



OWL'S HILL NATURE SANCTUARY

SUMMER 2011

www.owlshill.org

Tennessee Naturalist Program Completes First Class

The Tennessee Naturalist program's debut chapter, hosted by Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary, completed its first series of sessions this spring, and organizers are planning for a second series at Owl's Hill this fall.

"It was so much fun to be with adults who care and want to learn about Tennessee nature and wildlife," said Owl's Hill Executive Director Margaret Cameron. "It was also an honor for Owl's Hill to host the first class."

The aim of the program is to produce volunteers across Tennessee who will provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the management of natural resources and natural areas in their communities. This intensive training course lasts for several months for a total of 40 classroom and field hours, and requires 40 hours of volunteer service to complete.

The goals of the Tennessee Naturalist program align perfectly with Owl's Hill's mission to provide environmental education, conservation, restoration and research opportunities while maintaining a greenspace with minimal outside impact, Cameron said.



The program, which was spearheaded by Andrea "Pandy" English, former Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency wildlife diversity coordinator, was launched in September 2010.

The TWRA, Tennessee State Parks, the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, the Center

for Environmental Education at Middle Tennessee State University, Metro Nashville Parks and Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary shared English's passion for the cause and signed on as sponsors.

The program comprises 11 separate sessions taught by a team of specialists, each proficient in their field. Program topics include invertebrates, astronomy, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, forests, climate and geology.



David Sims, TWRA biologist, identifies specimens in the creek with class participants.

"You learn new things from everyone you meet," Cameron said of the collective educational experience. "It was interesting to learn from instructors who were very passionate about their topics."

After completing the program, each Tennessee Naturalist will be better prepared to volunteer their time, energy and ideas to an array of programs aimed at preserving native ecosystems and providing environmental education throughout Tennessee.

The Tennessee Naturalist program, which is working to become its own separate nonprofit organization, is hoping to establish chapters across the state, and it's off to a good start toward that goal as Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville recently agreed to be the second program host

Details about the fall Tennessee Naturalist program at Owl's Hill will be announced later this summer. Watch the Owl's Hill website or call to add your name to the waiting list.

Interns Making Hands-on Investment

By Anna Hall

Five interns are hard at work this summer helping to maintain and sustain the natural splendor of Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary and lending a big hand during the sanctuary's popular nature camps.

The interns, who are on hand three days a week helping with camps and onsite maintenance work, include Belmont University student Nick Giordano, Lee University student Zack Deering, Belmont University nursing graduate Laura Stinson, Lipscomb University environmental science graduate Rebecca Allison, and UNC student Alec Aaronson.

"They're so good at what they do. Owl's Hill would not be the same without our interns," executive director Margaret Cameron said.

The paid internships require the interns to handle a variety of projects to preserve Owl's Hill's natural beauty.

With summer camps and onsite maintenance, the interns have their hands full. As camp counselors, they stay busy helping the campers with nature studies and watching over them to ensure their safety. They are also responsible for setting up the camp each morning, and cleaning the site each afternoon.

Each intern rotates between working the camps offered throughout the summer and



2011 interns are (L-R) Nick Giordano, Zack Deering, Alec Aaronson, Laura Stinson and Rebecca Allison.

maintaining the grounds, a system they say is "a good balance."

One of their most important jobs is keeping the trails open and clear for Owl's Hill visitors.

"They cut back the limbs and fire rake the trails so that when we take groups, it makes walking in the woods a much more pleasant experience," Cameron said.

Maintenance of Owl's Hill includes other tasks such as weed eating, keeping the bird feeders stocked, driving the Rough Terrain Vehicle and every so often using the chainsaw for heavy-duty jobs.

"We'll have a task and we will know what we need to do. Then we have to figure out how to do it, as a team and as a unit," Stinson said.

One of the team's biggest projects this summer is to help turn an overgrown cedar forest back into a cedar glade by removing all invasive vegetation in the area to allow cacti and other native plants to thrive.

Anna Hall is a senior at the University of Tennessee and an intern at McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations, which provides pro bono marketing services to Owl's Hill.

Dogs to Hit Trails

Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary is putting the finishing touches on plans for its first "Happy Trails Dog Walk," set for Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon.

In addition to giving well-mannered dogs some quality time on the trails, the dog walk will draw attention to the restoration and preservation of the "Paw-Paw" and "Dogwood" trails on the Owl's Hill property. The coincidental canine-sounding names of these trails, which were named after the abundance of like-named trees, served as the inspiration for the idea for Happy Trails Dog Walk. The event will also raise funds to help maintain the trails.

In addition, local veterinarian Dr. Charles Beauchamp, a member of the Owl's

Hill board of directors, will be on hand to answer questions about dog care, and each dog will receive an Owl's Hill bandana with the Sanctuary's logo on it. Last but not least, edible treats will be available for dogs and their owners.

People are free, but the entry fee for each canine visitor is \$10. Those wishing to participate may sign up online in advance, or at the gate on the day of the event. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times while they are on the property.

Needless to say, the staff and volunteers are excited about this event because it is the first of its kind. "We are always trying to figure out ways to make new friends for Owl's Hill," says board member Dancy Sanders. "We thought, what better way to do that than to invite a group of dogs who will have to bring their owners."

The Owl's Hill October newsletter will feature the names of all dogs whose owners donated to the restoration of the "Paw-Paw" and "Dogwood" trails in their honor. — Anna Hall



Dogs are already lining up for "Happy Trails."

SUMMER/FALL CALENDAR

SUMMER CAMPS

Limited space is still available for the following camps:

Screech Owl 4

July 11 – 14, 9 am-1:30 pm
Ages 5-7 (entering kindergarten through second grade)
\$165/child

NatureRanger 2

July 18-21, times vary
Age 8-11
\$200/child

NatureExplorer Camp

July 25-28, times vary
Ages 12-15
\$225/child

JULY

Summer Nights at the Hill

Thursday, July 14, 5:30-8:30 pm
Ages 5 and up
\$10/person in advance;
\$15/person at the gate

Mommy and Me: Wildlife Water Safari

Friday, July 22, 10-11:30 am
Ages 3-5 with adult
\$10/child and adult in advance;
\$15/child and adult at the gate

Music in the Meadow:

The Waymores:

Tom Kimmel, Don Henry and Sally Barris

Saturday, July 30
Gate opens at 5:30; music at 7 pm
\$75/carload of 6

AUGUST

First Monday Walk

August 1, 10-11:30 am
or 3-4:30 pm
October 3, 10-11:30 am
or 3-4:30 pm
All ages
\$7/person in advance;
\$10/person at the gate

Happy Trails Dog Walk

Saturday, August 6
10 am – noon
\$10/dog

Mommy and Me:

Hide in Sight

Friday, August 12, 10-11:30 am
Ages 3-5 with adult
\$10/child and adult in advance;
\$15/child and adult at the gate

Mommy and Me:

Visit an Ant Hill

Friday, August 26, 10-11:30 am
Ages 3-5 with adult
\$10/child and adult in advance;
\$15/child and adult at the gate

Music in the Meadow:

The Crows with Michael

Kelsh

Saturday, August 27
Gate opens at 5:30;
music begins at 7 pm
\$75/carload of 6

Summer Nights at the Hill

Tuesday, August 30, 5:30 – 8:30 pm
Ages 5 and up
\$10/person in advance;
\$15/person at the gate

SEPTEMBER

Butterfly Celebration

Saturday, September 10,
10 am – noon
All ages
\$7/person in advance;
\$10/person at the gate

Labor Day Butterfly Count with the North American Butterfly Association

Monday, September 12,
10 am – 4 pm
\$3/person

OCTOBER

Autumn Foliage Hikes

Tuesdays beginning in October;
1-3 pm
Adults only
\$7/person in advance;
\$10/person at the gate

Hoots and Hayrides

Sunday, October 23, 1-5 pm
All ages
Admission includes a pumpkin
\$12/person in advance,
\$15/person at the gate

Owl Prowl

Monday, October 10, 6-9 pm
Age 9 and up
\$20/person in advance;
\$30/person at the gate
Includes dinner

ONGOING:

Tai Chi with Jani Kendy

Mondays at 5:30 pm
Fridays at 8:30 am
\$15/class,
\$48/four weeks, one class/week or
\$65/four weeks, two classes/week

Charles Brindley Old Tree Drawing Workshop

Saturday, October 8, 2011

10 am – 6 pm

Cost: \$90/person; Adults Only

Acclaimed landscape artist Charles Brindley, who has captured the ageless beauty of some of Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary's oldest trees, continues his series of drawing workshops at Owl's Hill with a one-day session set for Oct. 8.

For more than 25 years, Brindley has produced hundreds of drawings and paintings of thick hackberries, massive oaks, ancient sycamores and mysterious beeches.

Embracing all levels, from beginner to advanced, The Old Tree Drawing Workshop will offer participants a diversity of instructional options. For beginning artists, technique and fundamentals will be stressed, while a more open dialogue will be explored to help experienced artists refine ideas and their creative and technical skills. Total cost of the workshop is \$90. Space is limited, so please call Owl's Hill at (615) 370-4672 or register online.

If you would like to receive the Owl's Hill Newsletter by e-mail only, contact owlshill@bellsouth.net.

OUR MISSION:

Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary is forever a greenspace, dedicated to:

- Environmental education and research
- Restoration of flora and fauna
- Conservation and protection of natural resources
- Appreciation and enjoyment of nature

The impact of mankind on this sanctuary shall be minimal.

Donating to Owl's Hill

Please help us to continue our mission of preservation and environmental education by making a tax-deductible donation – any amount will help tremendously. Also, consider honoring someone with a gift that will give back to the Earth. A special Owl's Hill gift card will be sent to the individual.

\$10 – Native Plants for Teaching Gardens

\$20 – Songbird Seed

\$35 – Bluebird Nesting Boxes

\$50 – Pond: Help support our aquatic programs

\$100 – Owl Support: Help feed and provide care for our resident owls

\$125 – Sponsor a Class Field Trip

\$_____ - Any donation will be helpful!

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____ Form of Payment: Check Credit Card Cash

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____/_____/_____

Donation in honor of: _____

Clip and mail to: **Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary • 545 Beech Creek Road • Brentwood, TN 37027**

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Tickets Remain for July, August Concerts

Longtime Owl's Hill supporters and many new friends were on hand for the Music in the Meadow concert series kickoff in June, and even bigger crowds are expected for upcoming performances.

"Several people who came out to see Barbara Bailey Hutchinson and Gene Cotton were first-time visitors to Owl's Hill, and many of them said they were coming back for the final two concerts," said Connally Penley, vice chairwoman of the Owl's Hill board of directors who has helped organize the series. "We expect the shows to sell out, so we recommend that anyone interested buy their tickets soon.

Series passes are no longer available, but single concert tickets can be purchased for \$75. Each ticket covers one car carrying up to six people. Tickets can be purchased by telephone or online, at (615) 370-4672 or www.owlshills.org. Tickets will not be sold at the gate.

Concert patrons can bring their favorite foods and beverages and enjoy a relaxing picnic on the lawn – concessions will not be sold at the event – and visit



with the owls. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with music starting around 7 p.m.

Upcoming concerts will feature a stellar group of singer-songwriters:

July 30: The Waymores, featuring longtime Music City favorites Tom Kimmel, Don Henry and Sally Barris.

August 27: A reunion of The Crows – Keith Miles, Jack Sundrud and Sue Braswell – with special guest Michael Kelsh.

For more information on these artists, visit www.owlshill.org/artmusic. Proceeds from Music in the Meadow help support the sanctuary's live non-releasable owl exhibits, which are used for educational purposes, and conservation programs in place to manage a wide variety of native plant and animal life, including old-growth trees, cedar glades, wildflowers, butterflies, amphibians and Eastern Bluebirds.

Music in the Meadow is sponsored by Cameron Worley P.C. Attorneys at Law; Pinnacle Financial Partners; Import Auto Maintenance and Journal Communications.

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