



OWL'S HILL NATURE SANCTUARY

WINTER 2011

www.owlshill.org

Owl's Hill Camps Support Right to Enjoy Outdoors

"Summer as it used to be!" That's been the slogan and the goal for Owl's Hill's camps since their inception.

What used to be: playing outdoors, splashing in the creek, catching tadpoles, watching wildlife, building forts, making up games, roaming the woods and having adventures, all in real time in the real world. We've always known "what used to be" remains good for young minds and bodies; but recently, based on research, childhood specialists have come to understand just how important outdoor play and interaction with the environment are to the healthy mental, emotional and physical development of children.

Yet, because of TV and video games, because of restrictions on lot size and play activities, because of busy streets and unknown neighbors, these things have faded so much from childhood that the Tennessee Legislature was moved to adopt a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. And now, a growing coalition of public and private organizations and agencies, including Owl's Hill, is supporting the effort to encourage children to engage in and experience the outdoors.

There's no better way to help your children realize their Right to the Outdoors than to arrange an Owl's Hill camp experience for this coming spring or summer.

Camps include free time, structured activities, wildlife presentations, art and craft projects and plenty of outdoor fun. From the Old Orchard to the Creek, from the South Ridge to Fort Cedar, campers will be able to explore, study and solve nature's mysteries while enjoying the great outdoors that is Middle Tennessee.

All camps, from Screech Owl Camp for ages 5 through 7 to NatureExplorer Camp for young teens, are designed with age-appropriate activities, some new and some brought back by "popular demand!" Exploratopia, the spring break camp, is fashioned after a summer neighborhood, where children of several ages play and work together, learning to help each other. All session sizes are kept small so campers get personal attention and have the opportunity to make new friends with similar interests.

So, what are you waiting for? Register your children for a healthy dose of "summer as it used to be," and reap the benefits of outdoor fun for your family. For a complete schedule of spring and summer camps, see the back page or visit www.owlshill.org. For more information on the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, go to www.everychildoutdoorstn.org.





Photo by Dave Hawkins

Orion 1998-2011

Orion was quite old in Barn Owl years. Other than some recent weight loss he was pretty much his normal self up until the end, so whatever caused his death was fairly acute. That's the thing with wild critters; they don't show any signs of being sick until it's close to the end. Survival of the fittest ... it's not good to show any weakness.

Orion was part of my life for many years. I knew him even before he came to live at Owl's Hill. He had the curious and engaging personality that is typical of many Barn Owls. He was delighted and awed many people over his long life. Those of you who were around during spring courtship time know of his Barn Owl "song and dance" that seemed to go on and on and on. We can take that as a compliment, as he would only exhibit such behavior if he was healthy, content, and comfortable in his surroundings. He had a good life.

Goodbye, old friend.

– Amy MacKenzie
Supervisor of Live Exhibits

Free the Trees Day

For October visitors who took a trip through last fall's maze, you may have noticed the "walls" were mostly covered with the invasive vine, Japanese Honeysuckle. What you may not have noticed was that the vine was hiding some beautiful dogwoods and other flowering trees in our upper orchard.

During the warm days of November, Andy Sudbrock of Nashville Natives sprayed the area as part of Owl's Hill's effort to reclaim and restore the native habitat. It's an ongoing battle, and we need your help. On March 5, we are hosting "Free the Trees Day" from 1 to 3 p.m. We're asking friends of Owl's Hill to help us cut these vines off the trees as they begin to come out of winter and in to spring bloom.

Volunteers should bring gloves and clippers; we will provide water. (If it's a nice day, feel free to come at noon and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the lower orchard.) There's no charge, of course, but please call ahead or register online.

Organic Wine Tasting

Owl's Hill will host Will Motley, owner of Woodland Wine Merchant in East Nashville, for an organic wine tasting on Sunday, May 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$20. Reservations are limited, so be sure and register early, either online at www.owlshill.org or by calling (615) 370-4672.

The sunset wine tasting, which will be held at the Sanctuary's pavilion, will be casual, giving participants a chance chat with Motley about the different kinds of organic wine and the methods used to grow grapes organically, without the use of pesticides and commercial fertilizers.

Motley will bring a diverse selection of six wines representing different types of grapes and various countries. "Many of the Old World wineries in France and Italy have always grown grapes organically," he said, "but a growing number of American vintners are using sustainable farming techniques as demand for organic wines continues to increase."

Celebrate Birds

February is National Bird Feeding Month, and Owl's Hill will help celebrate our feathered friends with a special program on bluebirds Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. to noon.

"It's definitely time to get ready for Eastern bluebirds," said Owl's Hill Executive Director Margaret Cameron. "We will be discussing how to put up houses to attract this cavity nester, and participants will learn more in general about this beautiful bird as we take walks around the Sanctuary to see what birds are out and about."

Andy Sudbrock, owner of Nashville Natives, a wholesale grower that specializes in Tennessee wildflowers and native plants, will be on hand to discuss landscaping and producing gardens using native flora to help attract birds and other



Photo by Ken Salleng

wildlife. He will have some of these plants on site for purchase, just in time for late-winter planting to give their roots systems a head start before spring bloom time.

Cost is \$7. Reservations can be made by calling (615) 370-4672 or online at www.owlshill.org.

Brindley Workshops

Well-known landscape artist Charles Brindley will be offering his popular workshops once again this year. His workshops are great for beginning artists as well as seasoned artists. It's also a great way to spend some quality time outdoors and a great "de-stressor."

The Landscape Drawing & Painting Workshop will be held Friday, April 15, from noon to 7 p.m., and Saturday April 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost for the two-day workshop is \$165. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call (615) 370-4672 or register online at www.owlshill.org. For comments by past and present Brindley students, visit www.creativepaintinganddrawing.com/comments.

Consider Sponsoring Class Field Trip

Late last summer, an excited teacher from the Nashville area e-mailed Owl's Hill with a request for a spring program for the classes in her grade level. She said they had never been able to afford the trip, but a national company with a large local presence was offering grants to cover just this type of situation. We scheduled a mutually convenient time and looked forward to meeting the teachers and students.

Then we heard from her again just before the holidays. Sadly, the grants were in such demand that applications were 10 times the number of grants available, and they were not one of the fortunate recipients. Of course, they could no longer afford the visit.

Because we are a nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental education, Owl's Hill works to keep program costs as low as possible. However, the Sanctuary does not receive any government funds and must count on programs to be self-supporting. As you read this newsletter and think of the events you and your family and friends might attend, please consider also making a donation directed towards bringing students who cannot otherwise afford a program. These are most often the students who have little or no experience of Tennessee's Great Outdoors. Please help them discover the beauty and mystery of their own state. A mere \$125 covers an entire class, but any amount is welcome.

– Nancy Garden, Director of Education

WINTER PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY

Mommy and Me: Where's My Shadow?

Tuesday, February 1

10-11:30 a.m.

\$10/child with one adult

Gate price: \$15/child with one adult

Ages 3-5

Holiday Hike: Burrow Hunt

Wednesday, February 2

3:30-5 p.m.

\$7/person in advance

\$10/person at the gate

All ages

Celebrate Birds!

Saturday, February 12

9 a.m.-Noon

\$7/person in advance

\$10/person at the gate

All ages

Holiday Hike: Valentine's Day Stroll

Monday, February 14

3:30-5 p.m.

\$7/person in advance

\$10/person at the gate

All ages

Holiday Hike: Presidents' Day

Big Tree Hike

Monday, February 21

10-11:30 a.m.

\$7/person in advance

\$10/person at the gate

All ages

MARCH

Free the Trees

Saturday, March 5

1-3 p.m.

No charge

Mommy and Me: Singing at the Pond

Monday, March 7

10-11:30 a.m.

\$10/child with one adult in advance

\$15/child with one adult at the gate

Ages 3-5

Holiday Hike: Go Green Hike

Thursday, March 17

3:30-5 p.m.

\$7/person in advance

\$10/person at the gate

All ages

APRIL

Mommy and Me: How Does Your Garden Grow?

Tuesday, April 5

10-11:30 a.m.

\$10/child and one adult in advance

\$15/child and one adult at the gate

Ages 3-5

Wildflower Walks

Every Tuesday in April

1-3 p.m.

\$7/person in advance

\$10/person at the gate

Adults only

Music in the Meadow

Saturday, June 25

Saturday, July 30

Saturday, August 27

Hikes, picnics and music

\$75/single, \$200/series

per car

Summer Concert Series

The dates have been set for the second annual Music in the Meadow that will once again feature some of Nashville's best singer-songwriters. While artists for two of the shows are still being finalized, Tom Kimmel and the Waymores perform on July 30. The series will kick off June 25 and conclude on Aug. 27. Single concert tickets are \$75 and series tickets are \$200. Each ticket covers one car carrying up to six people. Check our website soon for more details.

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 holiday gift that will give back to the Earth. A special Owl's Hill gift card will be provided to send 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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CAMP CALENDAR 2011

Exploratopia Spring Break Camp

Session 1: March 14-17

Session 2: March 21-24

9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

\$50/day per child

\$165/child for four-day session

Ages Kindergarten-6th grade

Screech Owl Camp

Session 1: June 6-9

Session 2: June 13-16

Session 3: June 20-23

Session 4: July 11-14

9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

\$165/session (\$150/session before April 1)

Includes camp shirt

Ages 5-7 (Entering Kindergarten-2nd grade)

Fossilmania

June 17

9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

\$50/child (\$40/child before April 1)

Ages 5-9 (Entering Kindergarten-4th grade)

Nature Ranger Camp

Session 1: June 27-30

Session 2: July 18-21

Mon. and Wed.: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tues.: 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Thurs.: 4-10 p.m.

\$200/session (\$180/session before April 1)

Includes camp shirt

Ages 8-11 (Entering grades 3-6)

NatureExplorer Camp

July 25-28

Mon.-Wed., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thurs.: 4-10 p.m.

\$225/session (\$200/session before April 1)

Includes camp shirt

Ages 12-15 (Entering grades 6-9)

Parents' Night

NatureRanger 1 Parents' Night: June 30

NatureRanger 2 Parents' Night: July 21

NatureExplorer Parents' Night: July 28

6:30-10 p.m.

\$25/parent (\$20 before April 1)



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