

Almanac From the Hill

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Hunt Hill Ramblings

Spring is coming – a time of rebirth, new beginnings, youthful exuberance, and an ageless appreciation of the sun’s warmth and light. Each year brings new experiences – sad and happy memories that make us all wiser. Each year brings new appreciation of life and our families. Spring is also a wonderful

time for us to help new generations begin gathering new experiences in nature.

Dawn and I marvel at how precious young grandchildren can be as they watch, and learn, and soak up little things we say

or do. Our own children didn’t seem to have the same degree of reverence for us. I remember sharing everything I knew about

nature in attempts to impress our kids, but it only resulted in raised eyebrows, boredom, and hurried escapes. “Nature Boy” has always been the butt of many family jokes.

But thank God for grandchildren! They’re always impressed. They’re quiet and respectful as they patiently learn all we have to teach – they’re so smart. Not true you say?

Well, for years our six year old granddaughter Cassidy saw every bird as an eagle, all bugs were things to fear, the dark night was scary, and Grandpa just always made weird calls to the birds. But things have changed.

This year Cass saw a flash of a bird in our yard, announced she was going to “draw a picture for Grandpa,” and proceeded to draw a perfect rose-breasted grosbeak! (She apologized to Grandma for not catching the color of the legs!)

She can also name the different woodpeckers we see at our feeders – hairy, downy, red-bellied, pileated, and even both

kinds of nuthatches! Her favorite woodpeckers are the pileated

Cass once made Grandma rescue a spider and take it outside, like Grandpa would have done if he were home.

Out in the yard one evening this winter she was helping me take out a couple scoops of shelled corn to scatter for

the squirrels and deer (“Did you know that deer are mostly nocturnal, Grandpa?”).

In the dark we heard an owl call. Her eyes got so big. She answered back with a barred owl’s “Who cooks for you, who cooks for you aaalllll.” She beamed up at me and said “That’s how you talk back to owls, right Grandpa?”

That’s right, Cass. You just keep on listening and learning - there’s so much more outside for you to learn. See you all out at Hunt Hill this spring, and bring those kids!

Storme Nelson

PS With our grandchildren’s influence, maybe there’s even hope for our own grown “kids.”



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*All board members can be contacted by email at info@hunthill.org.
Please put the board member's name in the subject line.*

Hunt Hill Office

Storme Nelson, Executive Director
director@hunthill.org
Nikki Nelson, Program Director
program@hunthill.org
Karen Kress, Office Manager
info@hunthill.org

Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary
N2384 Hunt Hill Road
Sarona, WI 54870

715-635-6543
715-635-3043 (fax)

Visit our website:
www.hunthill.org

years whom we will miss greatly – Wayne Sabatke and Nick Allen. Both have agreed to stay on as members of Hunt Hill operating committees, however, so we'll still see them around Hunt Hill.

Retirements mean openings for new leadership, and this spring we welcome Gus Stelzer, a retired Rice Lake physician; Bill Stewart, marketing manager for Stresau Labs, Spooner; Gary Davis, a retired architect from Eau Claire – now living on Little Devils Lake, Washburn County; and Taylor Page, owner of the Earth Sense Energy Systems in Rice Lake. All have been involved with Hunt Hill and all are sure to bring new perspectives, fresh ideas, and welcome energy as we seek to better serve our members and surrounding communities.

Meet the Board

Getting acquainted with the Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary board members continues in this Spring Newsletter with this introduction to

Taylor Page

I was born in Sparta, WI and have lived in Rice Lake for about 3 years. My wife Pam and I own Earth Sense Energy Systems in downtown Rice Lake, and have 2 children: Sophie, age 11 and Spencer, age 8. We became aware of Hunt Hill upon moving here, and have enjoyed the past 2 Soupstock events held each September. I'm glad to be able to be a part of the Board, and look forward to helping out however I can. In my spare time, I enjoy fishing, cooking, fishing, reading, and fishing.

Gary Davis

I am another of those "Flatlanders" born and raised in the central Illinois corn country who migrated to Wisconsin. After graduation from Macon High School, I was introduced to the Badger State spending two years at Ripon College before attending the University of Illinois to pursue a Degree in Architecture.

Upon graduation in 1965, I started my career with SDS Architect, Inc. in Eau Claire, WI. I have been involved in the design and construction of numerous K-12 school projects in central and western Wisconsin. Also our firm has been involved with many State Projects on the Eau Claire, Stout, and Superior Campuses.

New Members and Board Members for 2009

Not only will we be experiencing nature's spring at Hunt Hill, but we'll be going through our annual Friends of Hunt Hill rebirth, as well. Welcome to all the new families who've responded to our membership campaign over the winter! We also send out a special thank you to everyone who renewed their membership for 2009 – your faith in what we do and support for our programs is much appreciated.

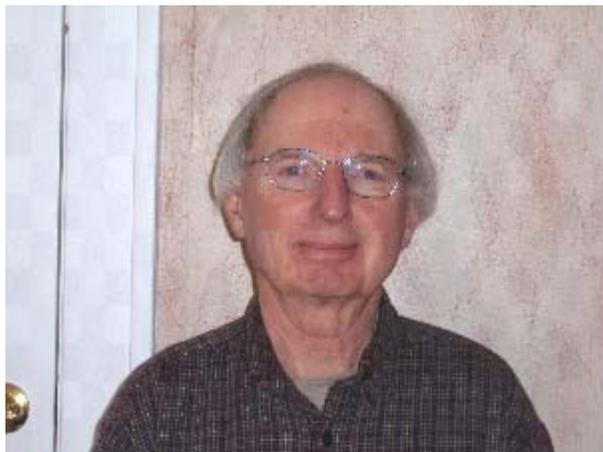
We've also said good-bye and thanks to two retiring Board members - tireless workers for many

When I retired in 2002, Arda and I moved permantly to a home on Little Devil's Lake which we had recently constructed. Of course, it was easy to find Hunt Hill as we are on the same lake chain. We find enjoyment in our canoe trips through the channels connecting Little Devils and Big Devils to the Twin Lakes at Hunt Hill. We have been married 47 years and have three married children with five grandchildren ranging in ages 9 months to 6 years. At this time we are not "Snowbirds". We still enjoy the winter snowshoeing, cross country skiing, walking in the snow, or reading by the wood fire.

For each of the past six years, we have taken a fall 'road trip' with another couple. These road trips have had us following Lewis and Clark, The Oregon Trail, The Pacific Coast, and Route 66 including visits to our western National Parks with stays in some of the Great Lodges in the parks. This fall we are turning east toward Vermont, New Hampshire, and the Maine Coastline.

For the past few years in the spring and fall I have been a member of the Hunt Hill Educational Team sharing a day of outdoor learning with children from local school districts. As a member of the Hunt Hill Board, I intend to help sustain the vision of Frances Andrews when she gave the property to the National Audubon. She wanted to "bring to folk an awareness of their natural surroundings which will cause them to realize the value and need of conservation of natural resources, including their spiritual and physical values to mankind." As an architect I bring to the board my experience relating to facility and business management, along with an appreciation of the natural environment which we have to offer at Hunt Hill.

I can be reached at ardavis@centurytel.net. Gary D. Davis, N2900 Hagen Drive, Sarona, WI 54870



Nikki's Musings

2009 Volunteer Opportunities

We know everyone has special talents and interests – please share them with us and become, or continue to be, a volunteer and share your talents with our visitors! We continue to strive for outstanding environmental education programming and we can't do it without you! The following lists just a few of the opportunities available:

- Librarian
- Baker
- Environmental Educator
- Historian
- Gardener
- Carpenter
- Electrician
- Maintenance Member
- Trail Guardian

Requests for Visiting Groups:

Last year Hunt Hill hosted over 10 different schools and within those schools between 1-5 different grade levels. If your child or grandchild's school hasn't visited us, we would greatly appreciate your support and help encouraging them to look into the programs that we offer to schools. We now have a teacher planning packet that describes all of the programs we have and explains how each meets the Wisconsin State Standards (can be viewed at our website www.hunthill.org). We also have scholarships available and can refer schools to sites that offer money for bussing. If you know of any interested teachers, schools, homeschoolers, 4-H groups, Girl or Boy Scout groups, etc. please have them contact Nikki at program@hunthill.org.

Introducing Our New Programs

Eco Adventures

Please join Hunt Hill in our very first year-long education series: Eco Adventures. These programs will feature a different adventure each month and will offer participants opportunities to learn new skills and meet like-minded people! Adventures include background information, hands on exploration or practice and a snack. Some sessions may also include optional take-

home extension activities. Examples of adventures for 2009 include:

February 28 – #3 Snowshoe Hike

April 11 - #4 Geocaching

May 31 - #5 Sturgeon Watch

June 27 - #6 Freshwater Snorkeling

July 18 – #7 Family Canoeing Basics

August 22 – #8 Canoe Trip

Dinner and a Movie Series

For the first time ever, Hunt Hill will be hosting a dinner and a movie series. These relaxed evenings will start with a dinner. Dinners will vary but will include a main entrée, side dish, beverage choices and movie snack/dessert. We will show the motion picture movies over a projector for a large screen viewing. Chairs will be provided, but if you would like to kick back, feel free to bring a pillow or mat and make yourself comfortable. Following the movie, an optional discussion will be initiated highlighting key issues and controversies for discussion and further exploration. If you are interested in this event, please be sure to attend. Your attendance will help to ensure that we offer this program in the future. RSVP's are strongly requested! The first Dinner and a Movie will be April 22nd in celebration of Earth Day! **Movie:** Fly Away Home **Dinner:** Chili – with fixin's, cornbread muffins, beverages, and movie snacks.

Grill at the Hill

Another new program to Hunt Hill will be a Grill at the Hill series. With the success of the Cakes at the Lake events, a joint project with the LLPA, we've decided to independently offer an opportunity for people to enjoy a grilled dinner, the company of neighbors and friends plus a free environmental program! This event will occur one Saturday night each in May and August, starting at 5:30pm with presentations to begin at 7pm. Dinner will feature grilled burgers, hotdogs, hobo-style vegetable medley and refreshments. Again, if you are interested in this event, please be sure to attend. Your attendance will help to ensure that we offer this program in the future. Our first Grill at the Hill will be May 30th. Dinner begins at 5:30pm and the presentation on Nocturnal Animals by Chris Cold will begin at 7pm. Adults \$9; children 5-12 \$5; and under 5 \$1.

Grand Adventures

Throughout the summer, Hunt Hill will be offering an afternoon day camp that will allow grandparents and their grandchildren to spend time together in nature. Spend the afternoon showing off your skills and bonding with your grandkids in these fun-filled programs. The three-hour programs (1pm-4pm) will include learning activities, staff led fun and games, and swim time with the kids – feel free to join in if you'd like! Cost is \$10/person or \$35/family. Check out the program guide to learn more! Our first Grand Adventure is June 24th and will focus around gardening.

Nikki

Aldo Leopold Wild Game Banquet

On Saturday March 7, 2009 from 6-8pm we will be celebrating the life of Aldo Leopold right here at Hunt Hill!! Our evening program will include a brief background on Aldo, readings from A Sand County Almanac by local residents and students, as well as dinner. The dinner, in honor of Leopold, will feature wild game. Options are set to include bison, walleye, venison, wild rice soup and all the trimmings! (Other wild game to be decided.) Advanced registration is required. Cost: \$15/person

Staff and Volunteer Recruiting

Starting in February, we will begin hiring for our busy spring and summer seasons. If you or someone you know enjoys children, the outdoors and has an enthusiasm for learning, please contact Nikki to find out more about the positions here at Hunt Hill.

Spring Educators: Spring educators are needed to work with area schools during the weekdays in late April and throughout May. Days generally run from 9-

2:30. Most of our school groups are elementary-age students and each educator will have about 10 students at a time. Programs led include: ponding, habitats and animals. An interactive and hands-on training session will be provided in early April to introduce educators to Hunt Hill and our programs. Spring Educators do not need to have a background in education, just patience, enthusiasm, and enjoy the outdoors and children.

Summer Educators: Our summer staff has mainly consisted of college-age people who have a focus on the environment, biology, or education. Summer educators are provided with room and board on-site for the 2-month seasonal position. We begin the summer with training and then jump right into our busy season with a variety of residential and day camp programs. The summer can become very hectic and busy, so summer staff must be willing to work hard, be able to keep a positive and enthusiastic attitude regardless of weather, be versatile, be a team player and love working outdoors with kids. This is a fun summer job but does require a big time commitment. Know anyone who fits this job description?

Summer Opportunity for Young and Old - Help us Raise Butterflies!!

Do you love the variety, fragility and beauty of butterflies? Would you like to find a way to spend more time outdoors learning about nature and helping our fragile friends? Then help Hunt Hill as we collect and raise caterpillars and then release butterflies on site! Each species of caterpillar requires a specific food plant daily, so volunteers are needed to help find and collect these specific food plants. We'll teach you what plants are needed based on caterpillars on site and also help you to identify and locate these plants. Last year we raised monarchs and tiger swallowtails but hope to see more variety as our volunteer base expands! Contact Nikki to learn more about this amazing opportunity: 715 635 6543 or program@hunthill.org

Look for New Day Camps

If you haven't had a chance to check out our day camps, be sure to do so as we have many new and exciting camps for this summer! For the very first time we will be offering: Spanish Day Camp, which will bring in Spanish speakers to teach youth about nature while learning new Spanish words! We are also offering camps like: Mad Scientist, Nature's Challenge Course, Nature Art, Animal Builders and all the Hunt Hill classics!!!!

Upcoming Programs

March

Saturday, March 7 6pm-8pm

Aldo Leopold Banquet

Cost: \$15/person

Saturday, March 21

Star Gazing 8pm

Cost: \$5/person

April

Saturday, April 4th 2pm-4pm

Maple Syruping - Hemshrot's Sugar Bush

Cost: \$5/person

Saturday, April 11th 10am-12pm

Eco-Adventure 4- Geocaching

Cost: \$5/person Eco-Adventure fee

Saturday, April 18th

Arbor and Earth Day Extravaganza!!!

Crane Count 6 am

No Cost

Arbor and Earth Day Celebration

3pm - 5pm

Cost: \$5/person

Dinner and a Movie 5:30pm

"Fly Away Home" + chili and fixins

Cost: \$8/person

Saturday, April 25th 10am - 2pm

Hatching at the Hill

Cost: \$5/person

May

Saturday, May 2
Spring Helping Hands

Saturday, May 2 7:30pm – 11:30pm
Barn Dance

Cost: \$6/person; \$15/family

Saturday, May 9
Cakes at the Lake Breakfast starts 8:30
Loon Watch Presents - Loons at 10am



Saturday, May 30
Grill at the Hill Dinner starts at 5:30pm
Chris Cold Presents - Nocturnal Animals at 7pm

Sunday, May 31 9am - 2pm
Eco-Adventure 5 - Sturgeon Watch
Cost: \$5/person Eco-Adventure fee

June

June 14-19 Swedish Language and Culture Camp

Saturday, June 20th
Cakes at the Lake Breakfast starts 8:30
National Eagle Center - Eagles at 10am

June 22-25 Adult Field Ecology
Adult Residential Camp

June 23-26 River Renegades
Youth Residential Camp

Wednesday, June 24 1pm-4pm
GRAND Adventures
How Does Your Garden Grow?
Cost : \$10/person or \$35/family

Saturday, June 27 1pm - 3pm
Eco-Adventure 6 - Snorkeling
Cost: \$5/person Eco-Adventure fee



Historical Cabins for Rent

As many of you know already, the two historical cabins up on Hunt Hill were renovated a few years back and have been available to rent for individuals or families who come to visit Hunt Hill. Interest and use has increased, but there are still many openings.

If you'd like to experience Hunt Hill much as the original founders, the Andrews family, did back in the early 1900's, please contact us. We've added a furnace in the Log Cabin, so it's usable year-round. For safety, we've upgraded from wood cook stoves to modern gas ranges. We've also added real refrigerators and indoor plumbing!

Stop in for a visit to see the cabins and book your weekend getaway. Not only will you enjoy the peace and quiet, you'll be supporting our historical preservation of Hunt Hill. For more information, check our website: www.hunthill.org. Thank you.

The Cygnet

The following page is a coloring page that features programs for 2009. There are a variety of events depicted on the page.

Can you match each picture to the camp or program it matches?

Grand Adventure Eco-Ad



WORLD

DAY CAMPS

