Lesley Tennessen — Dutch Oven Diva
by Bob Menard, Volunteer Coordinator

Lesley Tennessen has a passion for outdoor cooking, and her favorite Dutch oven recipes are her apple pie and apple rice pudding. Over the past 10 years, working as an Education Volunteer for the Illinois Ducks Oven Society (IDOS) and Co-Director of the National Dutch Oven Gathering has allowed her to share her knowledge and teach others to cook outdoors.

In addition to cooking, Lesley assists with a wide variety of outdoor learning opportunities, including: tent camping, knot tying, fire building, hiking & trail safety, and several outdoor team building activities. She also enjoys volunteering at several evening activities the Conservation District offers, including First Friday Festivals, First Friday History Night, and Festivals of Sugar Maples.

If you are outdoors and catch the smell of a good cooking nearby, it might be something special being prepared over a nearby campfire by Lesley Tennessen, master of Dutch Oven Cooking! Lesley enjoys cooking outdoors, but has a passion for using cast iron Dutch ovens when she does. She happens to be the Chairman of the International Dutch Oven Society (IDOS) and Co-Director of the National Dutch Oven Gathering for 2019.

Her favorite Dutch oven recipes are her apple pie and bread. But when she cooks for historical themed events, her favorite is apple rice pudding! Over the past 10 years, she has shared her knowledge and taught many individuals the art of Dutch oven cooking at multiple Conservation District events and programs. Every program she participates in is an opportunity to share her skills and knowledge and also an opportunity to learn from others. As a District volunteer, Lesley has enjoyed the Festival of Sugar Maples and Trail of History the most, because they allowed her the opportunity to interact with larger groups.

“I enjoy working as an Education Volunteer and sharing my outdoors skills and experiences with the public. I like teaching people outdoors skills and help them be comfortable in the outdoors. I’ve been told many times by others that I make it simple to understand and do,” said Tennessen. “I love spending time outdoors, waking up to the sounds of singing birds and fresh air. I grew up in the Girl Scouts—that’s where my outdoor education began! I have been involved with scouts my entire life and have served as an Outdoor Trainer for over 25 years,” added Tennessen.

In addition, Lesley is a District volunteer, Lesley has enjoyed opportunities that include: tent camping, knot tying, fire building, hiking & trail safety, and several outdoor team building activities. She also enjoys volunteering at several evening activities the Conservation District offers, including First Friday Festivals, First Friday History Night, and Festivals of Sugar Maples.

In collaboration with the Chicago Botanic Garden, Lesley Tennessen volunteers will monitor rare plants throughout the District. Training provided, but basic familiarity with plant ID required. This involves off-trail hiking to specific monitoring points from April through September. Multiple sites are available throughout the county, and equipment is available for loan. Bring a sack lunch.

Note: you need to be a registered District volunteer to monitor on District sites.

Plants of Concern Monitor Orientation
Sunday, March 3, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Age 18+
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Savanna Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Signup: PlantsofConcern.org/news-events

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Note: you need to be a registered District volunteer to monitor on District sites.

Phenology Plant Monitor Orientation
Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m.–Noon, Age 18+
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park,
Ringwood Code: 6029

If you like to watch our natural areas come alive in the spring and summer, consider joining our phenology program. Volunteers visit a site every other week to record which plants are blooming May through September. A moderate knowledge of plant ID is necessary, but even more important is an enthusiasm for getting out and enjoying the outdoors! The phenology program is in its fifth year, and more than 25 volunteers have been part of the fun! Note: you need to be a registered District volunteer.

Prescribed Burn Crew Member Training
Saturday, April 6, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Age 18+
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park,
Ringwood Fee: $35 R/$40 NR Code: 6030

Free to registered volunteers, call 815-338-6223 x1201 or email Volunteers@MCCDistrict.org, for discount code.

Each fall and spring, volunteers join prescribed burn crews with District staff. Though prescribed burning only happens a few days per season, it remains one of the most effective tools for restoration, and volunteer involvement allows us to cover larger areas.

Note: this volunteer opportunity can be physically challenging and may involve off-trail hiking for several hours at a time. Protective equipment provided. Bring a sack lunch.

** Help Us Update Our Volunteer Database! **

If your contact information has changed or if you are no longer able to volunteer with us, please let us know! Drop a quick note to Volunteers@MCCDistrict.org or call (815) 338-6223, ext. 1201.
### Volunteer Opportunities

**Hey Volunteers! Stay Connected…**

Join our Volunteer Facebook Groups to find out about important dates, events and upcoming training opportunities.

**Eagle Scout Candidates— looking for a project?**
Contact the Volunteer Coordinator after April 1 for the 2019 project list.

### Looking for great reasons to get outdoors this Spring?…

**Consider Volunteering!**

- **SWEEP volunteers** help keep our parks and trails safe.
- **PLANTS OF CONCERN** volunteers monitor rare native plant populations in collaboration with Chicago Botanic Garden.
- **EDUCATION** volunteers assist with programs and events.
- **BLUEBIRD & BUTTERFLY MONITORS** help species thrive.
- **HISTORICAL VOLUNTEERS** keep our local history alive at the Powers-Walker House and education programs.
- **GROUP PROJECTS** for community and corporate groups.

**Contact the Volunteer Coordinator:**
(815) 338-6223 x1201 or Volunteers@MCCDistrict.org

### HABITAT RESTORATION DAYS — Scouts, Students, Families and Individuals are invited!

Drop in and make a difference! This is a great outdoor service opportunity for scouts and high school students, as well as individuals and families with children over age six. Dress for weather and off-trail activities; including sturdy footwear (sandals not allowed). Bring drinking water and insect repellent. Tools and equipment are provided. Contact the Site Steward from the list below for site-specific instructions.

#### Location — Map on Inside Back Cover

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Monthly Schedule</th>
<th>Site Steward — Call Before You Go!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alden Sedge Meadow South, Alden/Harvard</td>
<td>Third Saturdays, 1–3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Judy and Jack Speer (815) 648-1372 or <a href="mailto:smallwatersNFP@yahoo.com">smallwatersNFP@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boger Bog, Bull Valley</td>
<td>Fourth Saturday, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.</td>
<td>Ders Anderson (815) 455-1537 or <a href="mailto:danderson@openlands.org">danderson@openlands.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dufield (McConnell Rd. Entrance), Woodstock</td>
<td>Second Saturday, 9 a.m.—12 p.m. (Note: Spring, Summer, Fall only)</td>
<td>Jeff Schumacher (815) 337-9315 or <a href="mailto:schumacher.jeff1@gmail.com">schumacher.jeff1@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exner Marsh, Lake in the Hills</td>
<td>Third Saturday, 9 a.m.—12 p.m.</td>
<td>Len Bannon (847) 669-1381 or <a href="mailto:lennsandy@gmail.com">lennsandy@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton Creek Marsh, Island Lake</td>
<td>First and third Sunday, 1–3 p.m.</td>
<td>Mike Bouska (815) 759-0731 or <a href="mailto:MikeBouska@att.net">MikeBouska@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Woods, Marengo</td>
<td>Contact Site Steward for dates. Daily opportunities 5/19–6/20.</td>
<td>Bonnie Leahy (815) 923-2208, <a href="mailto:bh.leahy@att.net">bh.leahy@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Point, Harvard</td>
<td>3/12, 4/9, 5/7; 9 a.m.—1 p.m.</td>
<td>Orrin Bangert &amp; Randy Stowe, <a href="mailto:glaggan@yahoo.com">glaggan@yahoo.com</a>; (815) 943-6333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake in the Hills Fen, LITH</td>
<td>Contact Site Steward for dates.</td>
<td>John Scott (847) 658-6241 or <a href="mailto:janetescott@yahoo.com">janetescott@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marengo Ridge, Marengo</td>
<td>Contact Site Steward for dates.</td>
<td>Karen Lundell, (815) 245-9360, <a href="mailto:klundell2016@gmail.com">klundell2016@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Fen, Johnsburg</td>
<td>Second Tues. 2:30–4:30 p.m. &amp; Second Sat. 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Pat Sullivan-Schroyer (815) 347-9005 or <a href="mailto:psullivanschroyer@gmail.com">psullivanschroyer@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Valley, Woodstock</td>
<td>Contact Site Steward for dates.</td>
<td>Greg Rajsy (815) 814-5055 or <a href="mailto:quirkacea@yahoo.com">quirkacea@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stickney Run, McHenry</td>
<td>3/9, 4/13, 5/19; 9 a.m.—12 p.m.</td>
<td>Pete Jackson, <a href="mailto:beepjackson@comcast.net">beepjackson@comcast.net</a></td>
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**Don't just visit — Take part in this year's Festival!**

No experience necessary.

**Training Workshop**
Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m.—Noon.
Coral Woods, Marengo

New tour leaders and first-time volunteers start off with a pancake breakfast before learning about the history and techniques of maple sugaring and tree-tapping.

**Contact the Volunteer Coordinator.**
(815) 338-6223, 1201 or Volunteers@MCCDistrict.org to find out more about the different volunteer positions and shifts available, sign up to volunteer and to register for the training workshop.

**Note:** a background check is required for all new volunteers over age 18.

**Volunteer Positions Needed:**
March 2 & 3 and March 9 & 10
Tour leader; sugar house assistant; tree tapping demonstrator; historical station presenter; or floater.

**Shifts are 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Sign up for one or more!**