



OWL'S HILL

NATURE SANCTUARY

FALL 2011

www.owlshill.org

Grant Will Open Owl's Hill To More Students

A Green Team Grant from the Brentwood office of BPS&M-Wells Fargo will help Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary expand its mission of providing environmental education opportunities.

The \$3,000 grant, which will fund the new BPS&M-Wells Fargo Environmental Education Fund at Owl's Hill, will be used to help underwrite visits by underserved students from area schools and community centers – young people who might not otherwise visit the sanctuary.

"We are extremely grateful to BPS&M for this grant," said Owl's Hill Executive Director Margaret Cameron. "Owl's Hill is self-sustaining and receives no government funding. As a result, we must charge for our programming, although we try to keep costs as low as possible. But as schools have cut back on extracurricular activities such as field trips, many classes are unable to pay to have their students come to Owl's Hill."

Each year, the employee benefits consulting firm nominates four environment-related organizations to support, and one is selected through a vote by staff members. "It's great to be able to give back to the community by supporting a place as special as Owl's Hill," said Kathie Tange-duPré, a consultant with BPS&M's Specialized Benefits Reporting and Analytics group. "We are thrilled the grant will be used to bring the great outdoors to more young people."



Owl's Hill volunteer and board member Margaret Howell gives "bee dance" lessons to a group of students. With many schools and community centers cutting back on extracurricular activities such as field trips, grant money and individual donations can help bring nature programs to children who might not otherwise be able to visit Owl's Hill.

Owl's Hill also accepts individual donations to sponsor school, church and community center classes, which Cameron says is a great way to give deserving youth the opportunity to experience nature. (See donor card, page 3.)

"Exposure to nature and the outdoors is essential for developing children's physical and emotional health and in encouraging

knowledge and appreciation for the environment," Cameron said. "Owl's Hill is committed to providing children and their families with various ways to learn and appreciate nature, and we want to provide direct, hands-on experience to as many as possible to help them develop into lifelong enthusiasts and advocates for the environment."



Prickly pear cactus is native to Tennessee.

From the Director

Watch for changes as the natives return

Just as the seasons are changing, watch for the Owl's Hill landscape to change. This past year, we were fortunate to work with the Private Lands Division of Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and now have a plan to help restore native wildlife habitat at Owl's Hill. We have planted a prairie strip along Beech Creek Road under the power line, and in the next year or two the area should be full of native grasses and wildflowers. In the past couple of years, we have heard a few "Bob White" calls around the nature sanctuary. Areas like this should help build our quail population and attract many other types of animals.

This summer, the interns began work on the cedar glade restoration, removing bush honeysuckle, vinca and lespedeza. Cedar glades carry a unique set of plants – for example, many people do not realize that the prickly pear cactus is native to Tennessee. They are actually an important and nutritious food source for animals such

as opossum, raccoons, squirrel and deer. They still bloom at Owl's Hill and we hope to see them increase along with the return of flowers such as the Tennessee coneflower, which has re-emerged across the state and just this summer was removed from the federal endangered species list.

In addition to restoring food and habitat for the native wildlife, these areas will provide important educational areas to help school children and adults learn about Tennessee's various habitats and increase awareness of the problems of invasive plants for wildlife.

We cannot undertake this project without volunteer help! School, scout and corporate groups are a big part of the work that goes on at Owl's Hill. Individuals are also welcome. Check out the calendar for "Free the Trees" day. Bring a lunch and work gloves and come help us free the dogwoods and other trees of honeysuckle.

– Margaret Cameron, Executive Director

Welcome Orion!

Owl's Hill will be celebrating the arrival of our new resident barn owl, Orion, on Saturday, Nov. 12. He comes here from Stanford University in California, where he was assisting with animal behavior studies. Known as Buddy to his lab friends, his job there was to help researchers better understand owl responses to sound and light stimulus while in darkness.

After Buddy's recent retirement, his Stanford handler began searching for a comfortable home for an owl with his intelligence and people-friendly disposition. Owl's Hill, meanwhile, was looking for a barn owl to join our other non-releasable owls, which play an important role in our education programs.

Timing, as they say, is everything.

Don't miss the opportunity to welcome Orion to Tennessee over the next few weeks. He will be here getting used to his new digs during the first Owl Prowl on Oct. 10 and at Hoots and Hayrides on Oct 23. Owl Day, celebrated this year on Nov. 12, will be his official coming out party, and we're hoping for a big crowd to jump on the welcome wagon.

For more information on Owl Day and other events, see the program calendar or visit www.owlshill.org.

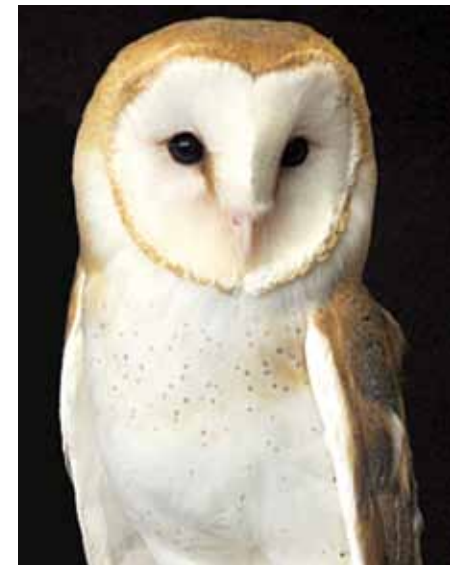


Photo by Phyllis Knudsen

Frist Foundation Helps Owl's Hill Spin New "Web"

It seems only a few short years ago that we announced "a new Web at Owl's Hill" as we proudly invited our friends to visit www.owlshill.org, a site generously hosted for us by Sitemason. That was in December of 2002, and we were excited to be a part of the online world, making information and reservations more accessible to our visitors. Over the years, the tools Sitemason provided allowed us to update many things, and the staff worked long and hard to keep the Owl's Hill website current and easier for guests to use.

However, 10 years is a long time in the world of media and technology. Our original site became

dated and unwieldy, taking more and more staff time and providing less and less service. In the spring of 2011, Owl's Hill was honored to receive a Frist Technology grant through the Frist Foundation to redesign the site, making it quicker and easier for staff to provide appealing, timely information to the public. Sitemason graciously agreed to continue hosting the site at no charge and to assist us with rebuilding the site, which was designed by Rippke Design.

Like spiders that eat their webs to reuse the chemicals in the silk, we have many familiar things on the remodeled site, but it is arranged so

that our guests can easily find them and we can quickly and easily make changes and add new information. Past "holes" have been repaired, and it is ready to catch your attention. And, like our eight-legged friends who work hardest in autumn, our new "Web" will be unfurled in mid-October.

Again, we give many thanks to the Frist Foundation for providing this opportunity for the staff to focus on our mission and to Sitemason for their ongoing support.

– Nancy Garden, Director of Education

FALL/WINTER CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Autumn Foliage Hikes

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

Knee High Naturalist: Where Are the Seeds?

Monday, October 3 or
Tuesday, October 4
10-11:30 am
\$10/child with adult in advance
\$15/child with adult at the gate
Ages 3-5

First Monday Hike

Monday, October 3
3-4:30 pm
\$7/person in advance
\$10/person at the gate
All ages

Charles Brindley Old Tree Drawing Class

Saturday, October 8
10 am-6 pm
\$90/person
Adults only

Owling, Howling and Prowling

Monday, October 10
6-9 pm
\$20/person in advance
(includes dinner)
\$30/person at the gate
Ages 9 - adult

Hoots and Hayrides

Sunday, October 23
1-5 pm
\$12/person in advance
\$15/person at the gate
All ages (two and under free)

NOVEMBER

Autumn Foliage Hikes

Tuesdays in November through
11/15
1-3 pm
\$7/person in advance
\$10/person at the gate
Adults only

Happy Trails

Autumn Dog Walk
Saturday, November 5
10 am-Noon
\$10/dog/ in advance
\$15/dog at the gate

Knee High Naturalist: Greet the Owls

Monday, November 7 or
Tuesday, November 8
3-4:30 pm
\$10/child with one adult in
advance
\$15/child with adult at the gate
Ages 3-5

First Monday Hike

Monday, November 7
3-4:30 pm
\$7/person in advance
\$10/person at the gate
All Ages

Owl Day

Saturday, November 12
1-4 pm
\$7/person in advance
\$10/person at the gate
All ages (two and under free)

Owling, Howling and Prowling

Thursday, November 17
5-8 pm
\$20/person in advance (includes
dinner)
\$30/person at the gate
Ages 9 - adult

Free the Trees

Saturday, November 19
Noon-3 pm
No charge

DECEMBER

Knee High Naturalist: What is Wild?

Monday, December 5 or
Tuesday, December 6
10-11:30 am
\$10/child with adult in advance
\$15/child with adult at the gate
Ages 3-5

First Monday Hike

Monday, December 5
3-4:30 pm
\$7/person in advance
\$10/person at the gate
All Ages

Audubon/TOS Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 17
7 am-11:30 am
\$5/person (payable to Audubon)
Adults only

Winter Solstice Owling, Howling and Prowling

Wednesday, December 21
5-8 pm
\$20/person in advance
(includes dinner)
\$30/person at the gate
Ages 9 - adult

Hot Chocolate Hikes

Tuesday, December 27 or
Wednesday, December 28 or
Thursday, December 29
1-3 pm
\$7/person in advance
(includes hot chocolate)
\$10/person at the gate
All ages (two and under free)

Free the Trees

Saturday, December 10
Noon-3 pm
No charge

JANUARY

Knee High Naturalist: Lunch for a Raccoon

Monday, January 9 or
Tuesday, January 10
10-11:30 am
\$10/child with adult in advance
\$15/child with adult at the gate
Ages 3-5

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

Staff Members

Margaret Cameron
Executive Director

Nancy Garden
Director of Education

Amy MacKenzie
Supervisor of Live Exhibits

Harley Autry
Grounds Maintenance

Board Members

Mary Brockman
Chairwoman

Connally Davies Penley
Vice Chairwoman

Margaret Howell
Secretary

Jerry Rainey
Treasurer

Dr. Charles Beauchamp

Jean Buchanan

Maureen A. Davin

James R. King, Jr.

Dennis Kohan

Jerry Rainey

Dancey Trabue Sanders

Roger Shirley

Phillip Zimmerman

Honorary

Leslie Christodoulopoulos

Joe Diehl

Lee Peterseim

Mary Ann Sugg



Good time had by all in the meadow

The second annual Music in the Meadow concert series ended on an upbeat under the stars as The Crows performed along with special guest Michael Kelsh and friends. Earlier concerts featured Gene Cotton and Barbara Bailey Hutchison, and The Waymores, with Tom Kimmel, Sally Barris and Don Henry.

Patrons enjoyed picnics on the grounds, visits with the owls, great weather and even better music. And best of all, they raised money for the many education and conservation programs at Owl's Hill.

"We are already making plans for next year's series," said board vice chairwoman Connally Penley, who helped organize the event. "We're hoping everyone who came will help spread the word and bring new friends to the meadow next summer. We will be announcing the dates and lineups this spring."

Music in the Meadow sponsors included Cameron Worley P.C., Attorneys at Law; Pinnacle Financial Partners; Import Auto Maintenance; and Journal Communications.

Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary
545 Beech Creek Road
Brentwood, TN 37027
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NASHVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO. 425