

Norbeck Society June 2022 Newsletter

Dear Norbeck members and friends

Here is an update on our planned activities- note that we do not normally have public zoom meetings through the summer, but we focus on outdoor activities. The month of June brings some special opportunities for Norbeck Society members and friends.

June 11 (Saturday): Black Hills National Forest Moonwalk at the Whitney Preserve south of Hot Springs: "Learning and Living with Fire" [Black Hills National Forest - Recreation \(usda.gov\)](#) We recommend your attendance.

June 18 (Saturday), 10 am: Norbeck Society outing into the Black Elk Wilderness to learn about the reintroduction of the American Marten with wildlife biologist Blair Waite. Space is limited. We will enter the area via Custer State Park, so your vehicle must have a sticker. To sign up, email us at info@norbecksociety.com **See attached poster for more details, and also attached file with photo of the American Marten.**

June 26 - 30 volunteer opportunity:

Norbeck Society received a grant to study Post-harvest Forest Soils on the Black Hills National Forest and we are looking for volunteers to assist a soils expert with this project June 26-30 (5 days). We need 1-2 volunteers per day that week. This is a great opportunity to see some of the forest and learn a lot about forest soils and their role in forest health. **See attached poster for more details.**

Our contracting scientist Mark Vander Meer is a superb teacher and fun to work with. He is the Principal Partner and Senior Restoration Ecologist at Watershed Consulting in western Montana (since 1998.) With more than 30 years of experience in ecologic restoration and bio-physical assessments, Mark is a USDA certified soil scientist and an ISA Certified Arborist. His expertise includes mending severe disturbances with innovative revegetation and soil stabilization techniques and the application of responsible forest practices to restore and sustain long-term forest use and vitality. Recognizing the importance of the soil resource, Mark assesses how past disturbances influence natural bio-physical resiliency and ecological trends of the above- and below-ground ecosystems. He is author of several revegetation manuals and also owns and operates a native plant nursery and a small sawmill.

[HOME - Watershed Consulting](#)

Please contact Mary Zimmerman to sign up or if you want more information: info@norbecksociety.com

July (TBA): Annual Elaine Ebbert Botanical Wondercrawl –location to be determined but could be to look at the ecology of Black Hills Spruce forests which have been recently targeted for logging.

I hope you get to get out and enjoy our public lands – please let us know of any issues that arise as you wander around, especially concerning OHV travel and logging activities. Also, if you come across special areas that you think should be protected, please let us know.