

# View from the Hill

A newsletter for friends and members of Friends of Mosquito Hill, Inc. | Fall 2017

## Fall FUNdraiser Features Barbecue, Games, Raffle

*Mike Hibbard, Director*

The grill is hot and the drinks are cold. Come join us for a barbecue and open house on Saturday, September 30 from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm. This family-friendly event will feature live music, guided nature hikes, backyard games and delicious concessions by Hillbilly Bob's Barbecue of New London.

Join us for an easy naturalist-led walk to enjoy the prairie planting and views of Mosquito Hill in their late summer/early autumn splendor. Fun backyard games such as corn-hole bag toss, giant Jenga, yard Yahtzee and more will be featured as well as tours of the interpretive building to showcase our display renovation plans. The afternoon will conclude with the drawing of the winners of the Mosquito Hill Raffle. Tickets will be on sale until the time of the drawing.

Late September is a great time to enjoy the nature center grounds. The heat and humidity of summer is waning and trees are beginning to show their fall colors.

The event is a fundraiser for Friends of Mosquito Hill with all proceeds going toward the Capital Campaign and volunteer programs at Mosquito Hill Nature Center. Admission is just \$5 per person. Barbecued pork sandwiches, side dishes and beverages will be available for purchase. Mosquito Hill raffle tickets will be available for \$15 each or two for \$20. See page two for prize descriptions.

Please join us for this fun-filled FUNdraiser to support the educational programs at Mosquito Hill and to re-kindle old friendships or create some new ones. For more information please visit [www.mosquitohill.com](http://www.mosquitohill.com) or our Facebook page or call the nature center at 920-779-6433.

## Mosquito Hill Fall Barbecue and Open House

Saturday, September 30

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Family Activities • Tours of Interpretive Building • Hillbilly Bob's Barbecue • Live Music • Raffle Ticket Sales

Naturalist-Led Hike - 2:00 pm

Raffle Drawing - 3:00 pm



photo by Scott Webb on Unsplash



### 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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[www.mosquitohill.org](http://www.mosquitohill.org)*

# Amazon Smile = Simple Fundraiser

Chris Worzalla, Capital Campaign Director

The odds are very high that the majority of you reading this newsletter order stuff from Amazon, maybe even some things on a regular basis. Did you know that you can use Amazon Smile to make a contribution to Friends of Mosquito Hill each time you make a purchase? For each purchase that you make via Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the charitable organization of your choice.

Here is how it works. Log on to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). **This step is important.** If you log on to Amazon.com, your purchase doesn't count. From there, you can enter your existing password and select *Friends of Mosquito Hill* as your designated charitable organization (only the



you are a Prime member, all of those benefits apply too.

It's that simple. This seems like a small amount but *if we can get enough people using Amazon Smile*, donations will add up fast.

## It's Raffle Time!

Our annual raffle is back! We hope you are as excited as we are with this year's offerings.

Bring your favorite tunes out to the pontoon or patio with a cutting edge solar-powered, waterproof Bluetooth speaker valued at \$150.

If you're heading north for the weekend and are always disappointed that the cold in your cooler runs out before the brew, you'll love this Yeti cooler that would otherwise set you back \$300.

Of course, who wouldn't benefit from some extra scratch in their wallet? A \$500, \$1000 or \$1500 cash prize is a great return on your investment.

Tickets are \$15 each or two for \$20 and only 1000 tickets will be sold.

Proceeds from this raffle will help fund our building renovation plan. As always, we appreciate your support!

We would be glad to help you with your purchase. Give us a call at (920) 779-6433 or e-mail [mary.swifka@outagamie.org](mailto:mary.swifka@outagamie.org) for assistance.



In total Amazon has donated more than \$54 million to various charities since the start of the program.

Let's be clear; I am NOT asking you to order more than you normally would order from Amazon. My first challenge to you is to start using Amazon Smile for all your Amazon purchases. My experience is that it will take a little focused effort for you to remember to log into the Amazon Smile site instead of Amazon. The second challenge is for you to tell five friends or family members about Amazon Smile and ask them to choose Friends of Mosquito Hill as their charity of choice. Let's see if we can raise \$500 for our Capital Campaign from Amazon Smile by the end of 2017.

# Naturalist's Corner

## Fall is a Great Time to Kill Plants!

Steve Petznick, Assistant Naturalist

That's right! Early fall is the best time of year for effective eradication of many invasive trees and shrubs. In fall, plants move foods produced during photosynthesis in the leaves down into the trunk and root system for storage until needed next spring. This process is called translocation. So why am I talking about killing plants in the first place?

Many people don't realize there is a state law called the Invasive Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule (Wis. Adm. Code Chapter NR 40) that went into effect on September 1, 2009. Often referred to as NR 40, this law *requires* a landowner to control or slow the spread of *prohibited* plant species if growing on your property and *strongly encourages* landowners to control species listed as *restricted*.

The list of prohibited or restricted terrestrial plants is extensive. Many people unknowingly purchase, transplant or share plants on those lists and many nurseries are unaware that some of the plants they sell are on those lists. If you go to the DNR web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov> and type in the keyword *invasive* you can scroll through the listings of both restricted and prohibited plant species. You may be surprised by the number of plants in your yard or property that really can cause a problem for you and for natural areas around you.

Having worked with the nature center property for more than 30 years, I can testify to the number of invasive plant species that have become established in this natural setting. Species like the troublesome burning bush and barberry are found growing on top of the hill. How they got there could be an article in itself!

You can help slow the spread of invasive and aggressive plants. Physical removal of the plant from the ground gives assurance the plant shouldn't grow back. If this isn't an option, the use of chemicals is an alternative. Whether you spray green leaves (foliar application) or

apply chemicals to cut stems (cut stump application), you will have a more effective kill in fall due to the downward nutrient flow within the plant. Woody plants have a longer "working" time than annuals, but should still be treated before they go dormant. Usually if daytime temperatures are above 40 degrees F, the plants and chemicals will stay active. It's always wise to read the instructions for any given chemical to know proper use, how to apply it, along with the correct application rates and use of protective clothing. Safety is important.

Annuals and biennials must be removed before their seeds disperse. Pulling plants out of the ground is best; merely cutting seed heads off by hand or mowing only delays re-growth. Plants are designed to reproduce, and until they release seeds, they will continue to grow back. Always bag the cut seed heads to prevent accidental dispersal.

If you question whether a plant on your property is invasive or non-invasive, please contact us. We are happy to answer your questions and share resources.



Help slow the spread of invasive and aggressive plants like barberry.

# Calendar of Events



www.mosquitohill.com



## Yoga Basics I

Tuesdays, September 5, 12, 19, 26, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Are you new to yoga? These classes are for the true beginner or someone that wants a slower, gentler practice. We will focus on proper alignment and breathing techniques, and use props like straps, blocks and the wall to help ease into and hold poses. Open to everyone with the ability to move through seated, standing, kneeling and reclined positions. \$25 for all 4 classes or \$8/class. Advance registration appreciated, but walk-ins also welcome.



## Leave No Family Inside: Wonderful Wetlands

Saturday, September 9, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Wetlands definition: A low area, such as a marsh or swamp, that is saturated with water. Upon closer examination however, we can see that wetlands are wonderful! Naturalist Jessica Miller will guide you through one of the most unique ecosystems on the planet. Learn about aquatic insects, how trees and plants survive floodwaters and just why wetlands are so very important to the wildlife that use them. \$6/adult, \$10/household. Registration and payment due ASAP.



## Can I or Can't I?

Saturday, September 16, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Learn the basics of home food preservation from Karen Dickrell, UW-Extension Family Living Educator. Karen's presentation will focus on canning and

drying foods safely. Equipment will be on display, written resources will be available, and we'll share some apple recipes.

\$6/person, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due September 8.



## Honey Sunday

Sunday, September 17, 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, visit the kids' craft area 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. \$10/car.



## Third Thursday Lecture Series: History of the Hill

September 21, 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Have you ever wondered how Mosquito Hill got its name or more about the ski jump that once stood on top of the hill? If so, join naturalist Mike Hibbard for a look back at the history and legends of Mosquito Hill and the property that became the nature center in 1974. \$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due September 15.



## Basket Weaving Class

Sunday, October 1, 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Weave this fall-themed basket in deep orange-dyed reed to accent your autumn home decorating. Undyed reed is also available if you prefer a natural look. A raffia bow and D-shaped flat handle are included. The completed basket measures approximately 9" in diameter at the top and 12" at the base. Students may select from six stain colors for the reed and/or handle. Staining is an additional \$5 charge payable to instructor Jeni Mursau, Woven Blessings Basketry. No prior weaving experience is necessary. \$50/person. Registration and payment due September 20.



## Leave No Family Inside: Trees are Terrific

Saturday, October 7,

1:00 – 2:30 PM

No matter what the weather holds, trees remain resilient year-round and that's good for the wildlife that depend on them for survival. We'll learn about some of Wisconsin's native trees through activities, crafts and investigation. We may even eat a thing or two made from trees! Each participant will receive their own tree cookie to decorate. \$6/adult, \$10/household. Registration and payment due by September 29.



## Yoga Basics II

Tuesdays, October 10, 17, 24, 31, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Are you new to yoga? These classes are for the true beginner or someone that wants a slower, gentler practice. We will focus on proper alignment and breathing techniques and use props like straps, blocks and the wall to help ease into and hold poses. Open to everyone

with the ability to move through seated, standing, kneeling and reclined positions. \$25 for all 4 classes or \$8/class. Advance registration appreciated, but walk-ins also welcome.



## 15th Annual Harvest Moon Festival

Saturday, October 14, 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 our 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.



## Third Thursday Lecture Series: Life from the Gut Piles

October 19, 9:30 – 11:00 AM

More than \$2 billion is spent on hunting in Wisconsin annually. Many hunters and other people believe that a single life ends with a successful harvest. However, the death of one animal provides life for countless others. Experienced hunter, bird watcher and ecologist, Jon Motquin, will explore how new life arises from the "gut pile." He will discuss the biology, ecology, and cultural implications his successful harvests have had on the local ecosystem. \$6/person, \$4/students, seniors & FOMH. Registration and payment due October 13.



## Basket Weaving Workshop

Sunday, October 29, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Weave your own basket vase with instructor Jeni Mursau from Woven Blessings Basketry. This piece will decorate a front entrance, fireplace hearth or living room and is designed to sit on the floor. The basket measures approximately 12" L x 3" W x 18" H and includes a wooden racetrack bottom. Leather side straps are optional. Upon completion, students may select from six stain colors, also optional. Staining will be an additional \$8 charge payable to instructor Jeni Mursau, Woven

Blessings Basketry. No prior weaving experience is necessary.

\$60/person. Registration and payment due October 18.



## Weave Your Own Holiday Ornaments

Saturday, November 4 or 11, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Prepare for the holidays by weaving three tree ornaments with various colors of reed. Jeni Mursau from Woven Blessings Basketry will provide all the materials and instruction to help you create a woven snowman, reindeer and 3-D heart. No experience is necessary. \$25/person. Registration and payment due October 27.



## Leave No Family Inside: Basics of Astronomy

Saturday, November 11,

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Families will have fun and learn some of the basics of astronomy-related events. Topics include moon phases, seasonal changes, explanation of measurements and other interesting facts all during this hands-on overview of the world of astronomy. This program best suited for families with children ages 10 and older. \$6/adult, \$10/household. Registration and payment due by November 3.



## Third Thursday Lecture Series: Northern Ecuador—A Travelogue

November 16, 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Anyone who knows naturalist Jessica Miller is familiar with her love of nature and passion for travel. So it should come as no surprise that when asked to join a "birding tour" in Ecuador not to see just birds, but all kinds of wildlife, she jumped at the chance. Starting in the capital of Quito and ending the two-week journey in the Yasuni National Park (Amazon Rain Forest), Jessica will introduce you to Ecuador's history, culture, and the sights and sounds of the northern highlands and lowlands of Ecuador. \$6/person, \$4/students, seniors & FOMH. Registration and payment due November 10.



## Burlap Wreath-Making Class

Saturday, November 25, 9:00 AM – 12 noon

Add to the beauty of your home by making a burlap wreath. This wreath's neutral color will give your home a lovely rustic touch and can be embellished and brightened with your favorite flowers and accessories such as branches, vines, berries or silk flowers. \$45/person. Registration and payment due November 16.



## Rustic Twig Ornaments

Sunday, November 26, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Twigs, feathers, burlap, fibers and more will be used to craft a selection of rustic ornaments that will look great on your tree but also jazz up your home long after the holidays. \$20/person. Registration and payment due November 16.



## Leave No Family Inside: Basic Outdoor Winter Survival

Saturday, December 2,

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Winters in Wisconsin can be ever-changing; 30 degrees one minute and 30 below the next. That's why being properly prepared for outdoor adventures is important. In this class, you'll learn ways to stay warm outside, including fire starting and shelter building. We'll also discuss a variety of animal adaptations that allows them to survive Wisconsin's winters. \$6/person or \$10/household. Registration and payment due November 24.



## Holiday Make & Take

Saturday, December 9, 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 eight unique gifts and wrap them with the assistance of our volunteer team. Voila! Your children's holiday shopping is complete. 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.

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

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Address Correspondence To:  
Friends of Mosquito Hill  
N3880 Rogers Road  
New London WI 54961  
(920) 779-6433  
www.mosquitohill.org

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:**

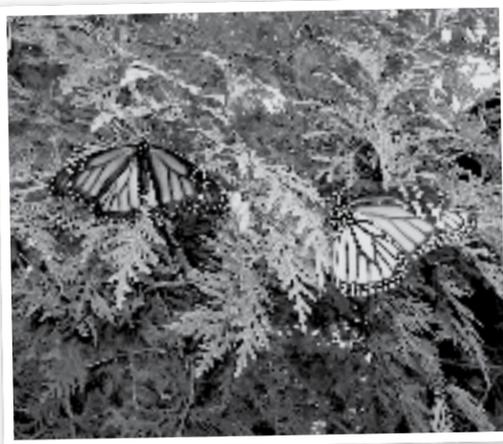
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Layout & Design - Jayne Thielen Frazier  
NEW Printing, Appleton  
Outlook Graphics, Neenah



## Second Annual Success!

We would like to give a big shout out to Cassie Kottke from Stride Personal Training for her role in making the Second Annual Mosquito Hill Endurance Run a great success! Due to Cassie's hard work (and that of her family and the volunteers she recruited), the number of runners increased almost 25% from last year, and MHNC received all the race proceeds. All the runners deserve a round of applause as well. Here are a few remarkable statistics from the weekend: The first place finisher in the 24-hour event ran 96 miles, the top male and female racers in the 50 km race finished in 4:34 and 6:59 respectively and all participants ran a total of 1876.5 miles! What an accomplishment!

## Epic Journey



Monarch butterflies tagged and released at MHNC wait to warm up before taking wing. Their incredible journey will take them from New London to their overwintering grounds in central Mexico, a journey of approximately 2,500 miles.

## Say Hello to Luke

If you visited MHNC this summer, you probably met our seasonal employee, Luke Al-Saadi. Luke is a student at UW-Stevens Point and lives in Waupaca with his wife Alison (who is a MHNC volunteer). In addition to being a good sport listening to Steve Petznick's bad jokes, Luke is an expert pizza maker.



# Volunteer Voice

*"You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."*  
- Winston Churchill

## In a Volunteer's Voice

*While Pat Lund-Moe was traveling in Tanzania this summer and unable to write the Volunteer Voice, we put out a call to MHNC volunteers and supporters via Facebook and asked them what they liked about volunteering, or if they had any experiences with MHNC volunteers. Here are a few of their responses.*

Sandy, who lives out of state, "Loved, loved, loved my time there as a volunteer. Miss it so much."

Jason from New London, "We volunteer at the Hill each week cleaning the critter tanks as well as feeding the critters and the birds. My kids love it and look forward to it every week!"

Samantha, a frequent trail runner, "I'm extremely grateful for those who do the up-keep on the trails. I'm not a fan of running indoors, or on concrete when I don't absolutely have to, so your well-kept trails are a blessing!"

## Saying Thank-you to Our Volunteers

On June 21, Friends of Mosquito Hill members, volunteers and staff gathered at the nature center for an indoor picnic of burgers and brats. It was, more importantly, an opportunity to thank our volunteers and recognize one in particular for her efforts in support of MHNC.

## 2017 Volunteer Service Award Presented

Sydney Stroschein was presented with the 2017 Volunteer Service Award by Mosquito Hill director Mike Hibbard. Sydney is entering her junior year at New London High School, but already has a five-year history of volunteering for MHNC.



Sydney Stroschein was presented with the 2017 Volunteer Service Award by Mosquito Hill director Mike Hibbard.

Sydney worked for us this summer coordinating the monarch butterfly rearing program and helping with summer field trips. In the past, she has been a Butterfly House volunteer and Summer Ecology Class assistant. She is considering a career in health care. Congratulations, Sydney!

## Something Big is Coming...

Are you looking for something to do this season? Some big events are coming up and we sure could use your help.

Give a call (920-779-6433) or e-mail Pat (volparks@outagamie.org) if you're interested in learning about **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** at the following events:

**Honey Sunday**, September 17 • **Harvest Moon Festival**, October 14 • **Holiday Make & Take**, December 9

**Friends of Mosquito Hill, Inc.**

Mosquito Hill Nature Center  
N3880 Rogers Rd. • New London, WI 54961  
(920) 779-6433

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