

# View from the Hill

A newsletter for friends and members of Friends of Mosquito Hill, Inc. | Fall 2016

## Natural Playscape Taking Shape

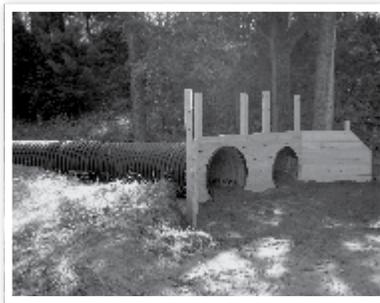
*Mike Hibbard, Director*

In the Spring issue of *A View From the Hill*, Steve Petznick's article introduced the first few elements constructed during phase I of the development of our Playscape. This new playground, located in the amphitheater along Rogers Road, is made of natural materials instead of the swings, slides and monkey bars found in conventional playgrounds. Three new and exciting elements are being constructed and should be completed sometime in September.

Stump Jump consists of a series of wooden poles placed into the ground at various heights and distances apart for children and adults to traverse. It was completed in July with materials donated by WE Energies, equipment from the Outagamie County Parks department and labor volunteered by Kimberly Clark employees and Harbor House volunteers. The element was used as a Mud Run obstacle in August.



*Stump Jump*



*Troll Tunnels*

Another element was made possible by the Mud Run committee and was included as an obstacle during the event before being made a permanent Playscape component. Harbor House donated two 20-foot sections of double-walled culvert that were buried and will serve as crawl-through tunnels in the Playscape. One tunnel is 30" in diameter, the other 36" in diameter; each will feature a bend, adding an element of surprise.

The most exciting addition is the relocation of a combination treehouse/play structure. The project is being completed by Eagle Scout candidate Storm Handrich of Troop 59, New London. In 2007 Storm was diagnosed with a brain tumor and was a recipient of the treehouse through the generosity of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Storm has since outgrown the treehouse and is paying his wish forward by giving it to the nature center, renovating it and giving it a new life. This project involves the painstaking process of disassembling the structure, transporting it to the Playscape and carefully re-assembling it with some minor modifications to meet national playground safety standards.

The addition of these new elements will cost the nature center very little but will greatly improve the experience of Playscape visitors. We would like to thank Harbor House, Kimberly Clark, Storm Handrich, Troop 59 and the many volunteers and donors who made this project possible. Be sure to visit the Playscape during your next visit to experience some "good ol' natural fun." To contribute to future development of the Playscape, please contact us.



### **Our Mission**

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

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*Published by  
Friends of Mosquito  
Hill, Inc.  
New London, WI  
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## Outdoor Writer & Photographer Featured in October 20 Program

The Federal Duck Stamp Contest will be held in Wisconsin for the first time ever in the fall of 2017. This unique art contest, the only one sponsored by the federal government, features some of the best wildlife art in the nation.

Tim Eisele, an outdoor writer and photographer from Madison served as a judge for the Federal Duck Stamp Contest in 1994. His October 20 presentation “Ding’s Darling” provides interesting details about the contest and helps to bring the passion of Ding Darling to life.

Eisele is the featured speaker for the October *Third Thursday Lecture Series* at MHNC beginning at 9:30 AM. The cost is \$6/person or \$4/ students, seniors and FOMH.

The Federal Duck Stamp came about thanks to Darling, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist from Des Moines, Iowa. The

presentation will feature cartoons that explain the innovative ideas he had which benefit Wisconsin natural resources today.

You will learn about Darling and his connection to Wisconsin, what Wisconsin artists have won the stamp design contest, how the winning artist is selected, what the key is to submitting a winning entry and where the money from stamp purchases is spent. You will also see photos of the top dozen entries and be able to make your own selection for the Duck Stamp!

Articles by Eisele appear in *Wisconsin Outdoor News*, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Natural Resources Foundation and the Board of Governors of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and co-founder of the Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators

Association. Tim’s writing has been honored by many organizations; he has received the Madison Audubon Society’s James Zimmerman Award for Environmental Communication Excellence and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation’s Outdoor Communicator of the Year award twice.

To make reservations, call MHNC at 920-779-6433 or e-mail [mary.swifka@outagamie.org](mailto:mary.swifka@outagamie.org)



*Tim Eisele, outdoor writer and photographer, is the featured speaker for the October Third Thursday Lecture Series.*

# Naturalist’s Corner

## Who’s Your Environmental Hero?

*Mary Swifka, Staff Assistant*

One of the many hats I wear is that of coordinating the Third Thursday Lecture Series at MHNC. Last March, when communicating with Tim Eisele about his Third Thursday presentation, he mentioned Ding Darling was one of his conservation heroes.

The recent death of long-time Door County naturalist and nature writer Roy Lukes was felt keenly by a number of Wisconsin environmental educators. Roy was a gifted naturalist whom I had the privilege to know. He influenced many naturalists, me included, through his decades at The Ridges Sanctuary. We all aspired to emulate Roy, whose knowledge was vast and personality engaging.

That memory prompted me to reach out to friends and co-workers recently to ask about their conservation or environmental heroes. Some of their comments are shared here.

Nancy from New London also mentioned Lukes. “I was privileged to meet Roy a couple times and was inspired by his teachings. Whenever I saw he authored an article, I made sure to read it and enjoyed his wonderful photos. He reached many people.”

Director Mike Hibbard, along with a few other people, mentioned Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold without hesitation. “Reading Leopold’s *Sand County Almanac* in high school is the reason I chose to major in wildlife biology.”

MHNC intern Julie Rudesill wrote, “One of my environmental heroes is John Muir. His quote, ‘In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks’ is something that resonates with me every time I take a walk. There is always something new to see, hear and learn about nature and about myself.”

Lou (Appleton) said, “That is such a hard question to answer! I will go with Everett Ruess for his passion and drive to be in the natural environment shared through his exquisite writing and drawings.”

Mary (Barron) mentioned Gaylord Nelson and his quote: “Our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty. The objective is an environment of decency, quality and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures.”

Sara (New London) admires Rachel Carson “for standing up (for the environment) and (her) scientific research despite accusations of her mental instability by those against her.”

Who inspires you? Maybe it’s a writer or someone who speaks out against environmental injustice, maybe a classroom teacher or camp counselor, perhaps a more well-known person such as Sigurd Olsen. Feel free to share your heroes on our Facebook page. We would love to hear from you and continue the conversation.



*Rachel Carson (1907-1964) was an American marine biologist and conservationist whose book “Silent Spring” and other writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement.*



*The Aldo Leopold shack and farm is now a historic site near Baraboo, Wisconsin, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a National Historic Landmark.*

## The Night Comes Alive at Harvest Moon Festival

*Mary Swifka, Staff Assistant*

It’s not very often the nature center is open after dark. But one day each autumn small tractors come pattering up Rogers Road pulling straw-filled trailers; telescopes are set up and candles are lighted in the carved jack-o-lanterns.

It’s all happening again this year at Harvest Moon Festival on Saturday, October 8 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Our friendly tractor operators will take you on a hayride (\$1/person), our talented pumpkin carvers will delight you with their creativity, live music will fill the air, indoor presentations with live birds of prey will amaze and stargazing opportunities will be offered by the Northeast Wisconsin Stargazers group.

Hot and cold food and beverages will be for sale, and children will enjoy face painting and making a craft project to take home. Many more activities are being planned as well. The cost is \$10/car. Watch for updates at [www.mosquitohill.com](http://www.mosquitohill.com) or on our Facebook page.

(The fine print: Hayrides always sell out early, usually before 7:00. If your kids have their hearts set on taking a hayride, arrive early to purchase your hayride tickets. Please be aware that poor weather conditions may force us to cancel hayrides.)

# Calendar of Events



www.mosquitohill.com



## Fall Bird Hike

Saturday, September 3  
7:30 – 10:00 AM

Take an early morning walk with us as we catch a glimpse of our favorite summer birds before they take off for their winter homes. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Nature center staff and expert birding volunteers lead these hikes and are great resources for those new to bird watching. No charge.



## Astonomy Evening: All About Neptune

Saturday, September 3  
8:00-10:00 PM

Learn about the most distant of the gas giants, its moons and what it's like to be on the fringes of the Solar System. Clear skies permitting, telescopes will be out for possible viewing of this far-off land. \$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due ASAP.



## Third Thursday Lecture Series: Australia—There are Some Things That Don't Want to Kill You

September 15, 9:30 – 11:00 AM  
Our speaker, Stuart Malcolm is President of the Northeast Wisconsin Birding Club and self-described world birder. He has visited Australia, affectionately known as the land "down under," a number of times. His presentation will feature some of the landscapes and wildlife from across the country. \$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due September 10.



## Under the Full Moon Walk

Friday, September 16  
8:00 – 10:00 PM

Join naturalist Mike Hibbard for a guided hike by the full moon. The night will begin in the interpretive building for a short indoor program followed by a moonlit walk. Feel free to bring a flashlight, but be prepared to keep it off. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the weather. We hope to see you under the full moon!

\$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due September 12.



## Honey Sunday

Sunday, September 18  
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. Sit in on some informational sessions, check out the children's area, and buy some 50/50 cash raffle tickets. 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. \$10/car.



## 14th Annual Harvest Moon Festival

Saturday, October 8  
5:00 – 9:00 PM

Don't miss the family event of the season! As the full moon rises behind Mosquito Hill, 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.



## Astronomy Evening: All About Uranus

Saturday October 15  
7:00 -9:00 PM

Join Ken Fix, NASA ambassador, for an informative look at this ringed planet. With Uranus "breaking all the rules," this planet is a floating ball of contradiction. After the indoor program participants will head outside for stargazing, weather permitting. \$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due October 10.



## Interested in giving back to your community? FOMH Needs You!

On October 19, Friends of Mosquito Hill will be holding an organizing meeting to form a Capital Campaign subcommittee. Learn about the campaign and consider joining the subcommittee. All skills, abilities and commitments are welcome, we can find a role for everyone.

JOIN US for snacks and beverages at 6:00 PM. A presentation will follow and should conclude by 8:00.



## Third Thursday Lecture Series: Ding's Darling

October 20, 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Tim Eisele is an outdoor writer and photographer from Madison. His presentation is the result of his research on conservationist Ding Darling and provides interesting details about the Federal Duck Stamp contest and helps to bring the passion of Ding Darling to life. See more on page 2. \$6/person, \$4/students, seniors & FOMH. Registration and payment due October 14.



## Weave Your Own Berry-picking Basket

Sunday, October 23  
11:30 AM – 4:30 PM

This reed basket with a long, leather shoulder strap is very versatile! Use it to pick berries or hang it on your door to hold hats, mittens or mail. Accent this basket with your choice of many dyed reed colors. No prior weaving experience is necessary. Participants will be walked through the process by instructor Jeni Mursau from Woven Blessings Basketry. Upon completion, students may select from 4 stain colors to add the finishing touches. Staining will be an additional \$5 charge payable to the instructor. Ceramic tie-on embellishments will also be available the day of class for an additional cost.

\$45/person. Registration and payment due October 14.



## Basket Weaving Workshop

Sunday, November 13  
12:30 – 4:30 PM

Tired of not finding a facial tissue box that matches your décor? Attend this workshop and accent this woven tissue box cover to coordinate with your room. No prior weaving experience necessary. Participants will be walked through the process by instructor Jeni Mursau from Woven Blessings Basketry, LLC. Upon completion, students may select from 4 stain colors to add the finishing touches. Staining will be an additional \$5 charge payable to the instructor. Ceramic tie-on embellishments will also be available the day of class for an additional cost.

\$45/person. Registration and payment due November 4.



## Homemade for the Holidays

Saturday, November 26  
9:30 – 11:30 AM

Based on the popularity of our holiday gift-making workshop for children, we thought it would be fun to offer one for adults. We'll provide all the materials; you assemble and embellish 3 gifts to give to family, friends or party hosts. Contact us for more details.

\$20/person, \$17/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due November 18.



## Crazy for Candles

Sunday, November 27  
9:30 – 11:30 AM

Prepare for winter and the holidays by creating a variety of candle holders. These versatile designs can be used as table centerpieces, accent pieces or table favors. Materials such as mason jars, reclaimed wood, evergreen boughs and other embellishments will be incorporated to create finished pieces to brighten up the darkest nights. \$18/person, \$15/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due November 18.



## Holiday Make & Take

Saturday, December 10  
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 4 – 12 year olds. No one younger than 4 years, please. \$15/child. Registration and payment due November 30.



## The Wisdom of AA Milne

"Say, Pooh, why aren't you busy?" I said.

"Because it's a nice day," said Pooh. "Why ruin it?"

"But you could be doing something important," I said.

"I am," said Pooh. "Listening."

"Listening to what?"

"To the birds. And that squirrel over there."

"What are they saying?" I asked.

"That it's a nice day," said Pooh.

"But you know that already," I said.

"Yes, but it's always good to hear that somebody else thinks so, too," he replied.

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

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(920) 779-6433  
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Interpretive Building Hours:  
Tuesday-Friday:  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday:  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Staff:**

- Loren Dieck, Director, Outagamie County Parks
- Mike Hibbard, Director/Naturalist
- Steve Petznick, Assistant Naturalist
- Jessica Miller, Assistant Naturalist
- Mary Swifka, Staff Assistant
- Pat Lund-Moe, Volunteer Coordinator

**Newsletter:**

- Editors - Pat Brown, Ginny Buschke, Deb Mentzel, Mary Swifka
- Layout & Design - Jayne Thielen Frazier
- NEW Printing, Appleton
- Outlook Graphics, Neenah

# Is There Cash in Your Attic?

Pat Lund-Moe, Volunteer Coordinator

Planning continues for *Trash to Cash*, a recycle, repurpose, reuse fundraising event which will be held in Spring of 2017. Our plans are evolving, but we envision a large evening event enhanced by a day of workshops and appraisals. You might scope out live auction items and bid on silent auction entries. All this is to entice you to return that evening for the highlight of the event: a live auction with all proceeds benefiting the exhibit renovation project. Appetizers and a cash bar will be available.

In the meanwhile, we are looking for donations of high-quality vintage and antique items. Our crack team of antique appraisers will assess your items to determine if they would be a good fit for this event. Contact Pat Lund-Moe at [volparks@outagamie.org](mailto:volparks@outagamie.org) for more details.

## Donors Step Up to Fund Hearing Loop

Two anonymous donors have stepped up with offers to match donations up to \$2,000 to fund installation of a hearing loop in the Great Room. A hearing loop allows most people with hearing loss to use their hearing aids and cochlear implants as customized, wireless loudspeakers. We're thankful for this kind offer for a project that is needed and overdue. This technology will allow us to be a more welcoming destination.

Please call us at 920-779-6433 or e-mail Mary at [mary.swifka@outagamie.org](mailto:mary.swifka@outagamie.org) if you would like to make a donation. Thank you!

## Wish List

Fall 2016

If you would like to help out our cause, please consider a small donation to purchase or offset the cost of the following items:

- Apple grinder (for our cider press)
- Solar garden lights
- Materials for Holiday Make & Take
- Colored copy paper
- Garden tools
- Bird seed
- Gas grill
- Two new, sturdy card tables
- Gift cards (Fleet Farm, Menards, Michael's, Kwik Trip)

Please contact Mary at 920-779-6433 for details. Many thanks!

# 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  
e-mail: [volparks@outagamie.org](mailto:volparks@outagamie.org)

There's excitement in the air! So many great things are in the works as we move into Fall.

- Our natural Playscape is such a great spot and will only get better.
- We hear the pounding up above us as the new roof is being installed.
- As the roof is progressing, so are our plans for what is happening under the roof: our new exhibit construction in the original wing of the building.

The first annual Endurance Run was held on August 7. We thank Cassie Kottke and all the volunteers for their efforts in support of our exhibit renovation project. The Warrior Princess Mud Run was a muddy success once again. The partnership we have with Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs has opened the door for many opportunities to work with new volunteers and donors. Our concession sales for the Mud Run brought in funds for FOMH. Partnerships and collaboration with individuals, groups, and businesses continue to be so beneficial for us.

We are making an effort to build awareness of MHNC and all we have to offer. In August we introduced ourselves and our programs during an expo for Gulfstream employees. If you know of a community

or employee enrichment event going on, please let us know. As we head into a capital campaign, we want to increase our visibility, build our visitor numbers and hopefully increase our donations at the same time. Given this, we are always looking for people who love to talk with others about Mosquito Hill.

Honey Sunday will be held September 18 and Harvest Moon Festival on October 8. If you haven't experienced volunteering for either of these yet, why not give it a try? We'd love to have you join in on the fun!

Fall brings school field trips almost every day. We are all supposed to challenge ourselves to try new things, keeping our brains and bodies active. If you enjoy kids and love being outside, consider giving the volunteer naturalist spot a try. You can work with someone, shadow, team teach, and assist as you decide if this is for you. It's Autumn; time to turn over a new leaf!

As we head toward the holidays, we'll prepare to host almost 100 children for *Holiday Make It and Take It* on December 10. It's so much fun to see all the excitement as kids create those special gifts for family and friends.

## Volunteer and make a difference in someone's world.



Here's a shout-out to Julie, our summer intern, for all the work she did with field trips, Summer Ecology classes, caterpillar care, seasonal displays and so much more! She willingly jumped in wherever needed and became a valuable team member.



We also extend our thanks to Sydney, who did an incredible job with the butterfly lab once again this summer, along with assisting with Summer Ecology classes and in other areas. We are so grateful for all the extra effort volunteers put in at MHNC.

**Friends of Mosquito Hill, Inc.**

Mosquito Hill Nature Center  
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