



# Almanac From the Hill

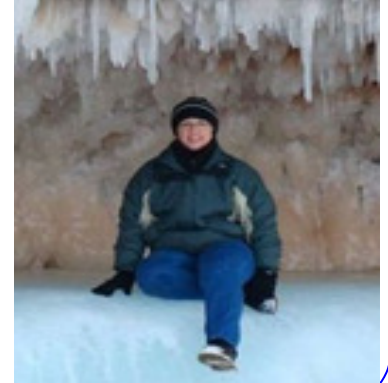
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715 635 6543                      www.hunthill.org

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Spring 2011

## Spring Marketing Intern at Hunt Hill

This spring Hunt Hill has hired a seasonal marketing interns to help research, collect and create contact databases for our various camps. With her help we hope to reach out to more communities and organizations across the country and see more people taking an interest in our programs. Hunt Hill is proud to introduce our marketing intern Jessica Schalkowski.

Jessie Schalkowski: "I've lived in Shell Lake since 2007 and have enjoyed Hunt Hill ever since. I'm on the FOHHAS board and work for the DNR in Spooner. I'm working towards a Masters in Environmental Education which I'll be finishing in May thanks to my internship time and experiences at Hunt Hill!"



## Hunt Hill, UW-Superior and Road Scholars Partnership Program

New in 2011 is the partnership between UW-Superior, Hunt Hill and the Road Scholars (formerly Elderhostel) program bringing to grandparents an opportunity to spend a week at camp with their grandkids. The name of the program is Road Scholars: Exploring and Living Northern Wisconsin's Environment and Culture With Your Grandchild and can be found at [www.roadscholar.org](http://www.roadscholar.org) by searching for program number 19775RJ. Participants will spend July 24 - 29 in the idyllic, natural laboratory of the northern Wisconsin wilderness, studying the delicate reciprocal relationships among plants, animals, air and weather that determine the wellbeing of the earth, its intricate ecological systems and, ultimately, humankind. More information can also be found at [www.hunthill.org](http://www.hunthill.org)

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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.*

# New Programs Added to Hunt Hill's Summer Program List

A new Herbal Health series will take place in May, June and August. The programs will be led by Gigi Stafne, MH, ND a local and nationally known educator, writer and activist within the botanical and natural medicine fields. In each session, participants will create and take home 3+ natural botanical products which are included in the cost of \$50/person/program. Payments can be made online (Brown Paper Ticket via our website) or by check.

## **TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE – A WILD WEED WALK**

**Saturday, May 21, 2011**

**9:00am – 12:00pm**

Join us for a wild weed walk! Learn to identify common herbs and native plants of the northland and along the way learn fascinating facts on medicinal and cultural uses of these green allies common to Wisconsin and Minnesota. Payment is due by Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **SOLSTICE SOL: EARTH ENERGIES, FOODS AND PLANTS FOR THE SUMMER**

**Saturday, June 11, 2011**

**1:00pm – 4:00pm**

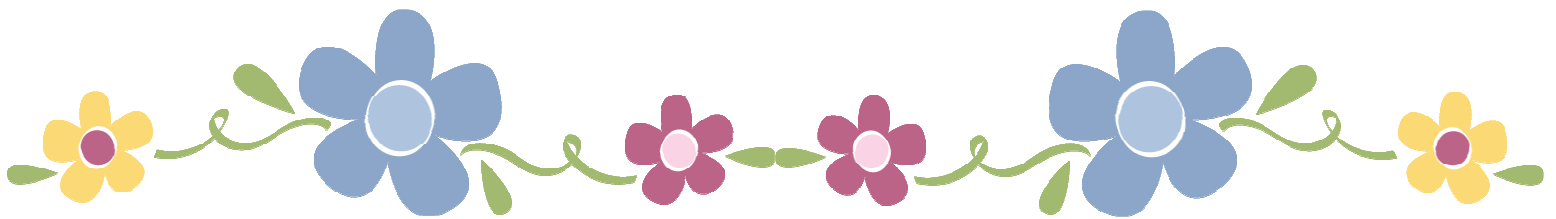
Tune into the natural seasons of earth by eating local, seasonal foods, integrating medicinal plants and foods that explode in the precious summer season of the northland. Payment is due by Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **DOWN TO THE GROUND GREEN MEDICINES!**

**Saturday, August 13, 2011**

**1:00pm – 4:00pm**

Summer's final month is the best time to wildcraft herbs and begin planning for your own personal herbal apothecary for the upcoming seasons in the northland. Learn how to prepare 3-5 botanical preparations such as tinctures, oils and flower essences to enhance your health. Payment is due by Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.



## **Tree Trimming At Hunt Hill**

You may notice a few changes around the central camp farm yard this spring and summer. About a dozen trees were trimmed up to protect the buildings and campers of Hunt Hill.

The biggest change, however, will be the loss of the big old oak with its annular rings showing its age to be in excess of 140 years. It showed dramatic leaf loss and branch die-back in 2003, so DNR foresters were consulted. They checked its health and determined back then that it was still sound in the trunk, but suffering from some wood rot around the base and the beginning of ant activity. We were warned it might not survive. The five or six years of drought that followed appear to have been too much.

As black ants attacked and weakened the base of the tree, it started to lean towards and threaten the safety of the Barn Dining Hall. The FOHHAS Facilities Committee recommended to the Board and the Board approved removal of the old oak in February, along with some overhanging dead branches by the parking lot and dorms. A few leaning aspen were also removed from the side of the ridge above Long Dorm. Two fallen trees narrowly missed Long Dorm last year, so we wanted to avoid *future problems*.

# Parking Lot Expansion Needs Being Determined

The growth in programs at Hunt Hill and the need for more parking space has our FOHHAS Facilities Committee and Board of Directors thinking about balancing the need for protection of natural resources with meeting the need for parking of visitors' vehicles so we can continue to grow our service to families at Hunt Hill.

There is no available extra room around the upper parking lots (near the Showerhouse and Library), however, there may be space along the edges of the lower parking lot east of the Barn Dining Hall. Members of the committee will be studying the removal of just enough edge trees to push out the parking space area for another row of 20 – 25 vehicles around the perimeter.

This area east of the Program Learning Center and Barn is not in the State Natural Area designated portion of the property. Also, it would not fragment any additional forest canopy of the woods at Hunt Hill which is so critical for the habitat of many species of birds, plants and animals. Therefore, it could be modified if absolutely necessary; but only after approval by the National Audubon Society which still owns the property.

Other alternatives are also being discussed to increasing parking lot requirements for the number of vehicles coming to camp at any one time – encouraging car-pooling, parking vehicles up at the existing lot by the cabins, limiting the size of programs, and parking along the driveway into camp or out on Audubon Road (as was done for SoupStock). If you have any suggestions, please contact us at Hunt Hill, so we may explore all the best alternatives. Thanks.

## Remembering Bob Dreis



One of our most stalwart supporters of the Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc. and of Hunt Hill Sanctuary itself, passed away this winter. We'll take a moment now to remember him and his enthusiasm and commitment . . . and continue to think of Bob as time goes on . . . every time we have a bat program, a blue bird nest box monitoring session or do a blue bird program, or a fish boil, or a voyageur program, or a wolf program, or a kids' survival program, or a bear program, or a fire starting program, or a walking stick carving program, or raise the American flag, or have our Annual Meetings, or Holiday Volunteers Recognition parties, or work at a Helping Hands Weekend, or do a bulk mailing. Those are just the activities we can remember in the last nine years, but there were many years before then, during which he and Betty

helped Hunt Hill keep going.

Bob was a retired DNR supervisor in the Spooner office – known for his intense love of nature and high expectations of those he worked with professionally, and in fun.

His tough exterior occasionally cracked, though, and you could see the heart of gold inside – especially when he was helping kids.

We'll miss you Bob.



# Hunt Hill's New Northwoods Birding Camp June, 2011

Hunt Hill's first "modern era" residential birding camp will be introduced this June! It will offer both a beginners' weekend introduction to bird watching, PLUS a more intensive, week-long camp for advanced birders. Residential means you have the option of staying right at Hunt Hill to reduce driving and have more time to learn from the experts and other participants. Local birders who wish to stay at home may choose to do so, and attend the day sessions only.



Come and learn from nationally known guest experts like Laura Erickson from Duluth, MN, but also of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY (<http://www.lauraerickson.com/> and "For the Birds" radio program); and Steve Betchkall, from Eau Claire, WI (<http://manymorebirds.webs.com/>) – an expert on bird calls and photography; as well as former National Audubon staff member and very familiar retired Director of Hunt Hill, Terry Dorsey, Austin, MN. Terry, besides his own expertise in birds, bird calls bogs and other birding habitats, will serve as the Northwoods Birding Camp Director.

There will be up close and personal time with these birding experts, early morning birding hikes, educational class room sessions on many aspects of bird watching, a guided fieldtrip to Crex Meadows, opportunities to expand your "Life List" of birds, a special beginners' "Birding By Ear" seminar, and a focus on all the different habitats and how they affect the birds you see – with five different habitats, 127 species of birds have been observed at Hunt Hill within a five minute hike from Hunt Hill's central camp! And that's just the first weekend!

During the extended week, for the experts and very curious beginners, there will be additional fieldtrips like: an optional overnight canoe trip on the very first "National Wild and Scenic River" – the Namekagon, a fieldtrips to look for shorebirds of Lake Superior and possibly Kirtland's Warblers in Bayfield and/or Douglas Counties, or a night hike for owls, an advanced "Birding By Ear" seminar, and much more. Laura reminded us that her personal favorite bird is the Chickadee and she has brand new research discoveries to share with us, along with an in-depth look at hummingbirds.

Please join us for this low-key, fun, educational opportunity to expand your personal knowledge about these fascinating creatures so important to us and to all of nature.

## 2011 Hunt Hill Special Work Projects

The Friends of the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc. (FOHHAS) Board of Directors and its Facilities Committee has begun hopefully exploring two major new work projects to improve visitors' experiences at Hunt Hill. The first will be a new, natural, outdoor amphitheater in the farmyard area between Cross Dorm and the Square Dorm, including an outside classroom or deck area which will be able to be sheltered and used during inclement weather.

The second major project will be replacement of the old WCC foot bridge by the "Beaver Pond" by "Heron Point." (Below the east end of the Prairie.) Neither project will take place in the protected State Natural Area portions of Hunt Hill, nor impact any undeveloped areas of Hunt Hill.

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The outdoor amphitheater will be available for larger groups, weddings, readings and outdoor education classes. Tiered seating will be planned for 100 or more, with extra space for more folding chairs. Maintenance-free grassy steps or benches will be able to be mowed in a single pass. Sloped walkways will ensure handicapped accessibility. Peaceful, sloping amphitheater site will require little landscaping. Here you can see through to one of our three glacially-formed lakes within Hunt Hill boundaries - Upper Twin Lake. This view is looking north, with Square Dorm off to the left of the photo and Cross Dorm to the right.

Amphitheater seating would be similar to this, without the wooden bench seats, but wide enough to allow for rows of folding chairs if needed.



A small deck platform down front will feature an arbor roof, over which rain coverings can be temporarily installed to protect groups using it, as well as a podium, lighting, and an electrical outlet.



National Audubon will approve final plans, grant funding will be sought and work crews will have to be lined up before this new Amphitheater will be possible for Hunt Hill.

## HUNT HILL AUDUBON SANCTUARY

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# Coming in May and June

Helping Hands—May 7—8:30am  
Duck for Oyster Barn Dance—May 7—7:30pm  
Cakes at Lake: Invading Invasives—May 14  
Wild Weed Walk—May 21 9am  
Geocaching—May 21—1pm (registration due 5/20)  
Campfire Cooking—May 21 4pm (registration due 5/19)  
Learning and Loving our Land Base—May 26 6pm  
(registration due 5/25)  
Neighbor's Open House—June 9—5:30pm  
Cakes at Lake: Wolves—June 11  
Nature at Night Nocturnal Animals—June 11—8pm  
Adult Swedish Immersion—June 12-17 (registration due 5/27)  
Build a Wooden Kayak—June 17-24 (registration due 5/6)  
Northwoods Birding Camp—June 17-24 (registration due 5/25)  
Grandparents Adventure: Bog Squishers—June 22—1pm  
Lifeguard Training—June 22-25  
Day Camps begin—June 27

## We wish we had...

### MACHINERY

Skid steer/bobcat

### BUILDINGS

Wooden porch swing



New 9V batteries

\*Compact fluorescent bulbs (75 or 100 watts)

New/new condition area rugs- 6x9 or 9x12

Garden sculpture: metal, wood or tin

### PROGRAM SUPPLIES

Newer Laptop Computers

\*Kayaks—1 & 2 person

\*Kayak paddles

Snowshoes—assorted sizes

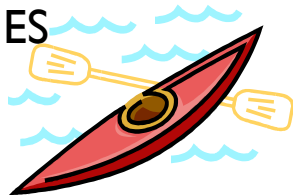
Display cabinets for Learning Center

Adult Lifejackets

\*Telephone poles or landscape timbers, 4x4s, 4x6s

\*DVD/VCR player

Craft supplies



### KITCHEN

Full size sheet pans

Extra large grill for pancake breakfasts

\*Sources for unbleached paper products

Rectangular, flannel back vinyl tablecloths

Food Processor—large

Bread Maker

Food warming stands w/sterno holders

### TOOLS

Loppers, pruning shears

Shovels

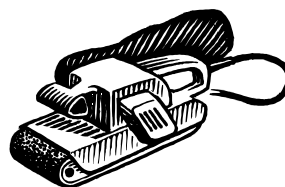
Deepwell sockets

\*2 ton floor jack

Wood clamps

Pipe Clamps

Pick axe



Belt sander

Drill bits

Heavy tined garden rakes

Table saw

Hole saws—all sizes

18V battery operated drill