Nikki’s Musings

This spring season has been quite an exciting one. We’ve been very lucky to have more schools visiting us than ever before. We topped out at 20 school groups and over 1000 students this spring! The weather held up well for outdoor activities and our educators have been really wonderful. Returning for another season of school group education were: Charlotte Snarski, Colleen Johnson, Michelle Jondreau, PaHoua Lee and Anitta Anderson. New to our school educator staff were: Carmen Halvorson, Travis VanBeek (a summer staff), Sharon Johnson, Kyle Green (a returning summer staff) and Toby Clark. Thanks to all of you for a great school season!

This summer, we are very lucky to have returning to our summer staff: Park Taylor, PaHoua Lee and Kyle Green. A returning staff from the late 90’s, Travis VanBeek will also be joining our summer staff and we are happy to welcome our newest team member, Nikki Rukamp! You can read about each of our educators later in this newsletter. Day camps, for this summer, will be starting a week later than normal, but run through the middle of August; old favorites will be returning: Frog and Salamanders, Survival, Dinosaurs and Rocks, but we are excited to introduce some new programs: SpongeBOG SquarePLANTS, Peg-leg Pirates, Water Wonderland, Reptiles and many more.

We are also in the process of establishing a Volunteer Junior Counselor program. Our Junior Counselor program is open to youth ages 13-17 and allows them to volunteer. In the process they get real job experience while also helping provide extra coverage during our day camp programs. Junior Counselors will receive training on June 21st and have the flexibility to pick the camps they would like to help with. During camp, Junior Counselors are assigned a group of campers to oversee and also assist the Environmental Educators in set up, swim time, crafts and general camp procedures. They are an important part of our team and will at the end of the summer, upon request and successful participation, receive letters of recommendation from the Executive Director and/or Program Director. This is a great opportunity to have fun while beefing up resumes and college application forms.

We have a lot of new programs this summer and hope you’ll consider joining us often this summer!
Ramblings from the Hill

Now that summer is well underway here at Hunt Hill, it may be time to do a little introspection for all of us. It’s always fun to re-evaluate where we are, how we got here, where we want to go, and what it will take to keep us on track - to be truly successful.

At Hunt Hill, all of our programs and efforts are focused on our mission to preserve the Hunt Hill Sanctuary, to use it to help families and individuals understand more about the environment, to help people appreciate nature and to protect it.

The real key is that last part about protecting it. We enjoy when people visit us, have a great experience, learn something new about the outdoors, make new friends and then come back for more; but have your experiences at Hunt Hill changed your behavior?

Or is it business as usual – “that’ll never work,” “it’s not worth the effort,” “they can’t make me do that,” “what difference is it going to make,” “it’s my money – I’ll do what I want,” “let some one else worry about that,” “I don’t have the time,” “who cares,” “I’ve done it that way my whole life, and I’m not going to change now,” “it’s all a big scam.” We’ve all heard the excuses before.

Do you do anything differently now about protecting nature? Do you – reduce your consumption, reuse things, recycle more, use fewer chemicals around your yard, plant for wildlife, protect the water, take more wildlife or nature photos, go for hikes, spend more time outdoors with your children or grandchildren, reduce your carbon footprint, use fewer power tools, encourage sustainable practices, buy local foods, look for Energy Star ratings on electronic goods purchased, have a rain garden, make your thoughts known to your political representatives?

Now’s the right time to step up your assistance for Mother Nature - that’s when Hunt Hill will be truly successful.

Storme

Birchwood students (YES Grant program) protecting storm drains
New Washburn County Bluebird Efforts

Bluebird restoration efforts in Wisconsin, and many other states across the country, have been going on for several decades since the decline of Bluebirds was first noticed. Human environmental impacts, chief of which was a drop in the numbers of old fence posts and trees with hollow cavities where Bluebirds nest and raise their young, almost caused their extinction.

The decline in many areas, especially Wisconsin, has been reversed through the efforts of a different group of humans - interested individuals, businesses and organizations doing major Bluebird recovery work. Wisconsin leads the nation (see chart), thanks primarily to BRAW – the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin – and its hundreds of volunteers over the years. However, much more remains to be done.

Storme Nelson, Executive Director of the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Sarona has just been named as the new 2010 Bluebird Coordinator for Washburn County.

His job will be to:
• educate interested people about successful Bluebird recovery techniques
• find and visit prospective new Bluebird Trail sites
• encourage new Bluebird houses and trails in Washburn County to be developed by individual property owners
• report results to BRAW

So, why are Bluebird restoration efforts so important? They help the Eastern Bluebird to survive. Bluebird populations dropped almost 90% and a nation-wide effort was launched to help them survive. This also benefited other native, cavity-nesting songbirds (Black-capped Chickadees, House Wrens, Tree Swallows, Flycatchers). It’s a fun and educational way for children and families to learn more about environmental responsibility. Monitoring a Bluebird trail, or even just one or two nest boxes, will bring your family together working on a meaningful project. It’s also another sustainable way for native birds to help control insect populations. Bluebirds are beautiful, tolerant of human contact and are very loyal, parental role models.

Hunt Hill has a Bluebird Trail developed and monitored by volunteers over many years. In 2008, Hunt Hill invited BRAW Vice President Kent Hall, Ph.D. to visit, evaluate it and make suggestions for improved

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The production of Bluebirds at Hunt Hill. **Adopting all of the BRAW suggestions meant an increase** from 30 baby Bluebirds to 80 successfully fledging in just the first year!

The **most important Bluebird trail improvements** were:

- location, location, location - reducing the number of houses from around 60 down to 25 by spacing them further apart (100 - 150 yards minimum) which reduced territorial fighting stresses
- placing all nest boxes out in wide open spaces with lots of sunshine and no brush to hide predators around the nest boxes and mounting poles also reduced stress on the parent birds
- adding perching poles to ease the parent Bluebirds’ insect food hunting – reduced difficulty of hunting and allowed the parent birds to better feed their chicks
- adding more effective predator guards on the mounting poles – reduced mortality on chicks and adult Bluebirds both
- providing short grass for easier preying on insects – reduced difficulties in hunting
- covering vent holes early in the season to help protect babies from cold, wet weather – reduced mortality of chicks
- opening vent holes in the heat of summer reduced heat problems in the nest boxes
- turning nest box openings to face the east or southeast to keep out cold winds – reduced mortality
- access to a consistent water source for drinking and bathing was also very helpful
- weekly monitoring of each nest box and checking on progress of the young helped to avoid any serious problems, while also confirming accuracy on the number of birds successfully fledged.

You, too can get involved – by yourself or with other family members. Contact Hunt Hill if you have an interest and would like to learn more.

**IDEAL LOCATIONS:** Any expanses of short, mown, sparse, grassy, open area (like golf courses, cemeteries, boulevards, school grounds, etc.) are potential site for one or more nest boxes. The larger the area, the more nest boxes it would be possible to install.

NEW at Spanish Immersion

We are proud to welcome our NEW Spanish Immersion Camp Director Patricia Cade. As a former educator under both Victor and Marco and currently working within the Spanish Immersion school system in Minneapolis, Patricia brings a new enthusiasm, professionalism and devotion to the mission and success of our camp. This year’s camp will have an emphasis on teacher-student interactions, immersion, evening cultural activities and as always will be a great time! Week One, August 8-13 will be focused towards Beginners and Intermediate Language Learners while Week Two, August 15-20 will be focused towards Intermediate and Advanced Language Learners. If we do not meet our minimum of 12 participants in week one, week one will be consolidated into week two and the curriculum will broaden while still holding a high standard of learning for all levels. Daily classes will focus on the spoken language and dependent on the level, written language, include varied instruction, environmental breaks at lunch, more classes in the afternoon and then evening programs on cultural topics. Cost of camp is $475 and includes ethnic meals, snacks, lodging-shared room, staff and program supplies. Registrations are due by July 23rd.
Nicole Rukamp

I recently completed my first year at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. This fall, I will attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, pursuing a degree in wildlife ecology. I live with my parents and two older siblings in a rural township south of Barron, Wisconsin and graduated from Barron High School in 2009.

In high school, I became active in the National FFA Organization and Conservation Club. These two activities helped foster my love for the outdoors and nature. After college and graduate school, I hope to become a Wildlife Biologist and work for the Department of Natural Resources or the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

I love any and all activities that happen in the great outdoors. I particularly enjoy running, hiking, camping, and snowshoeing. I am super excited to spend this summer at Hunt Hill and am looking forward to getting my Keens dirty! I can’t wait to meet everyone, so don’t be afraid to come up and chat!

Travis VanBeek

I'm originally from Sarona just up the road from Hunt Hill but recently moved back home from Gainesville Florida. While I was in Florida I went back to school and received a degree in Zoology from the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo. I also have a degree in Mechanical Design from WITC in Rice Lake WI. Some of my hobbies include camping, hiking, fishing, working on old cars, paintball, computers and hand raising a variety of reptiles. I worked and volunteered at Hunt Hill for several summers many years ago and enjoyed it so much I thought as long as I was back home I would come out and work again this summer. I'm looking forward to the RCMS group from Green Bay. They have always been my favorite group to work with since I started at Hunt Hill and I am glad to see they still come out every year.

Kyle James Green

My name is Kyle James Green. I've lived in the Chetek area for about ten years now and graduated from Chetek High School in 2008. I enjoyed wrestling and football in school. I spent three semesters at Minnesota State University Mankato studying business and learning how to fly. My favorite hobbies include hunting, fishing, swimming, running, dancing, cooking, climbing trees, teaching, woodworking, hiking, camping, canoeing and of course working at Hunt Hill! I spent last summer working as an environmental educator at Hunt Hill and it was an amazing experience that I couldn't wait to do again this summer! I'm very excited to get a chance to educate kids about nature and show them all the wonderful sights, sounds and activities that can be found at Hunt Hill. I'm really looking forward to another great summer!!!

(Continued on page 6)
PaHoua Lee

I'm from Green Bay, WI, and received my Bachelor of Science in English and Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I'm the 4th youngest of 11 children and I have 4 nieces and 3 nephews. In my free time, I enjoy knitting, crocheting, hiking, camping, and canoeing. I just spent the last 9 months working as a naturalist in a residential outdoor education program in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California. There I taught 5th and 6th graders about organic gardening, redwood forests, and marine ecology.

I'm excited to return for another season as a Hunt Hill summer educator and as Long Lake Preservation Association's summer intern! I'm looking forward to seeing campers return from last summer, and I'd like to see new faces as well!

Park Taylor

All winter I have reflected on the great fun we had at Hunt Hill last summer. I look forward to meeting new campers and renewing acquaintances with those who attended last year. When a young person can learn about Nature while being out in the natural world I believe this creates an indelible connection with the environment. I have felt this bond and have bonded with Hunt Hill because I am now happily serving on the board of directors. This summer at camp will be exceptional! See you there.

Programs in June, July, August

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

June

Neighbor’s Open House
Thursday, June 10................................. 5:30pm

Swedish Language and Culture Camp
Adult Residential Camp.....................June 13-17

GRANDparent Adventures
Campfire Songs and Stories
Wednesday, June 16..............1:00pm - 4:00pm
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

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

Lifeguard Training
Thursday, June 24-Sunday June 27.

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

August

Teen Adventure Camp
Monday, August 2-Thursday, August 5

Howl, Growl, Hiss Day Camp
Monday, August 2
Bats, Birds, Bugs...Oh My! Day Camp  
Tuesday, August 3

World Wildlife Adventure Day Camp  
Wednesday, August 4

Nature Explorers Day Camp  
Thursday, August 5

Fiesta Fun Day Camp  
Friday, August 6

Enjoying the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northern Wisconsin  
Saturday, August 7  
11am—12:30pm

Fantastic Flowers Day Camp  
Tuesday, August 10

GRANDparents Adventure—Canoeing  
Wednesday, August 11 1:00pm

Claws, Quills and Fangs Day Camp  
Thursday, August 12

Grill at the Hill—The Joy of Mushrooms  
Thursday, August 12 5:30pm

Spanish Immersion—Beginners to Intermediate  
Sunday, August 8—Friday, August 13

Cakes at the Lake—Spectacular Spiders  
Saturday, August 14  
8:00am Breakfast  10:00am Program

Spanish Immersion—Intermediate to Advanced  
Sunday, August 15—Friday, August 20

Bog Boardwalk Refurbishing at Hunt Hill  
Nearing Completion!

The Board, Facilities Committee and members of Hunt Hill are proud to announce major progress in rebuilding the Bog Boardwalk on the main property of Hunt Hill, on the south shore of Lower win Lake.

Since the beginning of the Friends of Hunt Hill, the bog boardwalk has provided fun fieldtrips for young and old alike by introducing folks to bogs at the up close and personal level. Over the years of use, however, the deck boards and stringers underneath shifted, or deteriorated or, in many cases, finally gave way.

A donor (Thanks, Walt Reul!) came forward last year with new white oak, cut to extra thick planks, posts and beams to get us started on the project. The 5’ wide walkway has been replaced now, and the final portion of the building project will be a new 10’ wide educational platform with benches at the end of the boardwalk. Hunt Hill educators will be able to gather learners around to hear the stories of the formation of the glacial lakes, bogs, their unique characteristics and the strange, beautiful bog inhabitants. The platform will be elevated only a few inches above the bog for up-close investigations.

A floating bog mat walkway will allow only Hunt Hill Educator-led groups of visitors all the way out to the edge of the floating portion of the bog for an extra special experience.

We hope you have a chance to come and visit our bog!
Thanks to Our Volunteers

We couldn’t do it without you!! Many thanks to the following folks who have helped us out this year preparing bulk mailings, presenting programs, being Ambassadors to programs, preparing materials for programs, doing maintenance work, baking, tending our trails and sharing ideas.

Maryann Amacher
Chris Anderson
Eva Apelqvist
Sue and Scott Ballantyne
Bartholomay Family
Jan Bliss
Donnarac Carrell
Troy and Thor Benham
Jake Cerra
Carolyn Cleveland
Gary Davis
Linda George
Dennis Grivna
Kathy Hanson
Carol Heim
Keri Jensen
Charlie Jump
Dan Kevan
King Family
Rachel Larson
Randy Lee

Mary Nelson
Jed Nelson
Dawn Nelson
John and Judy Neste
Lois Nissen
Cader Olive
Carol Oosterhuis
Taylor Page
Russ Parker
Lanie Paymar
Carlotta and Eugene Romsos
Walt Reul
Janine Rueter
Wayne Sabatke
Laura Sandstrom
Jessica Schalkowski
Hans Schmidt

Lewis Family
Tony Lyne
Diane Melnarik
Sue Menzel
Mary Nelson
Kevin Schoessow
Doug Schuebel
Dave Seis
Pat Shifferd
Charlotte Snarski
Gus and Marsha Stelzer
William Stewart
Karissa Swenson
Park Taylor
Linda Thompson
Sue Tollander
Travis VanBeek
Keith Veldhuisen
Craig Walkey
Lois Whitehorn
Chip Wood
Americorps Volunteers
Gloria Vonasek

Donations

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

Gary and Arda Davis
Barb Emerson
Fortnightly Club of Rice Lake
Richard, Marcia & Cindy Grand
Kevin and Ruth King

Randy Lee—Viking Brewery
Lieblers at Rollingwood Nursery
Taylor Page
Gus and Marsha Stelzer
Lucy Tyrrell

Neighborhood Open House
June 11

Come out to Hunt Hill and join our Board of Directors and staff for an Open House get together for all neighbors of Hunt Hill beginning at 5:30pm and continuing to dusk. Bring a snack to pass, if you wish. Beverages will be provided. Tours of buildings and grounds will be available. Hang out around the campfire after meeting and eating. RSVPs requested but NOT required.
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:
Rice Lake Aquafest – June 20
Spooner Rodeo – July 10
Haugen —August 8

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

By the time you receive this newsletter the Nature Store will be spruced up and stocked up and ready for shopping. Stop in and see the merchandise from new suppliers - books, balls, cards (some with English and Spanish), games, jewelery, puzzles, tshirts - all with a nature theme and many with Hunt Hill logo identification. There are many items to charm youngsters and keep them busy - as well as gift items.

Birds flying into your windows and being stunned? New this year are window alert decals which warn birds.

We have some wonderful CD’s with bird sounds, notepaper, origami kits, kaleidoscopes, stickers and tattoos. Everything is reasonably priced. Come explore the Nature Store. There are always new books and merchandise to help educate and appreciate the natural world around us.

![Window Decals available in Nature Store](image)

**Thank You To Theresa Sigmund for Perennial Flowers**

A wonderful lady just gave permission to Hunt Hill (and her many, many friends) to gather perennials from her spectacular gardens along Devils Lake Road, Town of Madge. Her ability to manage her large gardens has suffered from advancing age.

She stated that she was so happy to know that all, or most, of “her plants” would be finding new homes to carry on – spreading their joy and beauty to others.

Colette, Larry, Carlotta and Storme went about three weeks ago with shovels and buckets to collect flowers for the garden beds around the Barn Dining Hall, the Farmhouse and the Hunt Hill sign by Cross Dorm. Please stop by to see and appreciate the beautiful yellow lilacs, bleeding hearts, irises, columbine, peonies, lilies, hyacinths, tulips, phlox, lupines, poppies and so many others.

This will be a treasured addition to the grounds at Hunt Hill for generations to come. Thank you for sharing your “gift” with us, Theresa.

**Hunt Hill Volunteer Fundraising Committee Introduces Planned Giving Brochure**

Many folks have asked about ways to make gifts to Hunt Hill to assure and expand our environmental education work far into the future. Besides outright gifts (appreciated stocks, actual needed items or cash), or naming Hunt Hill as an additional beneficiary on your life insurance policy, or donating land, many defer gifts through one of the options generally grouped together as “planned giving.”

Our new Hunt Hill “LEGACY” brochure will highlight the long-term needs at Hunt Hill, propose some solutions you may wish to consider, and offer ways to guide your decision-making. It’s a beautiful, thoughtful brochure telling the wonderful story of making a difference for future generations.

We hope you will request a copy . . . and share it with your friends. The Friends of Hunt Hill thank you!
We wish we had…

MACHINERY
*Walk behind trail trimmer
Skid steer/bobcat
Four wheeler for hauling

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

TOOLS
Loppers, pruning shears
Shovels
Deepwell sockets
Bench grinder
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
Garden Sculpture—concrete, metal, etc
Sun or shade perennial plants

BUILDINGS
New 9V batteries
*Compact fluorescent bulbs (75 or 100 watts)
Wooden porch swing
New/new condition area rugs- 6x9 or 9x12