Food, Faith and Farming Network.

Facilitating retreats for schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is especially rewarding. Having time to work with youth in developing prayer, utilizing the sacraments and calling them to become living saints is very fulfilling work. Many of our retreats have an outdoor component; quiet reflection, faith-based ecology hikes or stewardship service work. It never ceases to amaze me the child-like wonder each of us has for God's creation when given the chance to reflect and explore in it. This Fall we worked with St. Eugene's 8<sup>th</sup> graders, St. John Vianney 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, St. Jude 6<sup>th</sup> graders, St Gabriel middle schoolers and St. John Vianney Confirmation students.





# Oaktober Fest



We want to thank our wonderful partner organization, Waukesha County Land Conservancy, for their great event "Oaktoberfest." Nearly 500 people were in attendance to see the Wisconsin champion bur oak tree. An acorn in the year 1710, this giant has seen the founding of our country, the extinction of the passenger pigeon and now a generation committed to stewarding our common home!

WCLC does great work preserving land and stewarding the amazing places left in Waukesha County. We are proud to be partnering with them for the Catholic Ecology Center.

## Owl Release

We were joined by St. Theresa of Calcutta parish of Monches and North Lake, as well as other great volunteers, to help do some trail maintenance and clearing before the winter snowshoe and cross skiing season on the Schoofs Preserve. Our morning of stewardship began with an amazing release of 2 rehabilitated great horned owls. Thanks to our friends at Wanakia Wildlife Rehabilitation for the unforgettable experience.





# Catholic Ecology Center News



Our fundraising efforts have continued to bear much fruit. We are approaching **\$270,000!!!**  
*Laudato Si' Mi Signore; Praise Be To You My Lord.* Thanks to all of our generous supporters.

## Donor Spotlight





## Changes to the Board of Directors

### *LSP Board of Directors*

We want to thank Quentin Maxwell for over 3 years of service on the Laudato Si' Project Board of Directors. His passion and vision has helped the organization reach its current trajectory. We wish him well in future endeavors.

We welcome Tom Mlada to the Board this Fall. Tom has served as mayor of Port Washington, development director for Ozaukee Washington Land Trust and currently as executive director of Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership. We are very excited to have Tom joining us!

Nathan Lasnoski *Chairman*

Ryan Grusenski *Secretary*

Andy Schoofs *Treasurer*

Matt Vogel

Tom Mlada



## Autumn Leaves; God Doesn't

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

#### Education

Laudato Si' Project has conducted **32 hours** of presentations, educational programs and retreats.

#### Stewardship

Laudato Si' Project has contributed **133 volunteer hours** in stewardship projects to better the ecological value of our world's outdoor places.

#### Recreation

Laudato Si' Project has sponsored **11 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!