

The Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.

Annual Report

1989 to 2008



The Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.
N2384 Hunt Hill Rd
Sarona, WI 54870
(715) 635-6543

director@hunthill.org

www.hunthill.org or www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/hunthill

The Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary
Owned by the National Audubon Society
Managed locally by
The Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.

Our Mission:

“Hunt Hill is a wildlife preserve and learning center, open to all, dedicated to fostering understanding, appreciation, and protection of the environment.”

2008 Board Highlights:

2008 will go down IN HISTORY as the beginning of an exciting new era of programming for Hunt Hill, with the hiring of new Program Director Nikki Nelson. Additionally, it was a year of very active participation of Board members in the day-to-day operations of the camp, great membership growth, expanded partnership building, new and exciting opportunities for involvement in our area communities, financial growth in spite of economic downturns, a refocusing on the future direction for Hunt Hill, and addressing current environmental issues head-on.

1. Partnership building with:

- support for UW-GB's continuation of their Upward Bound Program at Hunt Hill
- Northwest Wisconsin Regional Food Network on SoupStock II
- growth of partnerships with: UW-Stevens Point, UW-Barron Co., UW-Stout, UW-Eau Claire, WITC, LCO College, and Northland College
- new scholarships from Cumberland Kiwanis, Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter, Spooner Kiwanis, and the Long Lake Preservation Association
- we held first “Neighbors’ Open House” at Hunt Hill with almost 50 attending
- working with Treehaven (UW-SP) on a new National Science Foundation project

2. Financial stability

- earlier budget approval process
- third “Evening For Hunt Hill” fundraising event coming in October
- a focus on foundation grant writing - with over twenty new foundations contacted
- healthy 2008 budget

3. Protection/sustaining of Hunt Hill itself

- negotiating on the Schultzs’ property acquisition across Audubon Road to the south
- first prairie burn in 8 years – thanks to DNR-Spooner
- completion of the transfer of the Schricker tract to the Beaver Brook Wildlife Area
- pursuing the transfer of ownership of Hunt Hill from the National Audubon Society back to our local non-profit Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.

4. Education on current issues

- emphasis on sustainability efforts at Hunt Hill itself
- Cakes-At-the-Lake program on colony collapse disorder of bees
- purple loosestrife beetle rearing
- timber wolves in northern Wisconsin
- support of local food producers
- work with NW WI Regional Plan Commission on sustainability and recycling
- citizen science programs expanded to include: crane count, state-wide salamander survey, and the sturgeon watch at Arpin Dam near Radisson, WI

5. New program efforts:

- selected Nikki Nelson as new Program Director out of 21 applicants
- new outreach program with Washburn Co. Lakes & Rivers Association (WCLRA) and Kevin McMullin
- see rest of details in the “Programs 2008” portion of this report

Land

FOHHAS, Inc. currently is responsible for managing land totaling 513 acres. Approximately 180 acres are designated part of the State Natural Area. The Hunt Hill property includes 12 buildings. There are almost ten miles of trails and two foot bridges. Future changes in the land holdings are being pursued and additional land buffers around the core property of Hunt Hill will hopefully be acquired to prevent development too close to Hunt Hill. New State Natural Area signs have been put up along our road to show people which areas are included

Programs 2008

2008 has been a busy year! We started the year off with a winter camping program, which happened to be on one of the coldest nights of this year! After the success of winter camping, (there were about 39 participants), we followed with a wolf tracking program that brought 21 people together for a day of exploring way up north. A series of bad weather brought us much lower numbers for our Egg Hunt and Arbor Day events (however, now we are already preparing for next year!) The spring quickly picked up as we hosted 14 school groups. Thanks to the Long Lake Preservation Association Scholarship, 3 of those groups were able to come. This summer was successful and very busy as we juggled summer camps, Upward Bound groups, a summer school program and various activities for other organizations. We ran 14 single-day day camps and 2 week long camps this year, with Rock Collectors camp being the most popular. Three Upward Bound groups, UW-Stout and UW-Green Bay's RCMS, stayed with us in July and UW-BC/LCO in June. Cakes at the Lake saw a huge boom this summer as we topped the pancake charts with 500 people being served. With the help and direction of Eva Apelqvist we ran our first Swedish Immersion camp in June. In our second year of running Spanish Camp on our own, we saw a doubling of enrollment and were able to run all three weeks of camp. We have also contracted a few school groups for this fall as well as beginning to spread the word on our new Outreach Programs.

| Program Name | 2008 (Camper Days/Attendance) | 2007 (Camper Days/Attendance) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Summer Camps | 512 | 416 |
| Schools | 1217 | 1234 |
| Programs | 190 | 110 |
| Contracted | 1394 | 1549 |
| Cakes at the Lake Series | 1055 | 953 |
| Total | 4313 | 4262 |

Program Staff

One of the most important reasons our school programs and summer camps were successful was due to the amazing educators we had for 2008. School educators included: Shawn Tisdell, Chip Wood, Jan Bliss, John and Judy Neste, Gary and Arda Davis, Sue Menzel, Charlotte Snarski, Cheryl Pippin, Cody Myers, Molly Raben, Gerry Garrison, Bailey Woodruff, Park Taylor, Margo Cuskey, Keith Trembath, Dennis Grivna, and Alex Bezzerides.

Our summer staff was made up of five bright and enthusiastic educators: Bailey Woodruff, from LeSueur MN, and Cody Myers, from Spooner, continued on from the spring to join our summer team; we also had Jessica Pettersson, from Sweden, return for a second summer. Jillian Bjorklund from Red Wing, MN, joined our team from UW-Stevens Point. Finally, Amber Mealman joined us from Northland College. We certified all summer staff through the Red Cross program for CPR, Lifeguarding, and 1st Aid, and had on the spot lifeguards for all our summer programming. Our language camp instructors included Eva Apelqvist, Margaret Dorer and Jessica Pettersson for Swedish; Marco Mena, Bianca Pinske, Luis Gatgens, Patricia Amparo Manrique, Carla Belistri, Dago Sepulveda and Doris Cade.

Fall 2008 Upcoming Fall Events

October 11, 2007 Trail of Myths noon to 4 p.m.

Membership

As of September 15, 2008, there was an increase of 2 members from 2007 to 2008. (375 in 2007 and 377 in 2008). Our membership contains a geographical mix of 73% Wisconsin, 12% Minnesota and 15% other (CA, CO, FL, IA, IL, IN, MO, MT, ND, NH, OH).

2008 BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Wayne Sabatke, President | Tracy Mofle |
| Nick Allen, Vice President and Facilities Chair | John Neste |
| Jan Bliss, Secretary and Fundraising Chair | Carlotta Romsos |
| Adam Liegl, Treasurer and Finance Chair | Linda Thompson, Membership Chair |
| Carolyn Cleveland | Tracy White |
| Tim McRaith, Program Chair | William "Chip" Wood |
| Sue Menzel | John Works |

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS (not Board or Staff)

Website: Nancy Chick *Finance:* Vicki Shaffer *Legal:* Katherine Stewart

Program: Alex Bezzerides, Cary Komoto, Nancy Chick *Facilities:* Larry Piskie

Staff 2008

Executive Director

Storme Nelson

Program Coordinator

Nikki Nelson

Office Manager

Karen Kress

Maintenance Team

Larry Piskie
Colette Piskie

Cooks

Erik Severson
Barbara Stern
Bonnie Johnson (volunteer)

Volunteer Educators

Chris Cold
Arda and Gary Davis
Greg Hill
Park Taylor
Chip Wood
Jan Bliss
Judy and John Neste
Dennis Grivna
Alex Bezzerides

Bailey Woodruff
Jessica Pettersson

School Educators

Charlotte Snarski
Cheryl Pippin
Cody Myers
Bailey Woodruff
Molly Raben
Gerry Garrison
Park Taylor
Margo Cuskey
Sue Menzel
Joan Jacobowski
Shawn Tisdell

Jerry Wacek
Keith Trembath

Contract Educators

Terry Dorsey
Marco Mena
Eva Apelqvist
Bianca Pinske
Luis Gatgens
Patricia Amparo Manrique
Carla Belistri
Dago Sepulveda
Doris Cade
Margaret Dorer

Seasonal

Amber Mealman
Jillian Bjorklund
Cody Myers



Standing: Storme Nelson, Colette Piskie, Jillian Bjorklund, Erik Severson.
 Sitting: Cody Myers, Bailey Woodruff, Larry Piskie, Jessica Pettersson, Nikki Nelson, Karen Kress, Amber Mealman

Our 2008 Volunteers

(as of September 15, 2008)

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Nick Allen | Tony Lyne | Victor Sacco |
| Paul Amacher | dee Martin | Jaci Sacco |
| Maryann Amacher | Janine McNulty | Jacob Sacco |
| Irene Asp | Tim McRaith | Aaron Sacco |
| Waldo Asp | Sue Menzel | Sue Schroeder |
| Jan Bliss | Tracey Mofle | Dave Seis |
| Cecilia Brierton | Jonah Mofle-Bisonette | Erik Severson |
| Nancy Chick | Storme Nelson | Park Taylor |
| Carolyn Cleveland | Judy Nelson | Linda Thompson |
| Margo Cuskey | Dawn Nelson | Mary Thostenson |
| Arda Davis | Mary Nelson | Amanda Wells |
| Gary Davis | Jed Nelson | Tracy White |
| Georgia Dettmers | John Neste | Helen White |
| Ann Drake | Judy Neste | Anna White |
| Betty Dreis | Nancy Neumann | William Wood |
| Bob Dreis | Anna Neumann | John Works |
| Judy Fischer | Lois Nissen | Students Winter |
| Bev Grocke | Doug Olson | Students Barron |
| Katie Haines | Colette Piskie | |
| Greg Hill | Haleigh Rafalski | |
| John Hughes | Dakota Robinson | |
| Bonnie Johnson | Krys Robinson | |
| Charlie Jump | Carlotta Romsos | |
| Lorna Kology | Eugene Romsos | |
| Adam Liegl | Janine Rueter | |
| Renae Lloyd | Wayne Sabatke | |

Our apologies if we missed anyone who did not sign in as a volunteer at the events.

Over 95 volunteers and 1280 hours worked through September! Thank you!

2008 Year to Date Budget Summary

As of August 31, 2008

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total Income | \$186,649.70 | Total Expense | \$135,215.34 |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|

Income/Loss \$21,507.21

Current Assets \$176,629.98

In Kind Donations (Gifts & Services)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Maryann Amacher | Karen Kress | Bruce and Sara Qualey |
| Ardis Amundson | Kevin McMullin | Christine and Dan Rice |
| David and Carolyn Cleveland | Marco Mena | Don and Linda Ruedy |
| Bob and Betty Dreis | Roger and Nancy Nash | Marilyn Vig |
| Bonnie Johnson | Mary Nelson | |

Donations of Funds

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Arnold and Linda Angeloni | Robert Fortenbaugh | Peter Martin – Lakeville Motor Express |
| Michele Byron & David Bihrl | Fortnightly Club | Minnesota River Valley Audubon |
| Austen and Cynthia Cargill | Andy and Sarah Freeman | Wayne and Barb Sabatke |
| Centurytel | Jessie Gerteis | Linda Thompson |
| David and Carolyn Cleveland | Grand Foundation | William and Jan Wood |
| Cumberland Women’s Club | Burnell and Paulette Hanson | Xcel Energy |
| Terry and Diane Dorsey | Jim and Carol Heim | |
| Angie and George Farrell | Judy and Lee Jacobson | |
| James and Linda Farrell | Cumberland Kiwanis | |
| Akemi Fischer | | |

Memorial Donations

Cora and Bill Noble in memory of Evelyn Davis
Gus and Marsha Stelzer in memory of Phyllis Schieffer
Larry and Colette Piskie in memory of Darlys Theos

Scholarships and Grants

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Long Lake Preservation Association | Tracey Mofle |
| Minnesota River Valley Audubon | WCLRA – pending scholarship school program |

Endowment

Donations to Endowment Fund in 2007 totaled \$10. Donations in 2008 totaled \$75 from Jessie Gerteis in honor of John Works. Total endowment value as of August 31, 2008 is \$14,397.91.