



Almanac From the Hill

published by the Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary
N2384 Hunt Hill Road, Sarona, WI 54870
715 635 6543 www.hunthill.org

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Spring 2010

Nikki's Musings

It was a stark change returning back to Wisconsin after a few weeks in New Zealand. Returning from warm weather, mountains, ocean, glaciers and rain forests to the cold snowy winter of Wisconsin has taken some getting used to. New Zealand was a beautiful place where I had the opportunity to explore, camp, hike, zorb, couchsurf and even brave hostels! Most people ask what my favorite part of my trip was and it's hard to pinpoint one instance. But two experiences that stand out the most are definitely hiking on a glacier and taking a tour around Milford Sounds. Both experiences were an example of the vast power nature has to epically change its surroundings. Standing on a glacier as it was actively (although so slowly we couldn't notice) ripping the sides of a mountain away was just mind-boggling. Likewise, cruising on a 2-story boat and being minuscule by the massive size of 400-meter tall sheer cliffs along the inlets of Milford Sound, is enough to knock anyone down a few pegs and chock it up to Mother Nature. So, if you are an outdoor enthusiast, enjoy 24+ hour flights and want to see a beautiful land filled with vagabond travelers and friendly natives, I recommend heading to New Zealand!

On to Hunt Hill news, I am very happy to report that nearly all of our programs in 2010 have been BOOMING! We started out a little shaky after canceling our first two programs, but since then have had a great base of support and interest in our programs, old and new! Dog sledding and star gazing have topped the charts with over 50 people registering for each. Book club and our going back craft series have maintained nice numbers of around 10 making the atmosphere more connected and personal.

Looking ahead for 2010, Hunt Hill has been working on a program to help middle school and high school students get real job experience by becoming a junior counselor. So, if you know anyone between the ages of 13-17 who would like job and/or volunteer experience, please have them check out our website for information on our Junior Counselor program! We are also continuing our Going Back series with monthly craft and green living programs, which allow participants to leave with a completed project! Finally, if you've been just looking for an excuse to suit up into a fancy animal costume, be sure to contact me and I will get you signed up to be in our group for summer parades! I guess that's it for now; so have a great day, a great week, even a great month and we hope to see you out at Hunt Hill soon!



The Zorb Ball



Franz Joseph Glacier, New Zealand



East Coast of North Island of New Zealand

Ramblings from the Hill

Hello, hello! Greetings from our ‘outer’ sanctum. Our Hunt Hill spring newsletter is always a warm moment in a long winter. We like to let you know about some of the special people and things that brighten the quiet winter here, and highlight upcoming programs. Don’t miss out on trying something new. It’ll keep you young!

What is it that keeps people doing nice things when they don’t have to – when they could quietly go their own way? Many other organizations have great volunteers also, but we just feel our Friends at Hunt Hill are special - it’s just in their ‘nature.’ How appropriate for Hunt Hill! There are so many more folks – too many to mention - who do nice things. Here are just a few of our latest examples:

Derrick Olson has his excavating business and plows roads in the winter, including for Hunt Hill. He came back at no charge to “clean up” the parking lots for our popular star-gazing and dog sledding programs - he’d had to plow around some parked vehicles during the last snowfall. How great is that?

Jan Bliss has just “retired” from the Hunt Hill Board, because of our term limits. However, because of her love of Hunt Hill, she’s staying involved on fundraising, finance, insurance, and program matters – a wonderful example of behind-the-scenes dedication.

Gene & Carlotta Romsos just keep doing neighborly things for everyone – like inviting us to lunch on a cold winter day; or developing inexpensive homemade sleds (with construction plans!) so that families can make their own; or teaching Nikki how to curl (to keep her busy); and organizing bulk mailing parties for HH; and that’s just in the last couple weeks!

Please know that we appreciate everyone’s help, and that your talents can multiply positive effects for so many others. Thank you.

Storme



The Waikato River, New Zealand



Little Blue Penguin at Antarctic Center, NZ

Board of Directors

Carolyn Cleveland	Carlotta Romsos
Gary Davis	Wayne Sabatke
Dennis Grivna	Gus Stelzer
Adam Liegl	William Stewart
Sue Menzel	Park Taylor
Tracey Mofle	Linda Thompson
John Neste	Chip Wood
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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.*

Volunteers Needed!

The last few years we've offered a program known as Hatching at the Hill and years before that it was the Conservation Egg Hunt and now this year it has taken on the mouthful known as the Egg-cellent Egg-stravaganza. It is a late morning activity (10am-12pm) on April 24, where families get to help different animals find their 'missing' eggs and in return receive information on those animals and win prizes. Each year we count on numerous volunteers to help register families, hide eggs, be guides and help with crafts. If you are interested in volunteering in one of the aforementioned roles, please contact Nikki at program@hunthill.org or 715 635 6543.



Washburn County Crane Count—April 17

Judy Haseleu, the Washburn County Crane Count Coordinator for the International Crane Foundation's Annual Midwest Crane Count, has advised us that there is a continuing need for more people to help with the crane count. Call Hunt Hill at 635-6543 and ask for Storme or Nikki.

If you live in another county or state, you can find your local Crane Count Coordinator by emailing the ICF (International Crane Foundation) at cranecount@savingcranes.org

There are still historical counting locations that need to be covered. And there are opportunities for new counting locations to be established, following important guidelines, if you might like to do that.

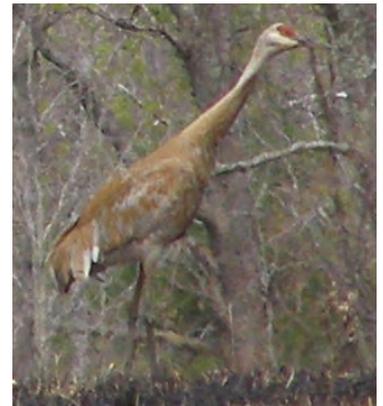
Historical locations need to be continued, consistently covering the same locations, so that data can be compared over years. This shows positive or negative trends in crane populations, or changes in the same habitat locations that will impact the cranes. There are many sites around Washburn County that have dropped out of the count, because past counters have quit, or moved away, or stopped for a number of other areas. These areas are where we need the most help. Please contact us if you'd be willing to help the cranes!

Wisconsin can be proud of its contribution to the science of cranes. For the five states (WI, MN, IL, IA, MI) that were included in the 2009 Midwest Crane Count, Wisconsin led in every category :

- 1,066 of the total 1,338 counting sites were in Wisconsin
- 10,363 of the 11,503 cranes counted were in Wisconsin
- 1,736 of the 2,029 mated pairs counted were in Wisconsin
- 1,945 of the 2,395 total volunteer observers were from Wisconsin

Counters' main responsibilities include: being out on location from 5:30 – 7:30 am on April 17th regardless of weather; familiarizing yourself with the basic information about cranes at <http://www.savingcranes.org/sandhillcrane.html> ; faithfully recording your observations; and turning in your data to your county's coordinator on time.

It isn't difficult, you'll have fun, and you'll have satisfaction from knowing you helped. More information can be found at: http://www.savingcranes.org/annualmidwestcranecount_2.html



Cygnets

Attention, attention! We want your information here! Hunt Hill will be collecting photographs, stories, poems, recollections, drawings and other forms of communication to post in our cygnet section. Photos could be of your family, grand/kids, flowers, animals or events here at Hunt Hill. Or maybe your child would like to use their artistic ability to create a picture for Hunt Hill, write a poem or create a story about a real or make believe adventure here at Hunt Hill. Each issue we will post a different entry on our Cygnet section! Your entries can be emailed to program@hunthill.org or mailed to N2384 Hunt Hill Rd. Sarona, WI 54870

Junior Counselors

Attention TEENS! Are you looking for fun things to do this summer while getting real job experience?? Consider volunteering as a Junior Counselor this summer at Hunt Hill! Junior Counselors will work closely with the Program Director and seasonal Environmental Educators to create a safe and fun environment for youth in our Day Camp programs. Junior counselors are an important part of our team and assist in supervision of campers, help with program set-up, crafts, swim time and are role models to our campers. Interested teens should be between the ages of 13-17, enjoy the outdoors, kids and want to gain real work experience. Benefits to Junior Counselors include potential employment as an Environmental Educator, lifeguard and first aid training, job references and it looks great on college and job applications! For more information, contact Nikki before June 18th, at program@hunthill.org or 715 635 6543.

Sponsor Summer Staff

With the reinvention of our Junior Counselor program, an opportunity for youth to gain real work and volunteer experience, we are in need of support so we can get and keep teens involved. Here are two ways you can help: 1) Make a monetary donation to the junior counselor program. That money can then be used to help the junior counselor pay for gas money to get back and forth to Hunt Hill, provide them with a lunch on the days they volunteer and/or 'bonuses' when they reach a specified number of volunteer hours. 2) Donate your time to help us 'recruit' interested teens for the program (this may also include recruiting teens within your family and friends!).

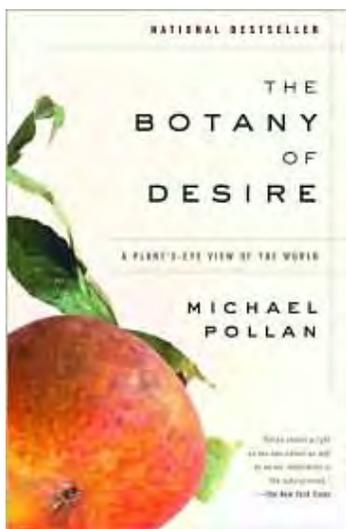


Recruiting Spring Educators

Interested in an AMAZING job? If so, please consider joining our team of educators this spring or fall. We are always in need of educators to work with the school groups that visit us in the spring. These educators are typically substitute or retired teachers, conservation or experiential educators, day care workers or just people who enjoy working outdoors with children. A typical day runs from 8:30 to 2:30 and includes programs like: ponding, survival, animals, hikes, canoeing, etc. All program materials and schedules are provided for educators as well as training. In addition, this is a very flexible position where educators get to pick the days they are available and interested in working! If interested, please contact Nikki by March 30th at 715 635 6543 or program@hunthill.org.

New Programs

This year we'll be offering the following new programs: Eco-based book club, Going Back series, Junior Counselor Orientation, Teen Adventure Camp and Love Life Retreat. To learn more about any of these programs, be sure to go online www.hunthill.org.



Eco-Based Book Club:

Hunt Hill will be hosting their first ever book club. For our introductory year, we will be offering 2 more meetings: Botany of Desire in March and Club Choice in November. **If this is a program you're interested in, please make the time to come, as enrollment determines the continuation of new programs.** The club is free and refreshments will be provided. Since it begins at 5:30pm, we ask that participants bring a bag dinner. All books can be purchased in Spooner at Northwind Book and Fiber or can be found at the library.

Going Back Series:

These monthly programs feature different green living and craft activities that allow participants to learn more about a specific product and then create their own. The price includes all instruction, materials and help needed

to make the product. The variety of programs are set to include: beer making, solar cooking ovens, compost bins, basket making, jewelry, preserving foods, walking sticks, herbal healthcare and mitten making. Prices vary and registration and payment are due two to three weeks prior to each program.



Solar Cooking Oven

Junior Counselor Orientation:

For those looking to get the fun camp experience while also getting real world job experience, this program is for them! Open to youth ages 13-18, this afternoon program will introduce them to the volunteer opportunities available at Hunt Hill.

Teen Adventure Camp:

Join us for this 4 day adventure camp! Swing through a high ropes course, climb a 50+ foot rock wall and canoe and camp along our first national scenic waterway. Open to ages 12-15, we'll challenge our way through this fun, intense camp. A great excuse to have some fun before going back to school!



Love Life Retreat

Join Hunt Hill and Sondra Lewis as we explore ways to allow life to be more fun and pleasurable. Imagine that in 2 days, you can access the tools to experiencing your everyday life with a renewed spirit of wonder and youth!

In the beautiful natural setting of Hunt Hill's lakes and woods, enjoy your love of nature and the outdoors, while learning to live a richer, deeper, more fulfilling life. Take pleasure in unique and delicious meals that complement your understanding of how to gain and maintain vibrant health.

Discover your energy field and how your vitality, health and enjoyment of life are affected by nutrition, thoughts, beliefs, and emotions. You will learn things here that can transform your life.



Sondra Lewis

Programs in April, May, June

Full Description of Programs and Calendar at www.hunthill.org

- Scroll to bottom of Home page
- Under “About Hunt Hill” click on the link titled “Publications”
- You will find links for the Program Guide and Calendar of Events

April

Maple Syruping

Saturday, April 3..... 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Join Hunt Hill as we head over to the Hemshrot’s Sugar Bush and learn the steps involved in creating maple syrup. Get hands on experience as you help collect and begin processing the sap. Then stick around for a tasty cup of ice cream topped with freshly made maple syrup. \$5/person or \$15/family of four or more.

GOING BACK Solar Cooking Ovens

Saturday, April 10..... 10:00am - 2:00pm
Cader Olive, local green living enthusiast and an organizer of the Northwest Wisconsin Sustainable Living Fair will be leading this program on Solar Cooking Ovens. Participants should bring their own lunches and will learn about solar ovens and then create their own. \$80/person **Pre-registration and payment due by March 19th**

Geocaching

Saturday, April 17..... 10:00am - 12:00pm
Join us for a treasure hunt! Participants will learn how to use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures known as caches. **Preregister by April 16** and let us know if you need a GPS unit. \$5/person or \$15/family.

Egg-cellent Egg-stravaganza at Hunt Hill

Saturday, April 24..... 10:00am-12:00pm
Kids will enjoy this hunt as we search for realistic eggs of various birds and other egg-laying animals. Stick around afterwards for treats and crafts. This event will occur rain or snow and will be housed accordingly. \$5/person.



Birdbanding

Saturday, April 24..... 7:00am—12:00pm
Participants will learn about banding, how to ID birds and may actually get to hold and help band birds collected! Rolls will be provided. \$10/person.

May

Spring Helping Hands

Saturday, May 1 8:00am until we finish

Barn Dance

Saturday, May 1..... 7:30pm – 11:30pm
Open to the public and all dancing abilities, you never have to worry how the steps go because the ‘Ducks’ teach you along the way! Great for all ages. Volunteers of Helping Hands: FREE
General public: \$6/person and \$15/family

GOING BACK - Compost Bins

Saturday, May 8..... 9:00am - 11:30am
Join Master Gardener Russ Parker and UW-Extension, Agriculture Development Agent, Kevin Schoessow and discover the art of composting. Participants will learn about composting and then create their own 3’x3’x3’ cedar framed compost bin. For participant’s ease, we recommend working in teams of 2 and if available bringing your own battery-powered electric screwdriver. **Preregistration and payment required by April 23.** \$50/bin.

Cakes at the Lake - Wetland Treasures with Cherie Hagen and John Haack

Saturday, May 15
8:00am Breakfast 10:00am Program

Grill at the Hill - Landscaping for Wildlife

Thursday, May 20 5:30pm
Explore landscaping techniques and options that will increase the amount and diversity of wildlife visiting your yard. Also get a chance to see a couple of these animals close up as program visitors.

Simply Survival Skills

Saturday, May 22..... 9:00am - 5:00pm
This one day intensive hands on class will introduce participants to a canon of important skills for the survival and wilderness living enthusiast. Program is

(Continued on page 7)

limited to 12 participants, \$30/person. Preregistration and payment are required by May 7.

June

GOING BACK - Basketweaving

Saturday, June 5 9:00am - 1:00pm
Learn how to weave your own market basket in this introduction to basketry program. All materials will be provided. Don't forget to wear old clothes and bring a bag lunch and let us provide the refreshments! Preregistration and payment required by May 21st. \$25/basket.



Lifeguard Training

Early June - Call for dates and cost.
This 3-day intense training will certify participants in First Aid, CPR and lifeguarding. Participants can choose to stay at Hunt Hill (for an additional fee) or just participate during the day. This training is great for people interested in summer lifeguard jobs or anyone who works near or on the water. Cost: \$150 plus optional overnight and meal costs

Neighbor's Open House

Thursday, June 10.....5:30pm
Meet Hunt Hill and your neighbors around the lakes as we come together for an evening potluck and entertainment.



Swedish Language and Culture Camp

Adult Residential CampJune 13-17
Check www.hunthill.org for information and registration.

GRANDparent Adventures Campfire Songs and Stories

Wednesday, June 16 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Hunt Hill educators will share interactive stories, camp songs and jokes that are sure to make the rest of your summer campfires more entertaining. \$10/person or \$35 for a family of 4 or more.

Cakes at the Lake - All About Black Bears with North Lakeland Discovery Center

Saturday, June 19
8:00am Breakfast 10:00am Program

Junior Counselor Orientation

Monday, June 21 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Attention teens! This afternoon program will overview the responsibilities of volunteers in our day camp programs, allow participants to sign up to help at specific day camps and end with some open swim time for those interested! Junior Counselor's must be between the ages of 13-17. Pre-registration required by June 18. This program is FREE.

Grill at the Hill Movie: Out of Africa
Thursday, June 24..... 5:30pm

Fisherman's Fantasy Day Camp Monday, June 28



Naughty, Nasty, Noxious Living Things Day Camp
Tuesday, June 29

Mad Scientist Day Camp
Wednesday, June 30



Helping Hands 2010



Please join us to prepare our camp for another summer season on May 1 this year! Whether you're a member or not, just stop out and join the fun from 9am – 3 pm. Projects will vary, but generally include light housekeeping, gardening or yard work, moving things, dining hall/kitchen prep work, some carpentry, stacking firewood, etc. Continental breakfast, lunch and admission to the evening Barn Dance is provided free for workers!

New Board Officers and Committee Chairs for 2010!

Our Winter Newsletter introduced our 3 new Board members this year. Here are the officers and committee chairs serving the Friends of the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary in 2010:

President..... Bill Stewart
 Vice President..... Carolyn Cleveland
 Treasurer Adam Liegl
 Secretary (still need)
 Facilities Committee..... Gary Davis, Chair
 Finance Committee Adam Liegl, Chair
 Fundraising Committee..... Linda Thompson, Chair
 Membership Committee Carlotta Romsos, Chair
 Program Committee Sue Menzel, Chair



Dogsledding with Ruth King
February 2010



Book Club—Big Success!

The first meeting of the new Hunt Hill Eco Book Club was held on February 18th at Hunt Hill in the Farmhouse Board Room. The selected book was the Ernest Oberholtzer biography Keeper of the Wild, by Joe Paddock.

This unusual look at the relatively unknown “Father of the Boundary Waters,” was especially interesting to Hunt Hill folks, because of Oberholtzer’s close ties to Frances Andrews, the donor of the Hunt Hill property. Their complex platonic relationship was covered in the book, though details of his life are scarce.

The Andrews family supported Ober’s long years of effort to protect the pristine forests and waters of the Canadian – Minnesota border. Likewise, as Frances approached the end of her life, Ober (as he was known) recommended, at her request, that Hunt Hill should be an Audubon camp. He was the guide who took her to the Hog Island, Maine Audubon camp, which became the inspiration for most of the camp buildings at Hunt Hill.

The next Book Club discussion will focus on the Botany of Desire, by Michael Pollan on March 18 at 5:30 pm in the Farmhouse again. We have room for a few more members – call to let us know if you would like to participate.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

We couldn't do it without you!! Many thanks to the following folks who have helped us out this winter preparing bulk mailings, presenting programs, plowing snow, being Ambassadors to programs, preparing materials for programs and sharing ideas.

Carlotta Romsos
Gene Romsos
Charlotte Ross
Mary Thostenson
Paul Amacher
Mary Ann Amacher
Lorna Kology
Anne Drake
Ruth King

Kevin King
Alyssa King
Scott Ballantyne
Sue Ballantyne
Jessica Schalkowski
Americorps
Carolyn Cleveland



Denny Snarski Volunteering at Helping Hands

Librarian Needed

We are very fortunate to have books donated for our Hunt Hill library and are grateful to William "Chip" Wood for coming in to sort and glean out copies of books at the end of the summer. Do you know the Dewey Decimal system? Do you have a few afternoons to help catalog and shelve books? If so, contact Nikki at program@hunthill.org or 715 635 6543 if you can help.



Hunt Hill Library interior

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 get-away. 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.



Frances Andrews cabin living room and fireplace.

Be In a Parade



Bring friends, neighbors, family, kids and grandkids and help us spread the word about Hunt Hill!

We need volunteers who are willing to carry our Hunt Hill banner and others who will dress up in our Trail of Myths costumes and hand out small flyers. If you'd like to help, but don't feel comfortable wearing a costume, we have a few Hunt Hill shirts available as well. This is an easy and fun way to help us out tremendously. Hunt Hill will be participating in the following parades:

Cameron's Camerama – June 6

Rice Lake Aquafest – June 20

Spooner Rodeo – July 11

Haugen or Spooner—August 8

If you'd like to sign up and help, contact Nikki (715 635 6543 or program@hunthill.org) to learn more!

Kayak Donations or Sales

Hunt Hill is in search of kayaks. The kayaks allow us to offer more diversity in programming as well as flexibility for individuals looking to get out on the water. As a non-profit, the donations of kayaks are tax-deductible and are guaranteed to put that warm fuzzy feeling in your insides. However, we understand that not everyone can afford to donate kayaks to us. Although new kayaks are always ideal, if you have a kayak in good condition that you would be willing to donate or sell to us at a discounted price, please contact Nikki at 715 635 6543 or program@hunthill.org. Thanks for your consideration!



Recruiting Summer Educators

Are you or someone you know, a college student looking for resume-building work experience, a free place to stay for the summer, fun in the sun and great camaraderie? If so, then consider joining our team. This position will run from June through the middle of August and responsibilities include: creating day camp programs, leading these programs, working primarily with youth ages 5-10 but also includes some work with high school students and life guarding (training provided) at our waterfront. This job is ideal for those who plan on working with youth in their future careers. If interested, please contact Nikki by March 2010 at 715 635 6543 or program@hunhill.org.



Milford Sound New Zealand



Abel Tasman Coastal Track New Zealand

Learn More About Bluebird Trails

The Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) has asked Hunt Hill's Executive Director Storme Nelson to serve as the new Washburn County Bluebird Coordinator for BRAW in 2010. A special thanks goes out to Gary Dunsmoor who served for many years.

As the 2010 season approaches, you may be wondering about setting up a single bluebird house for the first time, improving an existing bluebird house location, expanding to more than one house on your property, starting a full-fledged bluebird trail or getting involved with reporting your trial results to BRAW for inclusion in Wisconsin's state-wide, record-making effort to restore bluebirds.

Go to: <http://www.braw.org/> to check out all the latest in bluebird research, the all-time record results from 2009 and resource materials to help you do even a safer, better job for bluebirds. So much has been learned in recent years — let us share it with you.

Contact Storme at Hunt Hill by phoning 715 635-6543 or email: director@hunthill.org if you have any questions or would just like to visit about your situation. Please help pass the word—thanks.





The Friends of Hunt Hill
Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.
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www.hunthill.org

Postage Paid
Non-Profit
Standard
Saronā, WI
54870
Permit #3

We wish we had...

MACHINERY

*Walk behind trail trimmer
Skid steer/bobcat

KITCHEN

Full size sheet pans
Electric meat slicer
Extra large grill for pancake breakfasts
*Sources for unbleached paper products
Rectangular, flannel back vinyl tablecloths

PROGRAM SUPPLIES

*Kayaks—1 & 2 person
*Kayak paddles
Ponchos
Snowshoes—assorted sizes
Volleyballs
Display cabinets for Learning Center
Adult Lifejackets
*Telephone poles or landscape timbers, 4x4s, 4x6s
*DVD player



Loppers, pruning shears
Shovels
Deepwell sockets
*2 ton floor jack
Wood clamps
Pipe Clamps
Pick axe
Belt sander
Drill bits



Heavy tined garden rakes
Drill press
Table saw
Hole saws—all sizes
18V battery operated drill

BUILDINGS

New 9V batteries
*Compact fluorescent bulbs (75 or 100 watts)
Wooden porch swing
New/new condition area rugs- 6x9 or 9x12
Queen and/or full mattress covers/pads

TOOLS