

View from the Hill

A newsletter for friends and members of Friends of Mosquito Hill, Inc. | FALL 2015

Fenlon Memorial Speaker Series Marks 20th Anniversary

Mike Hibbard, Director, Betty Winter and Mary Sturtevant, FOMH past-presidents

Charlotte (Char) Bates Fenlon would be very pleased to know that her legacy lives on and that her wish to bring regionally and nationally recognized speakers to the community and Mosquito Hill Nature Center (MHNC) has continued since 1996.

The Charlotte Bates Fenlon Memorial Fund within the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region was established by her family after her death in 1994. The fund has sponsored speakers from around the world and has attracted more than 4,000 audience members throughout the past 20 years.

The very first Charlotte Bates Fenlon Memorial program featured world-renowned naturalist and *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* host Jim Fowler at Lawrence University. It is only fitting that the 20th anniversary program is featuring another world-renowned wildlife expert, Jack Hanna. He will appear at the Kimberly High School auditorium on Friday, October 16.

Past speakers included primate researcher Jane Goodall, wolf expert Dave Mech, whooping crane researcher and ultralight pilot Joe Duff, the Iditarod's youngest champion musher Dallas Seavey, Arctic explorers Ann Bancroft and Eric Larsen, among others.

MHNC is grateful to the Fenlon family for support and guidance of the speaker series.

Charlotte Bates Fenlon was one of the original trail guides (now known as volunteer naturalists) when Outagamie Nature Studies, now Mosquito Hill Nature Center, was established. She played a key role in the development of the center as president and treasurer of the Friends of Mosquito Hill (FOMH).



She is remembered by Betty Winter, Mary Sturtevant, and Betty Jabas, FOMH past-presidents, in the following tribute:

Remembering Char

As one of the early Mosquito Hill volunteer guides, Char quickly became a favorite. Her easy smile and genuine way of interacting with children – possibly the result of raising five of her own – drew many positive letters from children back at school after a morning “at the Hill.”



Our Mission

The Friends of Mosquito Hill support, promote and enhance Mosquito Hill Nature Center. We realize this mission through volunteerism, fundraising and our shared passion for nature.

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Teaching as a volunteer involves leading school children in the field at Mosquito Hill. These classes are held weekly during fall and spring. Preparation to teach is extensive, involving regular sessions at the Hill, or field trips – some of them extensive – for special learning.

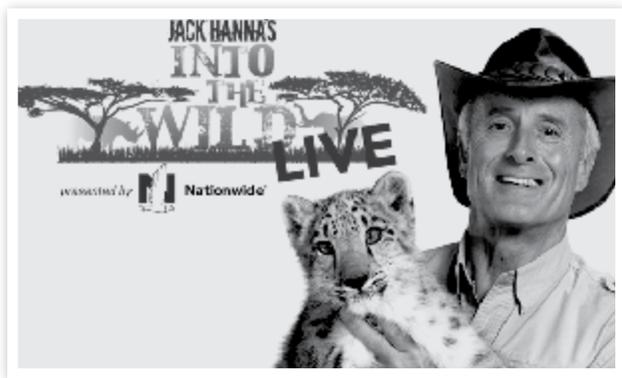
It is well to remember that at that time (the 60s and 70s) few college-educated women were in the workforce. So the opportunity to become an essential part of an important new cause gave focus to this group.

Char's vision was unique, however, and when it became clear that she would not survive cancer, her thoughts turned to protecting the interest

that had become important to her. She chose for her memorial a concept that would bring environmental programs to the community on an annual basis.

The programs financed by Char's memorial over the past 20 years demonstrate a wide scope of interest, and have drawn many visitors, not only to the programs, but also to Mosquito Hill.

We are grateful for the Charlotte Bates Fenlon Memorial Fund for these programs as well as for the continued support for MHNC.



Tickets are on sale now for Jack Hanna's presentation at Kimberly High School on Friday, October 16.

Tickets for Jack Hanna

The 20th anniversary presentation of the Charlotte Bates Fenlon Memorial Speaker series will feature one of the world's most influential advocates for wildlife and a lifelong adventurer, Jack Hanna. The star of the cable network show Animal Planet and director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo will appear at the 700-seat Kimberly High School auditorium. Reserved seats are \$20/adult (age 16 and over) or \$10/child (age 15 and younger). Tickets can be purchased online or at Mosquito Hill Nature Center. If you wish to purchase tickets online go to www.showtix4u.com or follow the link on the Mosquito Hill website, click on "buy tickets" and search for Jack Hanna.

Down Memory Lane...

Past Fenlon Memorial Speakers included primate researcher Jane Goodall, Arctic explorer Ann Bancroft, black bear researcher David MacFarland, and Lee Stetson's portrayal of naturalist John Muir, among many more.



Primate researcher Jane Goodall spoke to an audience of 1100 at Lawrence University in 2001.



In 2005, Ann Bancroft related her attempt to ski across Antarctica.



Black bear researcher David MacFarland spoke in 2007.



Lee Stetson portrayed naturalist John Muir in 2012.

Naturalist's Corner

Displays and Discovery Part IV: An Indoor Hike

Mike Hibbard, Director

In past issues of *View from the Hill* you were introduced to the conceptual design sketchbook developed by Split Rock Studios to help guide our future renovation of displays in the interpretive building. We shared a rendering of the proposed floor plan and described what visitors might experience when they enter the building. This issue will take a look at what some of the displays might look like.

A visit to the indoor exhibits will serve as a precursor to exploring the natural features of Mosquito Hill Nature Center (MHNC). No interpretive display can replicate a hike through the property, but imagine an open learning space for all ages with a winding trail that weaves a story of the natural forces and human impact that shaped the landscape of the nature center.

View a scale model of Mosquito Hill and learn about the geologic forces that carved the landscape and paved the way for the habitats our trails pass through today. Wind through a trail of tall interpretive panels that introduce us to the prairie habitat and tell the story of succession. Discover an interactive display where visitors might build a food web and explore the relationships between predator and prey species in the prairie.

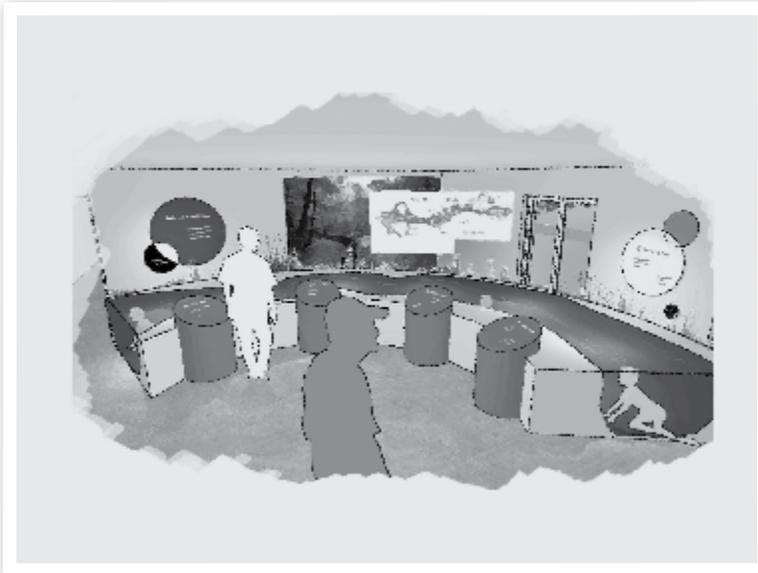
As our exhibit trail flows from the prairie down to the Wolf River, a translucent, crawl-through tunnel might give visitors the opportunity to flex their fins and experience life under water through the eyes of a hungry walleye. Dappled light might filter through a blanket of hatching mayflies at the water's surface, enticing our "fish" to catch dinner with hand puppets. Visitors may have to look closely to spot a painted turtle or crayfish as they make their way around the curving oxbow while maneuvering downstream. The river tunnel may also incorporate changing elements, such as ice formations, to illustrate aquatic life cycles throughout the seasons.

Continuing along on our exhibit trail will bring us to the lowland forest where visitors may discover how forces such as exposure to sunlight, changing seasons or flooding of the Wolf River impact the forest community. Interactive elements such as sliding rocks or lifting bark flaps might expose hiding salamanders, insects and other organisms that live on the forest floor or in a decomposing log. A multi-sensory display would encourage visitors to sharpen their hearing and identify

individual frog calls amid a chorus of croaks and trills on the flooded forest floor. Finally, our exhibit trail leads us outside to the head of the outdoor trails where visitors can experience first-hand what they discovered on the exhibit trail.

These and more are featured in our conceptual design sketchbook, which can be seen in its entirety at www.mosquitohill.com. These concepts may

evolve and change as we enter into the design phase of the project. To track our progress, stay tuned to future issues of *View from the Hill*, our website and social media. You can support our planning efforts by giving us your feedback or making a financial contribution toward the project. Visit www.mosquitohill.com and click on Exhibit Concept Design.



Flex your fins in a translucent crawl-through tunnel.

Calendar of Events



www.mosquitohill.com

National Grandparents Day: Harvest of Plenty

Sunday, September 13, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Grandparents and grandchildren are invited to join us as we celebrate National Grandparents Day and enjoy the fall harvest. We will sample a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables harvested from the garden and orchard prepared in various ways. Take home some new recipes to try at home.

\$10 per grandparent/grandchild pair, \$3/ additional person. Registration and payment due September 8.



Third Thursday Lecture Series: Talkin' Turkey

September 17, 9:30 – 11:00 AM

After decades of their absence in Wisconsin, wild turkey populations have rebounded and the story of their success is a compelling one. Naturalist Mary Swifka and volunteer naturalist Dean Sauers team up to discuss biology and behavior and share how the state's management plan, including hunting, plays an important role in sustaining healthy populations.

\$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH.
Registration and payment due September 10.

Back to School with Essential Oils

Saturday, September 19, 1:00 – 2:30 PM
Empower yourself and your family with the powerful properties of plants right at your fingertips. Essential oils provide gentle, effective, natural solutions to caring for your child's everyday health needs right in your own home! Learn different ways to incorporate essential oils into your daily routine and help to avoid the common health concerns that arise when school begins.

\$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH.
Registration and payment due September 10.



INOMN – Let the Night Fun Begin

Saturday, September 19
7:00 – 8:30 PM

Learn more about Earth's only natural satellite as we observe International Observe the Moon Night (INOMN). Discover little-known facts about this fascinating place in space during an indoor program with hands-on activities for all ages. Afterwards we'll head outside and gaze upon the moon through binoculars and telescopes. Members of the Northeast Wisconsin Stargazers group (NEWStar) will be on hand to answer questions. A campfire and s'mores will round out the evening.

\$6/person, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH.
Registration and payment are due by September 11.

Honey Sunday

Sunday, September 20, 12:00 – 3:00 PM

Come and help us celebrate the honeybee and the gentle art of beekeeping during this annual event co-sponsored with the Waupaca County Beekeepers' Association. Watch honey being extracted from the hive, beeswax candle dipping and a cooking demonstration. Take in some short informational sessions including: Beginning Beekeeping and Problems for Pollinators. Meet the Wisconsin Honey Queen and of course, don't miss out on our delicious honey-baked goods and honey sundaes. Bring your family and friends out for some sweet sensations. \$8.00/car.

Juices and Smoothies: For the Health of It

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

There has been a lot of talk lately about the health benefits of drinking homemade juice and smoothies. Leafy greens such as kale and spinach are among the most nutrient rich foods available. We'll discuss juicing versus smoothie making, the equipment used, and sample some awesome recipes that you will create. This class will convert even the most diehard "vegetablephobes" into vegetable aficionados.

\$10/person. Registration and payment due September 19.



Fall Paddle on the Embarrass River

Saturday, October 3,
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Join us for a relaxing paddle down the still waters of the Embarrass as it meanders into New London. The trip includes a riverside luncheon of grilled chicken with some fall favorite fixins. Participants must provide their own watercraft, paddle and personal floatation device. Youth must be at least 15 years old and accompanied by an adult.

\$10/person, \$8/students, seniors, FOMH
Registration and payment due September 30.

13th Annual Harvest Moon Festival

Saturday, October 10, 5:00 – 9:00 PM

Don't miss the family event of the season! As the full moon rises behind Mosquito Hill, lighted jack-o-lanterns will smile, hayride wagons will be filled with fresh straw and the center will be visited by live critters. The evening will be filled with stargazing through telescopes, hayrides, the Great Pumpkin Walk learning sessions, games and much more. Snacks and beverages will be for sale. \$10/car. No reservations necessary.

Unless otherwise noted, advance registration and payment are required. Call 920-779-6433 or e-mail mary.swifka@outagamie.org.



Third Thursday Lecture Series: Why Natives?

October 15, 9:30 – 11:00 AM

There's a growing buzz about the native plant movement, and it's not just coming from the bees. Learn about the principles behind the use of native plants and the ways in which native plants support birds, pollinators and soil health. Join us to learn about the benefits of gardening with nature, rather than struggling to control it. Joy Perry, vice-president, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area.

\$6/person, \$4/students, seniors & FOMH.
Registration and payment due October 9.

Essential Oils for Beginners

Saturday, October 24, 1:00 – 2:30 PM
(Repeats November 14)

Essential oils offer the powerful benefits of reducing stress, inflammation and toxins to every body system. Attend this introductory class and learn how you can integrate essential oils into your everyday wellness habits to complement your healthy lifestyle choices.

\$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH.
Registration and payment due October 16.

Improving Habitat for Wildlife

Saturday, October 24, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Are you a landowner who wants to improve wildlife on your land? Have you always wondered what to do and what to plant to provide food and/or cover for wildlife? Julie Peterson, North East Wisconsin Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, will talk about habitat improvements that landowners can make to attract wildlife, and address how those changes improve water quality and soil health. She will share local landowner success stories and incentive programs available to private landowners.

\$6/person, \$4/students, seniors & FOMH
Registration and payment due October 16



Helios and Aurora: Knowing the Northern Lights

Friday, October 30, 7:00 –

8:30 PM

Learn about the myths surrounding the sun and the aurora borealis, also known as the northern lights. Ken Fix is an

avid astronomer and former director of programming at the Marie Drake Planetarium in Juneau, Alaska. He'll also share the hard science that helps us understand why the northern lights occur. Weather permitting, we'll head outdoors afterwards to view the night skies with the help of the Northeast Wisconsin Stargazers group (Newstar).

\$6/person, \$4/students, seniors & FOMH.
Registration and payment due October 20.

Bali: An Island of Enchantment

Saturday, November 7, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world, consisting of five main islands and more than 13,000 smaller islands. Bali is the most well-known in the chain because of its mountains, beaches and vibrant culture. After spending close to a month in the city of Ubud, naturalist Jessica Miller will recap her journey with an array of photos and stories (including tales of rampant monkeys, civet feces coffee, a day with the elephants, the Balinese New Year and more).

\$6/person, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH.
Registration and payment due November 1.



Third Thursday Lecture Series: How Severe Weather Works

November 19, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

(Note starting time)

Steve Beylon, morning meteorologist with WBAY-TV, Green Bay, explains how Earth's atmosphere creates thunderstorms with lightning, hail and even tornadoes. Steve's presentation will also cover severe weather safety, and some amazing tornado video.

\$6/person, \$4/students, seniors & FOMH.
Registration and payment due November 13.



Wine Cork Wreaths

Saturday, November 21,
12:00 – 3:30 PM

Here's the perfect gift for the food and wine aficionado in your life or a unique adornment in your kitchen. With just a little bit of time and patience (and a lot of wine corks), you'll create a one-of-a-kind wreath in just one afternoon. We'll provide the corks and all the supplies.

\$22/person, \$20/students, seniors, FOMH.
Registration and payment due November 13.



Indoor Outside Lamp

Sunday, November 22, 1:00 –
3:00 PM

We will harvest grasses, leaves, berries, rocks and other interesting finds outside, then bring them in to assemble this attractive nature-themed glass jar lamp. Its simple design allows the artist to easily update and change its contents season after season.

\$25/person, \$23/students, seniors, FOMH
Registration and payment due November 13.



Ornament Workshop for Wee Ones

Saturday, November 28, 9:00
– 10:30 AM

Four- and five-year-olds are invited to make three Christmas tree ornaments and decorate cookies. All materials are provided. Parents or grandparents are welcome to stay and help.

\$8/child, \$6/FOMH. Registration and
payment due November 20.

The Elusive Fisher and its Cousins

Saturday, December 5, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

After spending two winters trying to document their presence at MHNC, naturalist Jessica Miller and volunteers finally captured two adult fishers on trail cameras in early 2015. This larger and feistier cousin of the weasel once roamed only forests in the northern part of the state after its reintroduction in the 50s and 60s. Learn about the history and biology of this mammal and its cousins the weasel, mink, marten and wolverine.

\$6/person, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH.
Registration and payment due November 27.



Holiday Make & Take

Saturday, December 12, 9:00
– 11:00 AM or 11:00 AM –
1:00 PM

You won't want your kids to miss this one! They'll make 8 unique gifts and wrap them with the assistance of our volunteer team. Voila! Your children's holiday shopping is done. This event is most appropriate for K – 5th graders. No one younger than 5 years, please.

\$14/child. Registration and payment due
November 29.

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New London, WI
www.mosquitohill.org

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Interpretive Building Hours:

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Saturday & Sunday:
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Outagamie County Parks
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Naturalist
Jessica Miller, Assistant
Naturalist
Mary Swifka, Staff Assistant
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Many Thanks to Our Summer Staff!



Kelly Hamilton

Hi, I'm Kelly Hamilton and I was the summer intern. I am a junior at UW Oshkosh majoring in environmental studies and human geography. At UW O I participate in the Student Environmental Activist Club, Non-Traditional Student organization and the Change the Climate Campaign. My favorite class, so far, has been the Wisconsin Waterways study that I did last summer.

I have had some really exciting events happen to me at Mosquito Hill. I was able to see a monarch emerge from her chrysalis and I found a fishing spider in the janitor's closet. I enjoyed spending time outdoors and helped with the kids' programs.

I live on an old farm with my husband and five cats. We planted 1,200 trees on the property in 2009 and this spring we put in a one-acre pollinator prairie. We remodeled the old farm house ourselves and this fall we will be building a small garden shed that will also act as a greenhouse. I love to garden and have a veggie garden, herb bed and a large bed of native flowers for the bees and butterflies. I am also active in Preserve Waupaca County on regulating incoming frack sand mines.



Tanner Rogers

My name is Tanner Rogers. I am a senior at UW-Stevens Point, majoring in wildlife and biology. This is my third summer as a summer employee at Mosquito Hill Nature Center. Previously, I was a volunteer for two summers. I have participated in many programs, including Musky Magic, Honey Sunday, and the Harvest Moon Festival.

My main job was to assist with the improvement and maintenance of the nature center property. The prairie is my personal favorite where I learn about many plant species that I had not seen before working at MHNC. My team also devoted many hours to removing invasive species. I plan on coming back for years to come.



Sydne Stroschein

My name is Sydney Stroschein and I will be a freshman this fall at New London High School. I enjoy drawing, antiquing and collecting all sorts of things, but I am most passionate about nature.

Since becoming a volunteer at Mosquito Hill Nature Center in 2013, my assignments have included assisting with the Summer Ecology classes, maintenance of the indoor animal exhibits and—my favorite—running the monarch butterfly lab. I am extremely dedicated to this job because of my love for butterflies and my hope to see the monarch population increase. My goal is to become a molecular biologist, or perhaps a surgeon.

Volunteer Voice

"You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

– Winston Churchill

Pat Lund-Moe, Volunteer Coordinator

Please note NEW e-mail: volparks@outagamie.org

OThis summer was a bit different for us. Butterfly House is closed permanently and we tried out some new programs. With change, there are always times of revisiting and evaluating what we're doing. We hope you continue to offer your great ideas and input so we can offer the best for our visitors.

You may have noticed our efforts to branch out in diverse areas. We have been hosting the Memory Café for a year and a half now and hear how much the participants enjoy coming to the nature center. The 4th Warrior Princess Mud Run was held in August, benefitting Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs. Yoga classes were held on Wednesday mornings throughout the summer. New and different activities bring new visitors.

Along with the changes, we continue with what works. Honey Sunday is a tradition for many families each fall. September 20 will be the day for both visitors and volunteers to enjoy. Harvest Moon Fest draws 1,200 people each year, so why mess with a good thing? Come on out and join the fun on October 10. There are so many different activities and areas for volunteers to get involved in that day, but if you would rather avoid the crowds, we need help with set-up and clean-up before and after. By now, I hope you have your tickets to see Jack Hanna on October 16. It should be an exciting evening.

Open House for New Volunteers

We will host a volunteer information session on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 PM. Anyone is invited to attend and find out about opportunities to be involved. Volunteering allows you to give to others, learn and have a good time.

What do you think your time is worth? The latest statistics indicate volunteer time equates to \$23.07 per hour. 3737 volunteer hours were donated to Mosquito Hill in 2014 (and we know that isn't capturing all the hours). This would equal \$86,212.59 in salary. Where would we be without our volunteers?

Ongoing needs continue to be office coverage, serving on the FOMH board, Spring Fever committee members, gardening, and volunteer naturalists. There are so many studies now about how we should continue to challenge ourselves through learning and new experiences in order to keep our brains active and vital. Give some thought to signing up for a new volunteer opportunity soon, and grab a friend who wants to try as well. You might surprise yourself and find a new way to enjoy volunteering.

Holiday Make It and Take It

Are you an artist or crafter? We're always looking for new gift ideas to use in programs like Holiday Make It and Take It in December. Our bulletin board outside the volunteer room is updated each season. This is a great family project, or for someone who loves to create and entice new volunteers through visual media.

Friends of Mosquito Hill, Inc.

Mosquito Hill Nature Center
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- ✓ Knowing you make a difference!

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