The next monthly Dayton Bluffs workday will be 8 AM on Saturday, November 11. We will continue seed collection and may attack invasives.

Seed Processing Workday: On Saturday, December 9, we will hold our annual seed processing and mixing event. We will meet at the Parkview Community Center at 8 AM. Watch for more details in next month’s newsletter. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Seed Collection Update

After a delayed start due to work on the two wetlands, great progress has been made in our annual seed harvest. Seed from 68 different DBP species have been collected. Over seventeen pounds of Virginia wild rye alone has been collected.

Chris Woeltje has collected small quantities of another 46 species of local source, off-site seed. Most of these are species we don't currently have at Dayton Bluffs. Some of that seed will be sown in the DB prairie or woodland. The rest will be grown in nurseries over winter and propagated as plugs next spring.

Helping this year’s effort was collection by the Central Intermediate Mighty Acorns and Ottawa High's Rotary group (below).

Bob Lowery, Renae Galletti, Sue Wren and Clayton Lehman are among the many regulars who have helped collect seed this year.

Ottawa High's Rotary Club members held a workday and helped collect seed.
In Memoriam: Kevin Nelson (1957 - 2023)

Many of our volunteers are well know by the frequency of their service. But there are a few volunteers whose service has been less well known. Kevin Nelson is such a volunteer.

Kevin is an FAA certified drone pilot/hobbyist who has volunteered his expertise and equipment to give us a “bird’s eye” view of our progress. On three different occasions he flew his drone over the Dayton Bluffs providing fascinating images of the Preserve: views of the locust area after it was cleared; views of the prairie after prescribed fire; views of the pond; and views of the wetlands after they filled with water. Last week Kevin passed on unexpectedly. We thank him for his past contributions. He will be missed.

Kevin preparing his drone for flight.

Here is an aerial view of Jewel Pond from Kevin's flight in 2021.

Kevin’s drone hovering over the Dayton Bluffs prairie.

This is an aerial view of the north wetland after excavation and seeding earlier this spring.
Botany Trivia

The filamentous attachments to milkweed seed is properly called “fluff” or “floss”. During World War II the fluff was separated from the seed and used in flotation vests due to scarcity of other materials. One pound of concentrated floss will support thirty times its weight in water.

If you enjoy maple syrup on your pancakes, you should know how much work goes into its production. The water must be boiled off the sap to get the syrup presented to the breakfast table. It takes 53 gallons of sap to get one gallon of syrup!

Presenting the colors

Stan Johnson sent this photo of the Dayton Bluffs last week. It was taken from his deck across the Fox River from the Preserve. It appears he caught the peak of fall color in his photo.
**Botany: Invasive Species**

We have a new invasive species to battle at the Dayton Bluffs. We found two *Chinese bushclover* (*Lespedeza cuneata*) plants last week in two separate areas of the Preserve. Also called *Sericea lespedeza*, it is a perennial weed that was brought to North Carolina from Asia or Australia in 1896.

It can reach 6 feet in height and has a long taproot. Each stalk can produce as many as one thousand seed and the seed can last 20 years in the soil. It is allelopathic which means it releases chemicals that inhibit growth of nearby plants. We will monitor these two plants and cut them down when they reappear.

**From the Archives**

Here is a photo of Jim Boisso erecting a headstone at Daniels Cemetery in 2019, with assist from Peter Ainsley’s tractor.