



3606 Dyer Lake Rd, Burlington, WI 53105
senokrlt.org
262-539-3222

Re: 2021 Giving Season

December 8, 2021

Dear Member/Donor:

As the newly elected President of this nonprofit organization, there are many reasons that the first word that comes to my mind is "Gratitude". I am grateful to all the individuals and volunteers who work selflessly to keep our trails groomed, our buildings sound, our woodlands healthy, and our conservation easements protected. I am grateful for individuals, like Dr. Elvira Seno, Dr. Shirley Peterson, who saw immense value in preserving their woodlands, wetlands, and prairies, and then putting those properties under our protective management. I am grateful for our staff and volunteer educators, for reaching adults and children with immersive outdoor classes, where flowers can be touched, insects can be observed, birds can be photographed, and trees can be identified. I am grateful to all of our members and donors for contributing the revenues that make our mission possible.

Sometimes it is hard to tell if we are making a difference. Recently, I stopped at the Seno K/RLT trailhead to talk to three hikers who had just finished their walk, notebooks in hand, cameras slung from the neck. I introduced myself as a long time Seno K/RLT volunteer and newly minted president. These visitors introduced themselves as retired naturalists and commented favorably on the progress of invasive plant removal, the prairie management, the tamarack bog wetland, and trail upkeep. As I was saying "thank you" and inviting future visits, one person was handing me something. Expecting contact information or a business card, I opened my hand to see a US currency note depicting Ben Franklin. The giver stated "We clearly see the product of your labor!" Stunned and almost tearful from this unexpected generosity, I asked for contact information to send the "thank you" letter. She stated "No need for that. We are the ones who are grateful." Moments like this provide clear affirmation that we have touched people in a positive way.

This last year witnessed hundreds of people using our trails and attending our classes. We completed audits of 100% of the properties with conservation easements under our oversight. We have taken our classes to children in communities within Kenosha and Racine. We showed how maple syrup is made, how gardens can be made a safe place for pollinators, and that beneficial bugs are everywhere in our backyards. Despite this massive outreach and audit effort, our revenues from private donations fell almost 50 percent in 2020.

Looking forward to 2022, I do not expect to decrease our education programs, our community outreach, nor our oversight of the 1200 acres preserved under our oversight. In fact, we intend to move full steam ahead with all of these programs, and at the same time we will perform our pre-accreditation audit, we will rebuild our bridge to the tamarack bog, we will plant 1700 white oak, red oak, and walnut seedlings, and we will improve lighting in our 1890s barn and education center. I welcome you to help us with your donation.

Please donate now using the enclosed envelope, or you can use the appropriate links on our website, senokrlt.org. Thank you for your support!

Mark Lesko
President
Seno K/RLT Conservancy, Inc.

262-210-1424

Seno K/RLT Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to sustainable forestry, natural resources education, conservation and land preservation. Your donation is tax deductible.