Nikki’s Musings

By the time this newsletter hits our website, we will have our program guide for 2010 done. It’s such a great feeling to know that it’s finished and on time, plus the excitement of all the new programming. Be sure to check out our website, www.hunthill.org, for all the new programs.

We have some exciting programs for 2010. A new book club and green craft series will add some new spice while last year favorites: Cakes at the Lake and Grill at the Hill should continue to impress people with great food and entertaining programs. We will also be hosting new day camps, a weekend Love Life retreat, various outdoor programs and a re-vamped Spanish Immersion camp with a brand new director! Learn more inside, online (www.hunthill.org), or check out our program guide in January.

Other new advances regarding programs include: the donation of fiberglass canoes, the purchase of GPS units and the ongoing search for affordable kayaks. This fall we were lucky enough to receive some fiberglass canoes from the Chippewa Falls Farm and Fleet. As a past employee and enthusiast of the Chippewa store, I cannot speak highly enough of the store and the management. So a big Thank you to Ken, the manager! We were also able to purchase 7 GPS units to use for our various geocaching programs and school groups. Finally, we are still in search of good-condition kayaks. Any help in the location of affordable kayaks would be greatly appreciated!

I guess that’s it for me! I’m headed off to New Zealand to spend my 2 months off exploring new habitats, immersing in the Kiwi culture and volunteering my way across the country! See you all in 2010.
Ramblings from the Hill

Greetings from Hunt Hill –

Hello, hello! Winter is upon us. Three snowfalls already in October, and more snow is forecast for this weekend. Rain and snow are both desperately needed here in northwest Wisconsin. Our lake levels in some cases are reportedly 10’ or 12’ below normal. I understand, however, that the Farmers’ Almanac has forecast a colder and drier than usual winter for us; so we may not get much help with water levels.

This fall has brought lots of the expected changes in bird populations, and a few surprises. Many species either left us early, or arrived from farther north earlier than usual. The bluebirds and osprey pairs left a couple weeks earlier than normal this year – at the beginning of September. We have often seen bluebird young of the year out in our Hunt Hill prairie through the end of November. White-throated sparrows and juncos have already moved through Hunt Hill. Several brown creepers have been spotted – they’re usually on a late winter schedule for us. But the biggest news is we’ve already seen a small flock of snow buntings along Co. D west of Sarona, which really makes me wonder what’s in store for us this winter!

In spite of the poor economy this past year, Hunt Hill grew in program attendance, members, and grant support for new programs. We believe we’re poised for even more growth in 2010.

For us at Hunt Hill, this season of change is the start of planning next year’s programs. Nikki, Karen, Gary Davis, our Program Committee Chair and the Program Committee are hard at work on many new ideas – it’ll be another exciting year.

Please enjoy your family holidays. Hunt Hill will be resting up for next spring. Take care of yourself and those you love. Stop by and visit us if you can.

Thanks for another great year.

Storme

Welcome to Our New 2010 Hunt Hill Board

One sign of a vibrant and growing organization is growth in the size and involvement of its Board of Directors. Another indicator of the health and dedication of an organization’s volunteer base is the continued interest of its members, and their willingness to serve in official capacities again and again, if asked. On both counts the FOHHAS Board continues to excel.

Board membership has reached the maximum allowed by our bylaws - 15 elected members. In 2010 we will welcome two newly elected directors Dennis Grivna and Park Taylor, as well as one returning director Wayne Sabatke.

Dennis Grivna is a retired biology professor from the UW – Barron County Campus, a long-time member and supporter of Hunt Hill, a resident of Rice Lake, a current adult educator for many years on our Hunt Hill staffs, and it’s notable to also mention Dennis worked on the Hunt Hill staff when it was an Audubon camp back in the years prior to 1986. Many of you may also recognize Dennis from his many spirited and very entertaining accordion playing programs, while accompanied by his wife Marlys.

(Continued on page 3)
Park Taylor is from Stone Lake, and is employed at Hayward High School as the Alternative Learning Academic Center Supervisor. He has worked with young people in Northern Wisconsin since 2001, including: two years service in the AmeriCorps-Project Forward (which entailed after school programs, a youth Search and Rescue team, and several trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area); three and a half years working to facilitate groups in an adolescent day treatment program, and then a group home for boys up in Ashland (where we visited every waterfall in Iron County); as a staff member with the Lac Courte Oreilles Boys & Girls Club; and finally as a spring and summer educator at Hunt Hill. “I love to work outdoors with kids. It is my passion.”

Wayne Sabatke returns to FOHHAS Board service after his mandatory year away from the Board due to our six year term limits. He is a long-time Long Lake and Rice Lake area resident, has served as our Board president in the past, is a retired WITC personnel/human relations director, and has been very involved with the LLPA and WCLRA.

FOHHAS 2009 Annual Meeting Summary

On Sunday, September 27, 2009 the Friends of the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc held its Annual Meeting in the Barn Dining Hall at camp. An estimated 40 people were in attendance.

The December Board meeting was conducted at 4:00 pm, prior to the beginning of the pot luck dinner and Annual Meeting program. The Board conducted its regular business meeting, so that visitors could meet the Board members, observe the meeting, and learn more about Board operations.

The delicious pot luck dinner started at 5:00 pm and was followed immediately by the business portion of the Annual Meeting:
- Introductions of all attendees
- “Thought For the Day” by Terry Dorsey (retired Hunt Hill Camp Director)
- 2009 Annual Report* – reviewed by Storme Nelson (FOHHAS Executive Director)
- Election of New Board Members for the Class of 2010:
  - Park Taylor, Stone Lake
  - Dennis Grivna, Rice Lake
  - Wayne Sabatke, Birchwood
- Volunteer recognitions for 2009 - Special recognition: Terry & Diane Dorsey
- Red Plates presentation
- Guest speaker: Dr. Kim Ammann, Spooner Veterinary Clinic - Topic: Wildlife Rehab. Kim made an outstanding presentation on her personal volunteer involvement with rehab work – especially noting her interest in raptors (birds of prey). She explained many of the techniques, the required Wisconsin certification for rehab work, the frustrations of losing her “patients,” and the often forgotten need to secure the required different foods for the different species.

* Annual Report highlights: Following the national economic recession, 2009 started out slowly with a great deal of concern over the cancellation (due to lack of sign-ups) of four week-long residential camps – Swedish Immersion, two weeks of Spanish Immersion, and the Adult Ecology program. However, the Program Committee introduced some new August day camp programs, which quickly filled up – even on short notice; and a new UW-Green Bay Upward Bound residential camp also helped to fill the void. The end result was program growth in attendance and revenue over last year! Membership growth is +30% over 2008! A 2009 Strategic Planning session was conducted by our FOHHAS Board of Directors – including an electronic survey of our FOHHAS members for their support, concerns, and suggestions. Plans are now being finalized through each of our operating committees for continued improvements and growth of Hunt Hill, following the wishes of Frances Andrews for family strengthening, environmental education, and the preservation of Hunt Hill.
A Doctor of Wild Birds

If you missed Hunt Hill’s 2009 Annual Meeting this September, you not only missed an informative gathering on the state of Hunt Hill (which is good!), you also missed a wonderful guest speaker: Dr. Kim Ammann. Kim is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine practicing at the Spooner Vet Clinic here in Spooner, Wisconsin. In her practice she successfully tends to our pets’ and small animal needs, but her passion is in avian rehabilitation. Kim has the professional skills, the required license, and great desire to give care to those wild birds in our region from eagle to hummingbird size. She currently uses space within the vet clinic where she sets bones, gives medication, feeds and nurtures those birds brought to her in need.

In her presentation she related stories and photos of some of her feathered patients and spoke of her goals for a future rehabilitation clinic, which include an area where the birds can recover, gain strength, and practice flying again. She also spoke of a continual need for food for these avian patients, a large part of which is rodents …as in mice! She has a freezer for this food and let it be known that she would take any mice we could give- unpoisoned mice only please! She also uses and needs food that we might be more familiar with: venison, beef, and fish.

Right now Kim takes cases on a “case by case” basis and usually limits them to raptors since they are more difficult to deal with and there are other area “rehabbers” who can take the smaller birds.

I am very happy to introduce you to Dr. Ammann and her avian passion. The next time you come upon an injured bird you will know who can help. You might also consider the new option for your winter mouse intruders and keep them for Dr. Kim’s freezer! To contact Dr. Ammann the Spooner Vet Clinic number is: 635-2874. We have also included below a link to the DNR website which has a directory of licensed rehabilitation people. Please remember that only licensed rehabbers can possess injured or orphaned wildlife of any kind.

Wisconsin DNR website: wi.dnr.gov

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 2010 at 715 635 6543 or program@hunhill.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 only 3 meetings, Keeper of the Wild: The Life of Ernest Oberholtzer in February, 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.

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: natural babies, 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.

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 Sondra Lewis, local healthy living expert, as we explore ways to live healthier and more fulfilling lives. Find out how your emotions, eating choices and general attitude affect your health and how you can control them to get the most out of life.

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.

**Programs in January, February and March**

**Winter Camping**
**Saturday and Sunday, January 30-31**
**Saturday 10:00am - Sunday 10:00am**
Join Hunt Hill for a winter camping challenge! This beginners’ program will challenge attendees to spend an entire night in the winter wilderness at Hunt Hill. We will begin with safety tips and survival skills. In the afternoon we’ll scout out camp locations, set up camp and begin preparing a dutch oven dinner. You can choose to come for the day or brave an overnight. If you can’t make it through the night our Learning Center will be heated as an alternative sleeping location. Preregistration and payment required by January 22. $7/person for day only. $25/person for overnight food and some camp equipment.

**Stargazing**
**Friday, February 5**
Discover constellations, distinguish satellites and get the chance to look through a real telescope, all with the guidance of Mike Lynch, WCCO meteorologist. Hunt Hill provides the perfect setting with a lack of light pollution as well as a warm meeting spot and February is a great time to see the stars. This event will occur regardless of cloud cover and is sponsored by Shell Lake and Cumberland Community Educations and Hunt Hill. Call 635 6543 for time and to register. $12/person $30/family. Preregister by February 1.

**GOING BACK - Natural Babies**
**Saturday, February 6**
**10:00am - 12:00pm**
With all the chemicals in the world it’s nice to know that you can take a proactive role in surrounding your child with safe alternatives. Holistic mother, Hilde Perala, will be leading this program to show other parents how easy it is to keep children healthy with simple recipes, cleaning products and reusables that save time, money and are safe for your most cherished ones. Preregistration and payment required by January 29th. $10/person.

**Dogsledding with Ruth King**
**Saturday, February 13**
**9:00am-12:00pm**
(Continued on page 7)
Meet Ruth and her dogs in this morning program on dog sledding! Participants will learn the history of dog sledding, the dogs used and how to dog sled. A demonstration will follow and guests will have an interactive role during the program. $5/person or $15/family. Preregistration requested but not required.

**Book Club**

*Keeper of the Wild: The Life of Ernest Oberholtzer* by Joe Paddock  
Thursday, February 18  
5:30pm  
The biography of wilderness preservationist Ernest Oberholtzer, environmental pioneer, friend of Hunt Hill’s founder, explorer, and caretaker of Minnesota and Ontario’s boundary waters region. Preregistration required by **February 15**.

**Leopold Benches**  
Saturday, March 6  
9:00am-12:00pm  
Help us celebrate Leopold’s influence on our lives and culture by attending this bench-making workshop on Aldo Leopold Weekend. Participants will get pre-sawn lumber and individualized help to create their own bench. Bring it home or donate it back to Hunt Hill (tax-deductible). This program will also include a passive slideshow featuring some of Leopold’s most beloved verses from *A Sand County Almanac*. Preregistration and payment required by **February 19**. $25/bench.

**GOING BACK**  
*Home Brewed Beer*  
Saturday, March 13  
9:00am-1:00pm  
Join Randy, from Viking Brewery, at Hunt Hill to explore the art of beer making. Participants will learn how to create their own brews using the materials provided in the program. Study from a real brewer the do’s and don’ts of beer making so you can begin making your own in no time! Participants need to be over 21 and should bring a bag lunch. Preregistration and payment required by **date**. Call or check online at www.hunthill.org for cost.

**Book Club**  
*Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan  
Thursday, March 18  
5:30pm  
In *The Botany of Desire*, Michael Pollan ingeniously demonstrates how people and domesticated plants have formed a reciprocal relationship. He masterfully links four fundamental human desires—sweetness, beauty, intoxication, and control—with the plants that satisfy them: the apple, the tulip, marijuana, and the potato. This funny, sometimes frightening but always insightful book is sure to capture the attention of people from all ‘desires.’ Preregistration required by **March 15**.

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**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
Lake Management Planning Grant Update
Y.E.S. (Youth Ecology Stewardship) Project

The first year is now complete for the Hunt Hill – WCLRA – LLPA cooperative three-year project to increase youth awareness of the importance of our water resources in northern Wisconsin, with an emphasis placed on Washburn County. These additional 225 students’ and 25 teachers’ participation through fieldtrips to Hunt Hill was made possible through a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and with the support and participation of the Washburn County Lakes & Rivers Association and the Long Lake Preservation Association. With school budget cutbacks and families’ economic hard times, these students would not have otherwise been able to have these great outdoor experiences.

Over 225 students from Birchwood Middle School Grades 6 - 8, Shell Lake Middle School Grade 5, Spooner Elementary Grade 3, and St Frances DeSales (Spooner) Grades 3 - 6 participated in the special fieldtrips this fall. Northwood School (Minong) and St. Joseph’s (Rice Lake) School are already scheduled for this spring.

The final phase of the project is the water-based environmental stewardship projects each class will conduct back in their communities. Through giving back to their communities, it is hoped that students will develop a greater sense of responsibility for protecting all of our water resources.

Plans are underway to apply for second year funding in February, 2010.

Helping Hands 2010

Join others who support Hunt Hill and want to lend a hand as we open up camp for the season. Our volunteers are vital to our success and this is a prime example. All skills, interests and ages are welcome to help us clean, organize and open our facilities. Free lodging is available Friday and Saturday (call to let us know if you need a room) and a free continental breakfast and lunch will be offered on Saturday. After a great day of helping, stick around for a free barn dance! All volunteers are invited to stay Saturday evening for a night of live music and dancing with Duck for the Oyster. This is a great opportunity for families, Scouts and youth to do volunteer work and help us out immensely. You don’t have to be a member to participate and you can work as long or little as you can, all help is welcome and appreciated.
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. Chip could use some help cataloging and shelving the books. Do you know the Dewey Decimal system? Do you have a few afternoons to join Chip or come on your own to help catalog and shelve books? If so, contact Nikki at program@hunthill.org or 715 635 6543 if you can help.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

We couldn’t do it without you! Many thanks to the following folks who have helped us out this late summer and fall taking out the dock, bulk mailing, closing up Nature Store, school educators and at Trail of Myths:

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<th>Maryann Amacher</th>
<th>Charlie Jump</th>
<th>Carlotta Romsos</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Amacher</td>
<td>Steve Gruenhagen</td>
<td>Gene Romsos</td>
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<td>Barron High School Students</td>
<td>Fred Gruenhagen</td>
<td>Charlotte Ross</td>
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<td>Arda Davis</td>
<td>Dan Janisin</td>
<td>Charlotte Snarski</td>
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<td>Anne Drake</td>
<td>Lorna Kology</td>
<td>Bill Stewart</td>
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<td>Shell Lake Girl Scouts</td>
<td>Tony Lyne</td>
<td>Park Taylor</td>
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<td>Michelle Jondreau</td>
<td>Jed Nelson</td>
<td>Mary Thostenson</td>
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Many Ways To Make A Difference For Yourself and Hunt Hill

So many wonderful people for so many years have provided financial contributions, moral support, creativeness, encouragement, volunteer time and effort, or donations of gifts-in-kind or items on our Wish List. Joining and annually renewing your membership provides grassroots support and is always the best way to show your belief in what we’re doing. So, please join us!

Thank you to all of you from the Board, staff, and members of the Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.

Here are even more ways to help. Check with your attorney, accountant, or personal financial advisor for their professional guidance for your situation.

Through planned giving, by deciding now to include Hunt Hill in your estate plans, you may be able to make a big difference now without having to come up with funds immediately.

Here are some of the options available:

- Consider including Hunt Hill as a beneficiary in your will.
- Consider adding Hunt Hill as an additional beneficiary on your life insurance policy.
- Donate land with a retained life estate clause, which would possibly eliminate property taxes and some capital gains taxes, receive a charitable tax deduction, while allowing you to live on the property as long as you wish.
- Do a bargain sale of un-used property for less than its appraised value - it may eliminate mortgage payments, taxes and maintenance costs; and give you a charitable tax deduction.
- Living trusts – give ownership of assets to Hunt Hill, but keep your control of the assets while you’re still alive.
- Donate stocks or other securities.
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
GPS system—6 of the same
Display cabinets for Learning Center
Adult Lifejackets
*Telephone poles or landscape timbers, 4x4s, 4x6s
*DVD player

**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
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