Nikki’s Musings

The end of the summer is always so bittersweet. Knowing we survived another great summer with great staff is sad to leave behind, but the possibilities of time to breathe - and sleep - as well as prepare for next year is exciting.

Our summer saw busy weekdays filled with day camps ranging from Spongebob SquarePlants to Dinosaurs, and weekends bustled by with Cakes at the Lake, weddings and awesome nature programs galore. We had a record camper attendance with one camper signing up for 23 of our 27 camps and were happy to welcome back many familiar faces as youth returned from school programs and previous summers.

Looking ahead to this fall, I am VERY excited about our new programs. In September we will have Stanley Temple, a Senior Fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation and UW-Madison professor speaking about Leopold for our 'Leopold Wild Linner' event. October hosts Nancy Chick and the scary film Wendigo; an Herbal Health program; our Trail of Myths for kids AND a program from survivalist Jason Faunce on building a survival kit. November has the final programs of the season with Mitten Knitting with Madison knitter and spinner Allen Holzhueter and our final book club. Hope to see you all at ALL of these AWESOME programs.....or maybe just a couple!

With the importance of visitor, camper and staff safety in mind, the board agreed to purchase 10 2-way radios for improved communication throughout camp. The radios will ensure much faster reaction time in the cases of bad weather and/or medical emergencies as well as the more common cases of quick communication between staff. Due to the fact that we are spread out over 400 acres of forest, hills and buildings it was important that we purchased high quality, long range radios that could produce clear and reliable contact with staff on all corners of camp. These more powerful radios also came at a higher price and so if you are interested in supporting our efforts to improve camp communications and safety, we are accepting donations towards completing the radio financing, both online (www.hunthill.org) as well as onsite.

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Ramblings from the Hill

When Dawn and I first came to Hunt Hill in 2002 – we knew nothing about Frances Andrews or Hunt Hill. I didn’t know how it started, its historical ties with famous conservationists, the thirty years of National Audubon’s tenure, the Audubon Camp of Wisconsin, the eventual closing of the camp in 1986, the local “Save the Camp” campaign, the organizing of the Friends of Hunt Hill, nor the tremendous pull of Hunt Hill that would develop.

This attraction began with the complex and beautiful natural resources and facilities within the 400+ acres, but it truly came alive when I got to know the people of Hunt Hill. There is so little time and too many people to try to recollect all of them without hurting someone’s feelings; but one in particular comes to mind.

I first met her in the spring of 2002 – I was only a month on the job when I saw a car pull into the parking lot and I went to greet whoever was inside. Little did I know! A small, elderly woman literally jumped out and came almost running across the parking lot with a couple of her friends trying to catch up with her. She had a big smile on her face and stuck out her hand in greeting. She said “My name is Marion – you must be Storme! What a fascinating name. How do you like it at Hunt Hill? Welcome, welcome! (I realize now that’s when I started using the “Hello, hello”). Have you seen the whole camp yet? We can’t stay, but we’ll be back for Helping Hands. How do you like it so far? I hear you like to winter camp. These are my friends Mary and Jim from Minneapolis – can you show them around? I want to sign up for winter camping when you pick a date. What can I tell you about Hunt Hill? How’s your wife – Dawn isn’t it?” And that was just the beginning – feisty she was, and much younger then – only 83.

I had no idea who she was – knew nothing about her, but I could sense she was special. She did come winter camping – our beginning course slept out under the stars at −10°F. She also canoed the Namekagon River, hiked in Dory’s Bog (at age of 85) and brought many new friends every year to Hunt Hill. She never cared about anything for herself but was always worried about others. A gift in her honor, for something nice at Hunt Hill, was declined. Instead she asked for just a little blacktop to replace gravel on the path around the Shower-house, so her 90 year-old friend could more easily get to the bathroom at night with her walker. It was later I learned she was Marion Borell - the heart and soul of the “Save the Camp” campaign. For years they used to have their Board meetings in her living room. For many years, kids came on anonymous scholarships to Hunt Hill camps – her pet project. She convinced the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter to start a scholarship program for sending adults to Hunt Hill adult ecology camps, and she convinced a Peace Corps Reunion group to come to Hunt Hill for a family reunion/retreat.

I learned she was an active supporter of a couple other camps and congratulated her on that. She said “Yes, but none of them can compare to the warm, family feeling of Hunt Hill. This is like my second home. It’s nothing fancy, but people here really care about you.” Shy, unassuming, quiet - how could you not learn from this woman? That simple lesson from Marion was inspiring.

You need to know this: the love, efforts and devotion of so many folks like Marion have kept Hunt Hill going - not NAS, not our Boards of Directors, not our staff. Our Board and staff diligently stay true to Frances’ wishes, but it’s people who are most important - the thousands of volunteers over the years and tens of thousands of work hours that have kept Frances’ dream alive. However, volunteer labor alone won’t keep Hunt Hill growing. New generations must, and do, step forward every year to help.

The challenges change year to year – we all know that. Mistakes are made, disappointments happen and people can get discouraged; but little successes keep you going. Sometimes the little successes build into big

(Continued on page 3)
“Legacy” Planned Giving Information
Available Now

For those of our members and friends who might be able to include our sanctuary in their estate plans for the future, the Board of FOHHAS (Friends of the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc. – a 501(c)(3) non-profit Wisconsin corporation) has developed some information to help answer your questions.

Please request our new Legacy brochure to review with your financial adviser or accountant. Contact us at Hunt Hill 715-635-6543 or on our website www.hunthill.org.

We sincerely want and hope to keep serving families and encouraging young people to reconnect with nature. For the Hunt Hill Sanctuary our future security and ability to offer continuing programs means conserving natural resources, providing programs to meet your families’ interests and needs, and working to provide sound financial security.

Planning for the future is never easy, for you or for Hunt Hill. Our families’ successful futures depend on prudent exploration of all possibilities and that means conservation of resources and assuring your family’s security through tough times. Once that’s accomplished, if you would set aside something to help locally at Hunt Hill, we would be deeply appreciative!

Thank you for your consideration of Hunt Hill in your long-range financial plans.
2010 Annual Meeting

Please try to plan to attend our 2010 Annual Meeting to review the year’s activities, elect new Board members, approve amendments to our Bylaws, see old friends and meet a few new friends, too.

The date is Saturday, Sept. 19 – beginning with our Leopold Celebration’s “Linner” (meal between lunch and dinner) from 3 - 5 pm (Registration for the dinner is $20 per person - deadline is Sept 10th), and followed by the Annual Meeting at 5 pm.

A copy of the current Bylaws and the proposed amendments can be found at:


Programs in September, October and November

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

September

Going Back—Preserving Foods
Thursday, September 9 .................. 5:30pm—8:00pm

Cakes at the Lake—Cranes
Saturday, September 11 .................. 8:00am

Leopold’s Wild Linner
Sunday, September 19 ................. 3:00pm—5:00pm

Friends of Hunt Hill Annual Meeting
Sunday September 19 .................. 5:00pm

October

Treats and a Movie: Freaky Film with Nancy Chick
Friday, October 8 .................. 7:00pm

Going Back—Herbal Health
Saturday, October 9 .................. 9:00—12:00

Trail of Myths
Saturday, October 23 .................. 1:00pm—3:00pm

Build Your Own Survival Kit
Saturday, October 30 .................. 9:00am—3:00pm

November

Going Back—Mittens
Saturday, November 6 .................. 9:00am—3:00pm

Book Club
Thursday, November 18 .................. 5:30pm

New Radios
National Audubon Visits Hunt Hill!

Late August brought a surprise guest visitor to Hunt Hill – a very pleasant surprise. No, it wasn’t a migrant bird sighting. It was the National Audubon Society’s Senior Director of Field Support, David Catlin on his first visit to see how we’re doing up here in northern Wisconsin.

After a very nice get acquainted visit, we gave Dave a tour of the central camp, then he attended our August Board of Directors’ meeting in the Library and finally he stayed the night in the original Andrews’ family cabin up on the hill.

His comments were very, very positive. He especially noted how well-kept the buildings and grounds were – a testament to the hard work of our maintenance staff Larry & Colette Piskie, as well as the support our Board gives them to keep things in such nice shape. He also noticed right away the positive attitudes of staff and Board members, the commitment to our members and volunteers, our outstanding programs and our efforts to prepare for the future.

Mr. Catlin won’t directly make the decisions about if, how and when NAS might turn ownership of the property over to our Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary (FOHHAS), but we believe his positive report on how we’re handling things locally will certainly help. He mentioned that there are many positive lessons Audubon sanctuaries all over the country could learn from us – nice to hear. But we have so much more to do – with all of your help, we’ll continue moving in the right direction.

Summer Staff 2010

We had a wonderful summer 2010 summer staff including three who returned from 2009. We were sad to see them all go off in mid August. Park is headed back to another year at Hayward High School. Kyle is visiting family in Georgia before heading for basic training in Chicago for the Navy. Nikki Rukamp is now settled in at UW-Stevens Point for her first year as a transfer student majoring in wildlife ecology. “I plan on studying hard, participating in spontaneous adventures, and dreaming about my awesome summer at Hunt Hill!” Travis is road tripping the countryside looking for jobs in zookeeping, education and/or animal handling/education. PaHoua just completed a week-long roadtrip to California, stopping in Utah’s Zion National Park. “For the next two fiscal years, I’m working as a Field Science Educator at the Marin Headlands Institute in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a campus of Nature-Bridge that stemmed from Yosemite National Institutes. Here I’ll be teaching 5th and 6th graders about marine and forest ecology, along with the natural history of the area.”
Donations

Our thanks to the following individuals and organizations whose generous contributions since the end of May 2010 help make Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary a success.

Sheila Acker  
Nick Allen  
Arnold and Linda Angeloni  
Victor and Ruth Barela  
Naomi Beardsley  
Jan Bliss  
Ron and Jeanne Brown  
Carol and Don Buckman  
David and Carolyn Cleveland  
Judith Comstock  
Gary and Arda Davis  
Terry and Diane Dorsey  
Diane and Jim Erdman  
Gary and Cathie Erickson  
James and Linda Farrell  
Edwin and Akemi Jackson  
Ann Fox  
Bobbi and Rick Freitag  
Jude Genereaux  
Kyle Green  
Dennis Grivna  
Nancy and Paul Gubrud  
Dale and Kathy Hanson  
Jim and Carol Heim  
Loren and Carrol Hennekens  
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Gus and Marsha Stelzer  
Bill and Katherine Stewart  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Sundeen  
Kenneth Swenson  
Terry and Sharon Tarras  
Park and Carol Taylor  
Linda Thompson  
Lois Whitehorn  
William and Jan Wood  
John Works  
Alan Zimbrick

Kudos and Thanks to Hunt Hill Volunteers

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Wow! We’ve gotten so much accomplished this summer and it’s all our volunteer’s fault. In July UW-Green Bay’s Regional Center for Math and Science group conducted a service project during their stay here. They successfully replaced most of the steps down to the beach. Hooray!

In addition to donations in the form of manual labor, we’ve also had people volunteer to sweat it out in lovely animal costumes for a few local parades! Last but just as important, I’d like to thank all the staff that volunteered extra time this summer. Even with their busy schedules, staff still found time to help each other out, work on extra Hunt Hill projects and take part in the parades. Thanks to everyone!

Thank you to the following who have been our faithful volunteers since the end of May 2010:

Maryann Amacher  
Chris Anderson  
Linda Angeloni  
Donna Barnes-Haesemeyer  
Jan Bliss  
Carolyn and Dave Cleveland  
Gary and Arda Davis  
Gary Dunsmoor  
Ashley Enoch  
Diane Erdman  
Jim Farrell  
Leslie Forrest  
Bobbi Freitag  
Linda George  
Kyle Green  
Dennis Grivna  
Ava Gustafson  
Sarah Halvorson  
Kathy Hanson  
Dale Hanson  
Danny Huff  
Barbara Jaderborg  
Christopher and Tonya Jahnke  
Dan Kevan  
Adam Liegl  
Sue Menzel  
Dawn Nelson  
John Neste  
Lois Nissen  
Taylor Page  
Carlotta and Eugene Romansos  
Wayne Sabatke  
Jessica Schalkowski  
Dian Szublewski  
Dave Seis  
Dawn Shipman  
Charlotte Snarski  
Gus Stelzer  
Bill and Katherine Stewart  
Sharon and Terry Tarras  
Park Taylor  
Linda Thompson  
Mary Thostenson  
Keith Veldhuizen  
William Wood

If we missed you, please let us know for our records and for our next newsletter. Thanks!!
We Need Your Help, Please – Display Birds and Animals for Hunt Hill’s Nature Center

Hunt Hill is fortunate to have wonderful relationships with several area taxidermists who have donated wildlife mounts to Hunt Hill to help educate the public – especially our younger visitors. Our US Fish and Wildlife Migratory Bird permit allows us to use salvaged birds for educational purposes.

However, the taxidermists’ ability to continue donating their time and materials is subject to limitations – we don’t want to wear out our welcome. If you would like to help make more bird or animal specimens possible, we would be thrilled to talk with you.

Right now we have a Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, an Indigo Bunting, a Towhee, a Northern Waterthrush, and a Gray Fox waiting for money to complete the work. Please contact us soon!?!?

Thanks!

Gifts? Think Nature Store

Fall birthday coming up? Need a hostess gift? Want to do some early Christmas shopping? Stop in to our Nature Store before October 15 and do some nature themed shopping. We have great nature oriented stocking stuffers, terrific books, stationery and t’s...all nature oriented. This is a great way to support Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary.

We are open between 9 and 4 weekdays by request...drop by and see what we have to offer.

2010 Eagle Scout Projects At Hunt Hill

Over the years, several groups of young people and adult chaperones attending programs at Hunt Hill have contacted us about doing stewardship projects here to help preserve the camp. They’ll often help remove invasive plants in our prairie or along the roads, or clean brush from along our boundary marker signs, or work in the gardens, or clean up along the hiking trails. All these projects and many others are very welcome youth contributions to improve Hunt Hill for future generations.

Scouting, for both boys and girls, emphasizes the importance of helping others. Hunt Hill was also founded on the idea of helping people - to learn more about nature and how to protect it.

There are several key differences for a boy working on a service project for his Eagle award. Prospective Eagle Scouts must do service projects for groups outside of Scouting. The candidate must plan everything in advance and get approval for the scope of the project. Communication with the organization is a key responsibility. He must gather all the resources and donations of materials for the project – meeting acceptable donation guidelines of the organization as well as Scouting. The Eagle candidate must recruit other workers for the project and give leadership to them, rather than doing the work by himself or with his family alone.

This summer at Hunt Hill, we have already had Scout Matt Smith of Troop 28, Rice Lake, complete a permanent roof structure over the Education Platform out in the middle of our “Prairie.” This will provide rain and sun cover for children and adults doing prairie programs on birds, wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies and invasive plants; as well as a protected space for astronomy programs.

Scout Lucas Henningsen, also of Troop 28, Rice Lake, is just beginning work on five elements of the new Cooperation Course for teambuilding and leadership development at Hunt Hill. He will also be adding an “Eagle’s Nest” tree house for younger visitors to Hunt Hill.

Thanks to these Scouts and all the others in the past too numerous to mention. Other projects await interested Eagle candidates who might wish to contact us. Each of these new projects will add to the wonderful educational experiences that make Hunt Hill such a special place to visit – see you out at Hunt Hill!
Words from Our President of FOHHAS:

What does Hunt Hill do? It is a good question and one that I’m glad to answer. We do a lot and my explanation almost always includes a few words about the Youth Ecology Stewardship (YES) program we share with WCLRA, WDNR and LLPA. But ‘Why’ we do all these programs is an even better question.

Hunt Hill was established as a nature center when the late Francis Andrews donated her family’s farm to the National Audubon Society in 1955. It has functioned since as an environmental education center with residential camps, short seminars and outreach programs. It remains affiliated with National Audubon in name and principles, but is operated completely by our local Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary.

I grew up in Spooner. I thank my parents for a little travel – Yellowstone National Park in our ’58 Mercury – and lot of time in the woods and on the water here. That helped me appreciate where I live. I don’t know why this appreciation is missing in some people.

It crystallized for me a few years ago during a particularly contentious school board meeting. A difficult problem was on the table and I offered a solution, which another guy said was wrong. “What is your solution then?” I asked. “If I was smart enough to figure that out,” he answered, “I wouldn’t have to live in Spooner.” He, for whatever reason, was missing the joy of living in this place.

I suppose he could counter that not only am I too dim to be able to move out, I’m too dim to know I should. Maybe so, but I know some certifiably brilliant people, with the option to go where ever they want, and they want to be here. Sadly, however, there are a number of people who grow up here who lack that spark of appreciation. It is sad for this area and sad for them, I think.

It was my parents, of course, who packed us kids in the car and headed for Montana in July without air-conditioning or Gameboys to subdue us. They were, like many parents, interested in exploring the world and taking the kids there too, but not every parent could or wanted to, then or now. When I graduated in 1972 there was some discussion of a class trip. I remember a little class survey that was conducted at the time. Nearly half of my classmates put down Rice Lake as the biggest city they had ever visited.

We’re a bit more mobile now, but then and now there are homes and situations where there aren’t the resources or inclination to look closely at the world. My opinion, for which I have only a hunch and no data, is that the people who grew up deprived of that exploration are the very ones who don’t appreciate this beautiful spot.

The seminars and day camps at Hunt Hill are great and I hope you sample them. But the mere fact that reading this newsletter, sets you apart as somebody who enjoys this area and hopes to sustain it. I would love to have you also join us and expand both your appreciation and commitment to nature and this area. However, I’m looking past you at a kid in Spooner who cannot imagine there is anything worthwhile in a swamp.

Our Program Director likes to quote Baba Dioum who so aptly said, "In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; we will understand only what we are taught."

The YES Program teaches a great deal to all the kids who attend, but most importantly to those kids who were not otherwise going to get such a chance. Certainly people move in to and move out of our area, yet a generation hence these kids are going to be the county supervisors, contractors, school board members, grader drivers, judges, entrepreneurs and – not least – parents who populate our communities.

Instilling an appreciation of place in our youth and their families strikes me as the best thing possible that we might do for them and the environment. I should end on that note - how YES is at the heart of Hunt Hill’s intensely local concern for both the people and place, but there is a bit more. We cannot do it alone. To pretend we can, or that we are the only ones who care, is wrong and counter-productive. Sharing this responsibility with other organizations that also want to make things better right here and right now, as a way of making things better in the unpredictable future, is the best answer; and the YES Project is such an answer to that question of why.

William Stewart, President
Friends of the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.
We wish we had...

MACHINERY
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
Display cabinets for Learning Center
Adult Lifejackets
*Telephone poles or landscape timbers, 4x4s, 4x6s
*DVD/VCR 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
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
Garden sculpture: metal, wood or tin