



CELEBRATING
30 Years
of Ecological
Restoration

Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries + Applied Ecological Services

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

of Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries, a division of Applied Ecological Services

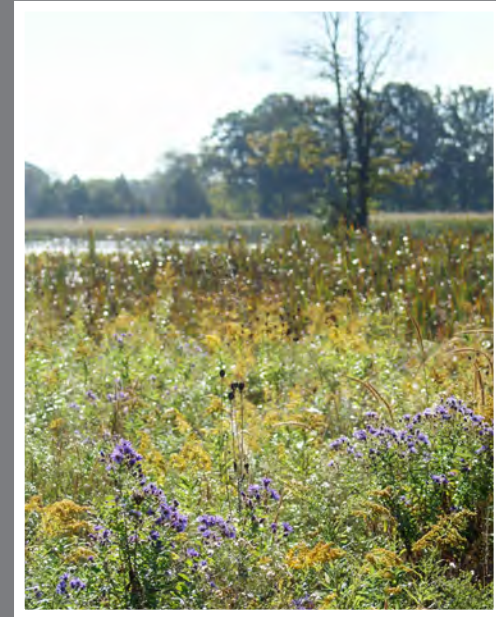
Celebrating 30 years of excellence, innovation, growth, all founded on principles of ecological restoration, stewardship, and education.

From Taylor Creek's humble beginnings in 1987 to later growth – expanding production facilities in Brodhead, Wisconsin, and Baldwin City, Kansas, and establishing on-site nurseries throughout the country for large-scale restoration projects – Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries has become a leader in native plant propagation.

As we celebrate 30 years of Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries, we remain passionate about native plants, and the ecosystems they are an integral part of, by educating and supporting our clients and the public at large in their land-use decisions. We commit to restoring the health of the land by offering the highest-quality native, local-genotype seed and plants as well as the expertise to use and care for them. And we aim to inspire our employees, families, and communities to protect our environment, now and for future generations.

The following memories offer a glimpse into evolving ecological restoration and plant propagation processes over the past 30 years while celebrating the Taylor Creek and Applied Ecological Services employees who made it possible, both then and now.

Here's to the next 30 years!



FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS...

In 1987, AES founder Steve Apfelbaum bought a farm in the flood plain of a clear-running stream in southern Wisconsin and began growing plots of native plants to source AES' expanding restoration work.

From these humble beginnings, AES and Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries have become leaders in the burgeoning field of ecological restoration. Early projects were installed by Apfelbaum and two local farmers, Fred Faessler and John

Oschner, who brought farm skills and ingenuity to the challenges of planting and harvesting native seed - which isn't quite the same as corn and beans.

Growth of the company ramped up in the 1990s when AES built a new office, seed barn, and greenhouse complex that dramatically expanded the capability of the firm to take on large projects throughout the U.S.



Original Farmhouse, 1993



Greenhouse Construction, 1999

... TO LARGE-SCALE EXPANSION + RESTORATION

In the late 90s, the design/build restoration of the 7,200-acre Kankakee Sands project for The Nature Conservancy demonstrated the combination of creativity and science that has become a hallmark of AES throughout its history. Necessity was the mother of invention on such a large, unprecedented restoration. New seeding techniques, establishment of an on-site, project-specific nursery, and other innovations brought the applied science of restoration to a new level of efficiency and proven success.

With growth, AES opened offices in Chicago, the Twin Cities, Philadelphia, New York, Kansas, Iowa, and Ohio to better serve local markets that were developing as the Leopoldian Land Ethic and the applied science of ecology continued to spread across the country.



Sunset over AES + Taylor Creek, 2014



Nursery Field, Brodhead, WI, 1998

EARLY DAYS

AES has been ethically hand-collecting seed in the wild since 1976 when company founder Steve Apfelbaum established his first propagation plots to produce native species seed from genetically local sources for restoration programs. Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries was formally established in 1987, and the first planting beds were established at our Smith Road location in Brodhead, WI, in 1991. We have maintained scientific records of our wild seed collection to document genotype and date and location collected.

Images:

(Clockwise from top left): 1. Nursery field, 1994, 2. Founder Steve Apfelbaum with seed, 1981, 3. Greenhouse, 1993.





Nursery Field, Brodhead, WI, 2007

TAYLOR CREEK TODAY

Our Restoration Nurseries have grown more than 20 million prairie and wetland plants – at last count.

Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries annually harvests between 15,000 and 20,000 pounds of native seed for restoration projects and nursery plant propagation.

While most of this seed is harvested mechanically from our 400-acre nursery in Wisconsin, Taylor Creek also employs a full-time professional botanist to hand-collect certain species, within specific genotype ranges, for individual projects with exacting requirements.

Nursery employees then clean more the nursery-grown native seed, separating clean seed from chaff to produce quantities of high-quality seed for restoration projects throughout the U.S.



Liatris punctata



Elymus virginicus



Greenhouse, 1993



Seed Processing Barn, 1987



Greenhouse, 1993



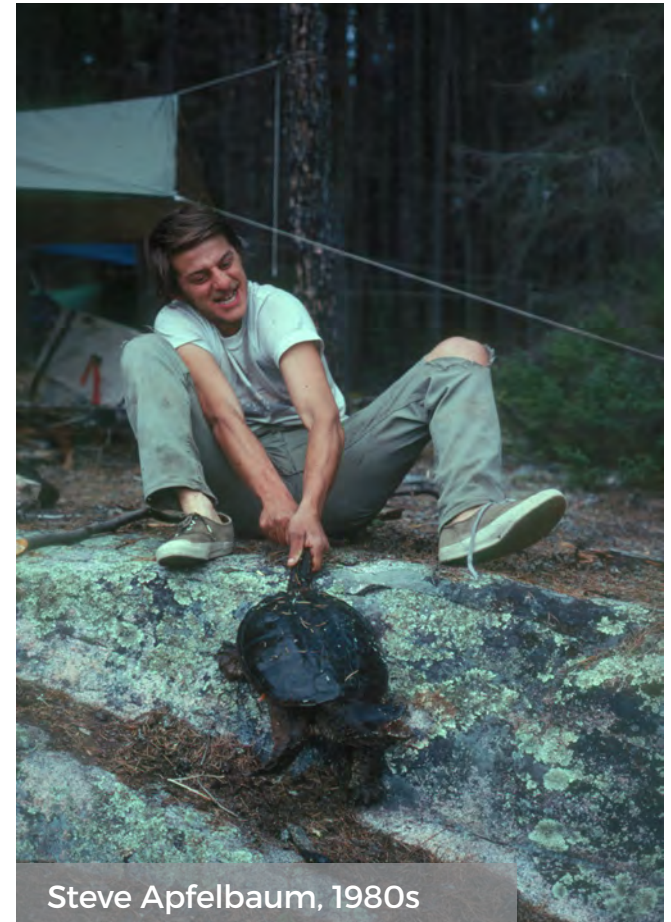
Nursery Field, 1993



Greenhouse, 1999



AES Staff, 1996



Steve Apfelbaum, 1980s



Fred Faessler (left), 1988



John Oschner, 1980s



Greenhouse, 1993



Images:

(Clockwise from top left): 1. AES Employee Picnic, early 1990s, 2. AES Employee Open House, 1997, 3. AES Employee Picnic, early 1990s, 4. Jaimie Woodbeck, Steve Paulson, Bob Hannes, and Greg 'Smokey' Scott, Humboldt Park, Chicago, IL, 1998, and 5. Steve Apfelbaum, Flambeau Mine, 2003.



Images:

(Clockwise from top left): 1. AES Employee Picnic, early 1990s, 2. Carl Korfmacher, AES Holiday Party, 1990s, 3. AES Employee Picnic, early 1990s, 4. 2-Row Transplanter, 1990s, and 5. Taylor Creek Seed Barn Employee, 1990s.

Aaron Kubichka + Scott Rebolz Spraying Cattails
from The "Skybox"

@ Oaks of Van Horn

Plainfield, ILL

Aug 1999



Aaron Kubichka + Scott Rebolz, Plainfield, IL, 1999



Taylor Creek Staff, 2000



Book Property, 1996



AES Employee Picnic, early 1990s



3-Row Planting, 1999



Carl Kormacher + Gary Felder, Flambeau Mine, Ladysmith, WI, 1995



AES Holiday Party, 1990s



Company Field Trip, Prairie Crossing, Grayslake, IL, 2000



Seed Barn Construction, 1999



Harvesters at AES, 2001



Baldwin City, KS, Staff, 2013



Tree Plots, Seneca Meadows, NY, 2008



Kankakee Sands, IN, Wet Bed, 2002



Candy Fehr + Nick Broughton, Fort Sheridan, IL, 1997



Seed Collection + Identification, Albany, NY, 2012



Cynthia Streuly + Corrie Daniels, 2002



Josh LaPointe, 2007



Tara Hering + Todd Polacek, 2007



CELEBRATING 30

TAYLOR CREEK RESTORATION NURSERIES + APPLIED ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Brodhead, Wisconsin

April 28, 2017
