Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary’s
2023 Annual Report

Friends of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary
Annual Report for 2023

From the Director

It’s been another incredible year here at Hunt Hill!

As you will see within this report, we’ve seen program participation rise back to our pre-Covid numbers! We continue to have incredible support from our volunteers, sponsors and donors. We continue to create a sanctuary that preserves, respects and makes accessible the incredible diversity and beauty of this amazing place to the public.

In addition to what we’ve highlighted within this report, I want to take a moment to share a few other highlights of the year:

- **New Building** - Of course I have to mention our new amazing building, made possible because of the generosity of Marcia Grand and Dave and Carolyn Cleveland. A dedicated committee of volunteers worked for nearly 2 years to plan for and support the creation of the building. This included: Tom Vonasek, Carolyn Cleveland, Sage Dunham, Nick Allen, and Mike Harvey. Special thanks to the many talented individuals involved in making this project a reality and special thanks to Monarch paving for donating our new walking path.

- **Land Use Ad Hoc Committee** - This ad hoc committee was formed at the end of 2022 to “review existing land and facility projections, from such sources as the Long Range Planning Committee (2015), Strategic Planning (2021), current Building Committee discussions, historical documents, as well as input from existing standing committees to create an umbrella plan to harmonize land and buildings with Hunt Hill’s mission.” This group has put in a lot of time and effort to gather, review and summarize the findings, and it has been a pleasure to rediscover information about the property.

- **Great New Addition** - Each year I think, “It can’t get better than this...” and somehow it does! Marissa joined our team at the start of our busiest season and not only survived, but completely dominated at every activity and challenge that came her way. She led a talented team of summer staff and at the end of the summer received some of the best staff evaluations I’ve ever seen. We are so lucky to have her join our team as Program Coordinator!

- **Great Internet** - It FINALLY happened! After years of struggling through slow and unreliable internet, we received a Starlink unit to get us through until we were able to successfully connect to fiber internet in November. We look forward to better productivity, improved sanity and to sharing this improvement with our guests.

Nikki Janisin

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Director’s Message
- Accomplishments
- New Building
- By the Numbers
- Programs & Special Events
- Contracted Programs & Rentals
- Staff & Board
- Volunteers
- Donors
- Donors & Sponsors

A Special Thanks

This year a lot of time was spent on finishing up our new Visitor Center and Shower Building as well as getting moved and settled into the new space. I want to give an extra huge thank you to Carolyn Cleveland who was here every single day helping with all aspects of this big transition.

Not only was she a financial supporter of the building, but she was here every day lugging bins from the farmhouse basement to the new building basement, decorating the new building, organizing the entire basement, designing our furniture, cooking fresh donuts on our open house, and so much more. Thank you Carolyn!
Notable News in 2023

July
- month we were able to move into the new Visitor Center - Office - Shower House.

1.5 days Hunt Hill’s WI Master Naturalist Course was open before registration filled!

April
- month we welcomed Marissa to join the Hunt Hill team as Program Coordinator.

Blue
- blazes now mark our trails to help visitors find their way.

28% increase in funds raised at the Golf Scramble compared to 2022.

12 chairs built and donated by Royal Credit Union and RBM Construction.

Dave
- the eagle was released at Hunt Hill in honor and memory of Dave Cleveland.

3 barred owls mounted in an award winning display and donated to Hunt Hill.

Our New Building

Visitor Center, Offices, Storm Shelter, Laundry, Showers and Public Restrooms

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Marcia Grand and Dave and Carolyn Cleveland we were able to design and build a new building! Construction started in September of 2022 and occupancy of the building began in July of 2023. This new building addresses a long list of needs we had, including:

- A Visitor Center that is accessible and features nature displays and visitor information,
- Offices to accommodate our growing staff,
- Basement area to serve as a safer and more centrally located storm shelter,
- Climate-controlled sick room
- Laundry facilities that are accessible,
- Shower and changing facilities that are more secure and accessible,
- Public Restrooms that could be operated year round, and
- Dry storage for our archives and files.

Other features of the building include: a freeze-proof water fountain and bottle filler for visitor use year round, shower house walls covered in the wood salvaged from the old shower house, year round all gender bathroom, and local business work and pieces featured throughout.

All of these accomplishments are made possible thanks to the support of our volunteers, staff, membership and community!
By the Numbers

2023 Membership Distribution

78% of members are located in Wisconsin

12% of members are located in Minnesota

*Formula based on 3 individuals per family, all other membership levels counted as singles.

Circles on the map indicate the states where members reside. The larger the circle, the more members we have in that state.

Budget and Income Overview

Unrestricted Income Sources

As of September 30, 2022

Budget Summary

Assets - Liabilities = Equity
$8,169,115 - $9,219 = $8,159,896

Income - Expenses = Net Income
$822,430 - $376,365 = $446,065

Net Restricted Inc. = Net Unrestricted Inc. - $706,255
($220,210)

Restricted vs Unrestricted Income

Donations, Grants, Membership
*Program fees covered 32% of all expenses

Total Endowment Funds

- We have $3,964,204 in endowment accounts. We are able to withdraw up to 4% of the 3-year rolling average from each account as long as the balance doesn’t go below the original amount gifted.
- It was decided by the Board to withdraw $50,000 from the endowments at the end of 2022.

A Glance at 2023 Programs and Special Events

New Programs & Special Events

This year, we have expanded our ‘traditional’ programs to include a free Little Explorers program series that is intended for 3-6-year-olds. We had 153 participants in nine months due to the program’s well-received status in the community.

In April, we held our first Annual Earth Day Celebration and connected with 70 participants. This is also the first full year we have used our registration system, Perfect Mind, and though we encourage pre-registration for most of our programs, we welcomed walk-ins, which have led us to estimate our total number of participants instead of providing an exact amount.

This summer, we partnered with WinCorps once again and secured four inspirational Environmental Educators, who were crucial in making the season a success. We adjusted our Youth Day Camps to be open to 7-12-year-olds, with 20 individual days over five weeks of summer, Monday through Thursday. There was a decrease in 2023 Cakes at the Lake attendance, which may have been caused by other community events happening on the same day.

Special Event Attendance

Based on the number of participants out of 603 total participants.

Number of Participants by Month

Breakdown of Public Programs

Program Attendance

Public Programs & Events

- Cakes at the Lake
- Day Camps

See Note 3

2020 2021 2022 2023

Note 1: Total number of different children that attended at least one day of day camp. 20 days were offered in 2023.

Note 2: Data includes ALL public programs and special events except Day Camps (camp spans over 3 months) and Cakes at the Lake (no registration required).

Note 3: Includes all public programs, including Spanish Camp, EXCEPT: Cakes at the Lake, Youth Day Camps, special events.

Note 4: We did not offer Day Camps or Cakes at the Lake programs in 2020 due to COVID-19. 29 Day Camps were offered in 2022 compared to the 20 days offered in 2023. We provided 446* campers this summer. This graph is based on data collected until November 18, 2023.

*Camper Days calculated by each child present at each day of camp.
A Glance at 2023 Contracted Programs & Facility Rentals

Contracted, Outreach & Rental Groups

Word Cloud key: ● Educational Institutions ● Private Parties ● Non-profit & Not for-profit Organizations

- Luck School District
- Natural Resources Foundation of WI
- Cedar River School District
- Barns Public Library
- Ladysmith School District
- NWECG Virtual Field Trips
- Women of Woods & Waters
- Belchers Church
- WISCO
- UW-Green Bay Upper Round
- Birchwood CASE
- UW-Stout Ophthalmology
- Landmark Conservancy
- Shell Lake Public Library
- Barron School District
- Shell Lake STEAM Squad
- Paul Bunyan
- City of Shell Lake
- St. Joseph Church
- Boys & Girls Club of Barron Co.
- St. Francis Catholic School
- Timber Bay Festival
- Belchers Church
- WI 4-H

Note: Word size corresponds with participant hours. To calculate participant hours, we multiply the number of participants at the event times the number of hours of the event. The more participant hours, the larger the word.

School Field Trips

We provided 34 days of school field trips in the spring and fall of 2023, which were attended by a total of 1,775 students.

External Group Locations

Groups Served Per County

- Most groups served by Hunt Hill are from Washburn and Barron Counties.

Attendees per Group Type

<table>
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<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
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<td>Wedding Rentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc Facility Rentals</td>
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<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reflections on Groups in 2023

Participant numbers have been steadily increasing for field trips and contracted programs each year since the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020. The only external group that we got fewer of in 2023 were weddings. However, those weekends that would have been filled with wedding rentals were filled with other important occasions including a celebration of life, a graduation party, an anniversary party, and even a single’s retreat! We’re finding that Hunt Hill has made a lasting impact on many people in our community who choose to spend their special days here to share Hunt Hill with their friends and family.

Core Staff

- Nikki Janisni - Executive Director
- Sage Dunham - Group Coordinator
- Darcy Lilla - Program Coordinator (Jan-Apr)
- Marissa Ginger - Program Coordinator (May +)
- Sally Bartz - Office Manager
- Deb Bouma - Cabin Coordinator
- Mark Sauer - Head of Maintenance
- Larry Piskie - Assistant Maintenance

School Environmental Educators

- Taylor Ambrose
- Sarah Brown
- Emily Burger
- Karen Courey
- Anna DeMers
- Greta Franti
- Val Haack
- Sharon Hanson
- Clare Janty
- Johnnie Johnson
- Bob Papendiek
- Amy Whitmore

Summer Environmental Educators

- Erica Campbell
- Teagan Mickelson
- Jordan Rambo
- Elias Ritzke

Group Assistants & Junior Counselors

- Johnnie Johnson
- Chlo
- Maddie

Camp Cooks

- Karen Busby
- Val Haack

Featured: Chloe

Junior Counselor
A former Day Camper
I have been going to Hunt Hill since I was five. I loved it then and still do now. When I was younger, I couldn’t wait to become a Junior Counselor. Camp was always fun and I couldn’t wait to help and make it just as fun for these kids as it was for me. This past summer was the first time I was able to be a Junior Counselor and it was lots of fun. I got to help out with the younger kids.

One thing that makes Hunt Hill so special is how fun it is. Camp always has super cool facts, something new to learn, fun games, and crafts. Also, it is an Audubon Sanctuary which you don’t hear a lot about and the people there make sure that the campers understand it. It is so cool that they care about teaching everyone old and young. I think that is special because most places will focus on adults, but at Hunt Hill they make sure that kids also know about their environment and the wildlife around them. I think that most kids should get the opportunity to come to Hunt Hill. It has taught me and many skills like how to start a fire, identify fish and other small animals, and many more skills. I can’t wait to go back this summer!

Board of Directors

- Paul Chase, President
- Mike Harvey, Vice President
- Craig Fowler, Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair
- Paula Kodeshy, Secretary
- Nick Allen
- Carolyn Cleveland, Fundraising Committee Chair
- Gary Erickson, Facilities Committee Chair
- Thom Gerst
- Heidi Olson Hong, Membership Committee Chair
- Johnnie Johnson, Program Committee
- Sue Luethke
- Tom Nelson
- Bob Papendiek
- Susan Ritchie
Volunteers allow us to serve more people and accomplish so much more than if we worked with staff alone. In 2023, volunteers helped with many special projects including moving our furniture and boxes into our new office building, creating new signs for trails, moving and spreading wood, removing invasive species and noxious plants, painting blazes on trails, tree trimming, moving mattresses, installing railings and shelving, building bird feeders, and assembling new Adirondack chairs. This is only a portion of the many volunteer tasks that we have in a typical year such as cleaning, maintenance, program assistance, gardening, and so much more!

We truly appreciate all of the time that our volunteers have given!

Volunteer Groups
Barron Conservation Club
CMCS Students
Royal Credit Union
Shell Lake High School
Spanish Club
Wi Master Naturalists

Donations

(Received November 1, 2022 — November 30, 2023)

Thank you everyone!

Julie Hustvet

Jean Accola
Alex Adler
Rob Adler
Aruna Ahlawat
Sharat Ahlawat
Nick Allen
Taylor Ambrose
Kim Ammann
Rocky Banks
Sally Bartz
Dianna Bednar
Mary Bednar
Gail Behrens-McArble
Myk Behrens-McArble
Maureen Behring
David Bergh
Kathy Binford
Pat Binford
Jeri Blitney
Mike Brown
Sarah Brown
Emily Burger
Karen Busby
Ron Busby
Mike Byrnes
Christa Byrnes
Sandy Campbell
Kevin Campbell
Randy Chang
Kent and Cheryl Skonseng

Joseph Adler
Ryan and Daniella Ascheimlman
Karen Amerson
Pam Amphemrer
Kate Conners
Cynthia Arts-Streken
Alicia Ayala
Del and Laurie Baklund
Allen and Judith Barta
Mike Barta
Sally Bartz
Lynn Beard
Marv and Dianna Bednar
Dale Beebee and Jennifer Brigham
Laurie Bihrends
Gail and Myk Behrens-McArble
Trey and Strom Anderson
Chris and Peg Benson
David and Maureen Bera
David Bihlre and Michelle Byon
Pat and Kathy Binford
Tom and Jeri Blitney
Jan Bliss and Jay Hands
John and Sandy Bonneville
Jan Bliss and Jay Hands

Mary Grau
Deanna Grelecki
Doug and Sheila Grew
Brocky Gold
Val Haack
David and Janice Hessig
Kevin Hagen and Kathy Bartol
Tom Hansen and Linnea Bergren
Jack Hanson and
Joan LeGa-Ren-Hansen
Dave and Kathy Hanson
Tessa Hanson
Kattlin Hanson
David and Doreen Harlow
Colin and Karla Hanman
Mike and Kris Kraus
Dan and Jackie Healy
Brooks Weather
Gerry and Van Halide
Nancy Hedlund
Diane Heinrich
Paula Hentges
Ken and Jean Hensh
Jim and Dana Herman
Diana and Tamara Herasvico
Frederick Hess
Sharon Hilbert
Carl and Kathy Hill
Greg Hirsch
Julie Hoesf
Jennifer Hoesf
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Joey Hoyer and Janice Hoyer
Jamie Hunt
Julie Hunt

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Storme and Dawn Nelson
Keith and Ann Nelson
Randy and Mary Nelson
Tom and Deb Nelson
Jack and Leila Nessen
Deb Neuhild
Stacy Newman
Jason and Brenda Niemi
Yvonne Nixdorf
Brian and Karen Nord
Megan Odden
Johs Olsen
Peter Olson and Heidi Olson Hogn
Gary and Jo Anne Olsen
Martin and Elinda Onmund
Carol Oosthereis
Dan and Carole Ott
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Jack and Karin Palumbi
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Bob Papandisiek
Mary Patrick
Gary Pearson
Perski Distillery
John Peter and Carol Kettner
Claudia Place
Robert and Polly Povey
Mike and Irene Popko
Dale Poynter
Randy and Linda Ponzansky
Prem Prasad
Roger and Chris Prol
Bruce and Sara Qusayn
Jillayn Quaschnick
Wayne and John Inman
John and Sandi Reed
Jim and Pam Reimer
Bob and Carol Reynolds
Rice Lake Men’s Club
Rice Lake Celebrity Charity
Classic Inn
Lance and Sue Ritchie
olar and Kathy Rollyson
Gene and Carolina Romros
Alan Rosenwald
Charlotte Ross
Wayne and Barb Sabatke
Marjorie Savage
Jessica Schickowski
Ryan Schlaepper
Johann Schmidt
Patricia Schwalior
Peter Tharaldson and
Patricia Schoeller
JoAnn Schmidt
Jessica Schalkowski
Marjorie Savage
Wayne and Barb Sabatke
Yvonne Schostok
John and Kathy Schostok
Gary and Susan Schultz
John and Candy Severson
Kim and Kathy Sewter
Kent and Cheryl Skonseng
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American Excelsior Company
American Family Ins
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Maureen Bergh
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Cumberland Federal
Cumberland Golf Course
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Dogs Restaurant
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Minnesota Wild
MN Wild
Monarch Paving
Moonlight
Joe Moravec
Molly Nelson
Tom & Deb Nelson
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Red School House Winery
Rivertown Foundry
Rice Lake Chiropractic
Rice Lake Pintery
River Street Dental
Gene and Charlotta Romose
Roundman Brewing
Royal Credit Union
Savas Designers & Jewelers
Schmaltz Manufacturing
Schmizt Ecomann
Jim and Susie Schmitz
Shadow Plastics
Shell Lake Woodcrafters
Siberian
Spooner Garden Club
Spencer Mercantile
Sticks and Stones
Surplus Outlet
T N T Sports Bar
Tagalong Golf Course
Tamrack Well凑 Services
Linda Thompson
Thyme Worn Treasures
Topeak Ann Dental
Tractor Supply Co
Tremblay’s Candy Shop
True Value
Turtleback Golf
Two Sisters’ Boutique
UWEC-BC Class and Dave Carhame
Ventures Apparel
Walmart - Hayward
Walmart - Rice Lake
Lois Whitehorn
Weather Management Group
Wi DNR
Wanda Zueg

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Barron Electric
Bear Tracks Bar & Grill
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Ben Thompson
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Birchwood Cafe
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Potters Shed
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Rice Lake Weighing Systems
Rollingwood Nursery
Royal Credit Union
Schmizt Ecomann
Sevenswinds Casino
Shell Lake Marine
Shell Lake State Bank
Spooner General Store
Spooner Outlet
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Tim Reddy
Stone Lake Lumber
Stump Lake Liquors
Synergy Cooperative
Todd’s RedMil, LLC
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If we missed your name, we apologize. Your donations are very much appreciated.