

# The Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.

## Annual Report

*1989 to 2008*



The Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.  
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The Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary  
Owned by the National Audubon Society  
Managed locally by  
The Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.

## **Our Mission:**

“Hunt Hill is a wildlife preserve and learning center, open to all, dedicated to fostering understanding, appreciation, and protection of the environment.”

## **2008 Board Highlights:**

2008 will go down IN HISTORY as the beginning of an exciting new era of programming for Hunt Hill, with the hiring of new Program Director Nikki Nelson. Additionally, it was a year of very active participation of Board members in the day-to-day operations of the camp, great membership growth, expanded partnership building, new and exciting opportunities for involvement in our area communities, financial growth in spite of economic downturns, a refocusing on the future direction for Hunt Hill, and addressing current environmental issues head-on.

### **1. Partnership building with:**

- support for UW-GB's continuation of their Upward Bound Program at Hunt Hill
- Northwest Wisconsin Regional Food Network on SoupStock II
- growth of partnerships with: UW-Stevens Point, UW-Barron Co., UW-Stout, UW-Eau Claire, WITC, LCO College, and Northland College
- new scholarships from Cumberland Kiwanis, Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter, Spooner Kiwanis, and the Long Lake Preservation Association
- we held first “Neighbors’ Open House” at Hunt Hill with almost 50 attending
- working with Treehaven (UW-SP) on a new National Science Foundation project

### **2. Financial stability**

- earlier budget approval process
- third “Evening For Hunt Hill” fundraising event coming in October
- a focus on foundation grant writing - with over twenty new foundations contacted
- healthy 2008 budget

### **3. Protection/sustaining of Hunt Hill itself**

- negotiating on the Schultzs’ property acquisition across Audubon Road to the south
- first prairie burn in 8 years – thanks to DNR-Spooner
- completion of the transfer of the Schricker tract to the Beaver Brook Wildlife Area
- pursuing the transfer of ownership of Hunt Hill from the National Audubon Society back to our local non-profit Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.

### **4. Education on current issues**

- emphasis on sustainability efforts at Hunt Hill itself
- Cakes-At-the-Lake program on colony collapse disorder of bees
- purple loosestrife beetle rearing
- timber wolves in northern Wisconsin
- support of local food producers
- work with NW WI Regional Plan Commission on sustainability and recycling
- citizen science programs expanded to include: crane count, state-wide salamander survey, and the sturgeon watch at Arpin Dam near Radisson, WI

### **5. New program efforts:**

- selected Nikki Nelson as new Program Director out of 21 applicants
- new outreach program with Washburn Co. Lakes & Rivers Association (WCLRA) and Kevin McMullin
- see rest of details in the “Programs 2008” portion of this report

## Land

FOHHAS, Inc. currently is responsible for managing land totaling 513 acres. Approximately 180 acres are designated part of the State Natural Area. The Hunt Hill property includes 12 buildings. There are almost ten miles of trails and two foot bridges. Future changes in the land holdings are being pursued and additional land buffers around the core property of Hunt Hill will hopefully be acquired to prevent development too close to Hunt Hill. New State Natural Area signs have been put up along our road to show people which areas are included

## Programs 2008

2008 has been a busy year! We started the year off with a winter camping program, which happened to be on one of the coldest nights of this year! After the success of winter camping, (there were about 39 participants), we followed with a wolf tracking program that brought 21 people together for a day of exploring way up north. A series of bad weather brought us much lower numbers for our Egg Hunt and Arbor Day events (however, now we are already preparing for next year!) The spring quickly picked up as we hosted 14 school groups. Thanks to the Long Lake Preservation Association Scholarship, 3 of those groups were able to come. This summer was successful and very busy as we juggled summer camps, Upward Bound groups, a summer school program and various activities for other organizations. We ran 14 single-day day camps and 2 week long camps this year, with Rock Collectors camp being the most popular. Three Upward Bound groups, UW-Stout and UW-Green Bay's RCMS, stayed with us in July and UW-BC/LCO in June. Cakes at the Lake saw a huge boom this summer as we topped the pancake charts with 500 people being served. With the help and direction of Eva Apelqvist we ran our first Swedish Immersion camp in June. In our second year of running Spanish Camp on our own, we saw a doubling of enrollment and were able to run all three weeks of camp. We have also contracted a few school groups for this fall as well as beginning to spread the word on our new Outreach Programs.

Program Name	2008 (Camper Days/Attendance)	2007 (Camper Days/Attendance)
Summer Camps	512	416
Schools	1217	1234
Programs	190	110
Contracted	1394	1549
Cakes at the Lake Series	1055	953
Total	4313	4262

## Program Staff

One of the most important reasons our school programs and summer camps were successful was due to the amazing educators we had for 2008. School educators included: Shawn Tisdell, Chip Wood, Jan Bliss, John and Judy Neste, Gary and Arda Davis, Sue Menzel, Charlotte Snarski, Cheryl Pippin, Cody Myers, Molly Raben, Gerry Garrison, Bailey Woodruff, Park Taylor, Margo Cuskey, Keith Trembath, Dennis Grivna, and Alex Bezzerides.

Our summer staff was made up of five bright and enthusiastic educators: Bailey Woodruff, from LeSueur MN, and Cody Myers, from Spooner, continued on from the spring to join our summer team; we also had Jessica Pettersson, from Sweden, return for a second summer. Jillian Bjorklund from Red Wing, MN, joined our team from UW-Stevens Point. Finally, Amber Mealman joined us from Northland College. We certified all summer staff through the Red Cross program for CPR, Lifeguarding, and 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, and had on the spot lifeguards for all our summer programming. Our language camp instructors included Eva Apelqvist, Margaret Dorer and Jessica Pettersson for Swedish; Marco Mena, Bianca Pinske, Luis Gatgens, Patricia Amparo Manrique, Carla Belistri, Dago Sepulveda and Doris Cade.

## Fall 2008 Upcoming Fall Events

October 11, 2007 Trail of Myths noon to 4 p.m.

## Membership

As of September 15, 2008, there was an increase of 2 members from 2007 to 2008. (375 in 2007 and 377 in 2008). Our membership contains a geographical mix of 73% Wisconsin, 12% Minnesota and 15% other (CA, CO, FL, IA, IL, IN, MO, MT, ND, NH, OH).

## 2008 BOARD MEMBERS

Wayne Sabatke, President	Tracy Mofle
Nick Allen, Vice President and Facilities Chair	John Neste
Jan Bliss, Secretary and Fundraising Chair	Carlotta Romsos
Adam Liegl, Treasurer and Finance Chair	Linda Thompson, Membership Chair
Carolyn Cleveland	Tracy White
Tim McRaith, Program Chair	William "Chip" Wood
Sue Menzel	John Works

## COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS (not Board or Staff)

*Website:* Nancy Chick      *Finance:* Vicki Shaffer      *Legal:* Katherine Stewart

*Program:* Alex Bezzerides, Cary Komoto, Nancy Chick      *Facilities:* Larry Piskie

## Staff 2008

### Executive Director

Storme Nelson

### Program Coordinator

Nikki Nelson

### Office Manager

Karen Kress

### Maintenance Team

Larry Piskie  
Colette Piskie

### Cooks

Erik Severson  
Barbara Stern  
Bonnie Johnson (volunteer)

### Volunteer Educators

Chris Cold  
Arda and Gary Davis  
Greg Hill  
Park Taylor  
Chip Wood  
Jan Bliss  
Judy and John Neste  
Dennis Grivna  
Alex Bezzerides

Bailey Woodruff  
Jessica Pettersson

### School Educators

Charlotte Snarski  
Cheryl Pippin  
Cody Myers  
Bailey Woodruff  
Molly Raben  
Gerry Garrison  
Park Taylor  
Margo Cuskey  
Sue Menzel  
Joan Jacobowski  
Shawn Tisdell

Jerry Wacek  
Keith Trembath

### Contract Educators

Terry Dorsey  
Marco Mena  
Eva Apelqvist  
Bianca Pinske  
Luis Gatgens  
Patricia Amparo Manrique  
Carla Belistri  
Dago Sepulveda  
Doris Cade  
Margaret Dorer

### Seasonal

Amber Mealman  
Jillian Bjorklund  
Cody Myers



Standing: Storme Nelson, Colette Piskie, Jillian Bjorklund, Erik Severson.  
 Sitting: Cody Myers, Bailey Woodruff, Larry Piskie, Jessica Pettersson, Nikki Nelson, Karen Kress, Amber Mealman

## Our 2008 Volunteers

(as of September 15, 2008)

Nick Allen	Tony Lyne	Victor Sacco
Paul Amacher	dee Martin	Jaci Sacco
Maryann Amacher	Janine McNulty	Jacob Sacco
Irene Asp	Tim McRaith	Aaron Sacco
Waldo Asp	Sue Menzel	Sue Schroeder
Jan Bliss	Tracey Mofle	Dave Seis
Cecilia Brierton	Jonah Mofle-Bisonette	Erik Severson
Nancy Chick	Storme Nelson	Park Taylor
Carolyn Cleveland	Judy Nelson	Linda Thompson
Margo Cuskey	Dawn Nelson	Mary Thostenson
Arda Davis	Mary Nelson	Amanda Wells
Gary Davis	Jed Nelson	Tracy White
Georgia Dettmers	John Neste	Helen White
Ann Drake	Judy Neste	Anna White
Betty Dreis	Nancy Neumann	William Wood
Bob Dreis	Anna Neumann	John Works
Judy Fischer	Lois Nissen	Students Winter
Bev Grocke	Doug Olson	Students Barron
Katie Haines	Colette Piskie	
Greg Hill	Haleigh Rafalski	
John Hughes	Dakota Robinson	
Bonnie Johnson	Krys Robinson	
Charlie Jump	Carlotta Romsos	
Lorna Kology	Eugene Romsos	
Adam Liegl	Janine Rueter	
Renae Lloyd	Wayne Sabatke	

Our apologies if we missed anyone who did not sign in as a volunteer at the events.

**Over 95 volunteers and 1280 hours worked through September! Thank you!**

## 2008 Year to Date Budget Summary

As of August 31, 2008

Total Income	\$186,649.70	Total Expense	\$135,215.34
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Income/Loss \$21,507.21

Current Assets \$176,629.98

**In Kind Donations** (Gifts & Services)

Maryann Amacher	Karen Kress	Bruce and Sara Qualey
Ardis Amundson	Kevin McMullin	Christine and Dan Rice
David and Carolyn Cleveland	Marco Mena	Don and Linda Ruedy
Bob and Betty Dreis	Roger and Nancy Nash	Marilyn Vig
Bonnie Johnson	Mary Nelson	

**Donations of Funds**

Arnold and Linda Angeloni	Robert Fortenbaugh	Peter Martin – Lakeville Motor Express
Michele Byron & David Bihrl	Fortnightly Club	Minnesota River Valley Audubon
Austen and Cynthia Cargill	Andy and Sarah Freeman	Wayne and Barb Sabatke
Centurytel	Jessie Gerteis	Linda Thompson
David and Carolyn Cleveland	Grand Foundation	William and Jan Wood
Cumberland Women’s Club	Burnell and Paulette Hanson	Xcel Energy
Terry and Diane Dorsey	Jim and Carol Heim	
Angie and George Farrell	Judy and Lee Jacobson	
James and Linda Farrell	Cumberland Kiwanis	
Akemi Fischer		

**Memorial Donations**

Cora and Bill Noble in memory of Evelyn Davis  
Gus and Marsha Stelzer in memory of Phyllis Schieffer  
Larry and Colette Piskie in memory of Darlys Theos

**Scholarships and Grants**

Long Lake Preservation Association	Tracey Mofle
Minnesota River Valley Audubon	WCLRA – pending scholarship school program

**Endowment**

Donations to Endowment Fund in 2007 totaled \$10. Donations in 2008 totaled \$75 from Jessie Gerteis in honor of John Works. Total endowment value as of August 31, 2008 is \$14,397.91.