



OWL'S HILL NATURE SANCTUARY

FALL 2010

www.owlshill.org

BOARD ELECTS NEW CHAIRWOMAN, OFFICERS

Longtime Owl's Hill supporter Lee Peterseim, who played an important role in establishing the nature sanctuary as an independent, nonprofit organization and expanding its fundraising base, has retired as chairman of the board of directors.

"Lee has done a tremendous job over the years to help Owl's Hill establish itself, and we are deeply grateful for his service and thoughtful counsel," said Executive Director Margaret Cameron. "We're going to let Lee enjoy his 'second' retirement, but we're expecting him to stay in touch with us and drop by from time to time."

Peterseim, a retired Alcoa executive who became board chairman in 2005, is handing over the gavel to Mary Brockman, a Grassland community resident who has a strong interest in historic preservation and land conservation and has represented the area on the Williamson County Commission since 2002. In addition to her volunteer work at Owl's Hill, Brockman is active in The Land Trust for Tennessee, Carnton Plantation, the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, and the Harpeth River Watershed Association.

"I'm looking forward to working with the other board members and staff to maintain the progress Owl's Hill has made under Lee's guidance," Brockman said. "Owl's Hill is a wonderful treasure, and it carries out a vitally important mission of conservation and environmental education."

At the board's September meeting, Peterseim was honored along with Steve Anderson and Alex Steele, also longtime board members who are stepping off the board.



Mary Brockman



Lee Peterseim

In addition to Brockman, other new officers elected for the 2010-2011 year include vice-chairwoman Connally Penley, a volunteer who heads up the board's advancement committee, and treasurer Roger Shirley, editorial director at McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations who coordinates marketing. Owl's Hill volunteer Margaret Howell was re-elected as secretary.

New board members elected are Jean Buchanan, who retired last year after serving more than 20 years as Owl's Hill's resident naturalist and as its executive director, and Phillip Zimmerman, who was first introduced to Owl's Hill as a teenage Boy Scout.

Returning board members are Dr. Charles Beauchamp, Beauchamp Animal Hospital; Maureen Davin, Owl's Hill docent; Jim King, volunteer; Jerry Rainey; J.W. Rainey, Inc., Insurance, Brokerage, Estate and Charitable Planning; Dancy Trabue Sanders, volunteer and wildlife rehabilitator; and Prudence R. Sherrill, manager of Kermit Chair Co.



Tennessee Naturalist instructor Steve Murphree (center) makes a point during a class on invertebrates as Shawn Wolfe (left) and Carol Young look on.

Owl's Hill Hosts Tennessee Naturalist Chapter

Owl's Hill was honored recently by being asked to host the first chapter of the Tennessee Naturalist program, which is aiming to form other chapters throughout the state.

The goal of the program is to produce a corps of volunteers across Tennessee which will provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the management

of natural resources and natural areas in their communities. It includes an intensive training course over several weeks and requires 40 hours of volunteer service to complete.

The chapter's first class held its initial session on Sept. 11, and it will continue meeting during various weekends

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Owl's Hill Hosts Tennessee Naturalist Chapter

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through the spring. It is being sponsored by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee State Parks, the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, the Center for Environmental Education at Middle Tennessee State University, and Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary.

"We are honored to be actively participating in this program, and to be selected to host the first chapter," said Nancy Garden, the Sanctuary's Director of Education. "We always enjoy sharing our great outdoor classroom."

The Tennessee Naturalist program was spearheaded by Andrea "Pandy" English, a former wildlife diversity coordinator for TWRA who is now teaching biology at Columbia State Community College.

English, a longtime naturalist, will be an instructor for several courses along with other experts, including Margie Hunter, author of *Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place*; Steve Murphree, an entomologist and frequent contributor to the *Tennessee Conservationist* magazine who is a professor of biology at Belmont University; Richard Connors, a Nashville photographer and naturalist who works as a biologist with Tennessee State Parks; and Robert English, of LEAPS, Inc., is an avid astronomer and birder whose wildlife photographs have been widely published.

"We have not set a schedule for a second class yet, but we'd love to hear from people who are interested in signing up next year," Garden said.

For more information on the program, visit www.owlshill.org and click on the Tennessee Naturalist Program link.

Music in the Meadow Succeeds in Making New Friends

The inaugural Music in the Meadow concert series was a huge success, bringing out carloads of families, friends and neighbors on three different nights for music, picnicking and fellowship in nature.

Throughout the season, several talented singers and songwriters shared the stage and became a part of the Owl's Hill family. Patrons, too, became acquainted with the grounds as they visited with the owls, strolled the pathways during early evening hikes and dined at picnic tables and on blankets in the meadow.

Owl's Hill vice-chairwoman Connally Penley, who coordinated Music in the Meadow, says the team was encouraged by the turnout at this year's shows and is already working to set dates for the next Music in the Meadow series.

"We want to keep introducing new people to Owl's Hill, and we want to keep the intimate, light-hearted feel of the concerts," Penley said. "Each artist made Music in the Meadow their own, and it felt like we were all gathered together at someone's home."



A crowd enjoys the perfect setting for a laid-back evening of music and nature with Danny Flowers and Gordon Kennedy.

Owl's Hill thanks the Music in the Meadow sponsors: Cameron Worley, PC, Beaman Automotive Group, the Nashville Franchise Automotive Dealers Association, Fifth Third Bank and Lightning 100's Team Green.

Big Thanks to Summer Staff

Summer is a busy time at Owl's Hill, especially this year as we had to deal with flood damage on top of all the other work that needs to be performed while conducting summer camps.

Frankly, we wouldn't have made it through without the super effort from our super summer staff.

Head counselor Katherine Purswell, a senior at Hillsboro High School in her fifth year as a counselor, was ably assisted this year by Lily Penley and Avery Aarons. They helped the campers build forts, enjoy the outdoors and be safe and happy.

Our hard working interns, Ryan Smith, Cheyton Flannagan and Michael Giordono repaired flood damage throughout the Sanctuary, cleared a new trail by the creek and doubled as camp counselors. Substituting whenever and wherever needed were Nick Giordono and Zack Deering.

Old Tree Drawing Workshop

Space remains for the fall session of artist Charles Brindley's series of workshops at Owl's Hill. The Old Tree Drawing Workshop, set for Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., is designed for artists of all levels, from beginners to those with more experience.

Since much of the workshop is conducted outdoors, a rain/bad weather make-up date has been set for Saturday, Oct. 16.

The fee is \$90. Registration is required, so please call Owl's Hill at (615) 370-4672 or register online at www.owlshill.org. More information about the workshop can also be found on the website.



Another Eagle Project, Another New Trail

Life Scout Robbie Lindstrom (in white shirt at left), from Troop 86 in Brentwood, completed his Eagle Scout project at Owl's Hill this spring with help from his fellow scouts and troop leaders. The team, under Robbie's leadership, blazed and cleared a new trail located near the back corner of the Nature Sanctuary.

The new trail will be primarily used for quick access to the blue bird boxes, along with other citizen science activities.

Scouts continue to make a big contribution to Owl's Hill, and their efforts are much appreciated. Congratulations, Robbie!

FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS

OCTOBER

Mommy and Me: So Many Leaves

Tuesday, October 5

10-11:30 a.m.

\$10/child with one adult

Gate price: \$15/child with one adult

Ages 3-5

Autumn Trails: Foliage and Wildflower Hikes

Thursdays in October and early November

1-3 p.m.

\$7/person in advance

\$10/person at the gate

Adults only

Owling, Howling and Prowling

Tuesday, October 26

6-8:30 p.m.

\$20/person in advance (includes dinner)

\$30/person at the gate

Must be 9 years old to attend

NOVEMBER

Mommy and Me: Gobblers, Hens and Poult

Monday, November 8

10-11:30 a.m.

\$10/child and one adult in advance

\$15/child and one adult at the gate

Ages 3-5

Owling, Howling and Prowling

Thursday, November 18

5-7:30 p.m.

\$20/person in advance (includes dinner)

\$30/person at the gate

Must be 9 years old to attend

DECEMBER

Mommy and Me: Whooo's Calling?

Tuesday, December 7

3:30-5 p.m.

\$10/child and one adult in advance

\$15/child and one adult at the gate

Ages 3-5

Holiday Owl Prowl

Tuesday, December 21

5-7:30 p.m.

\$20/person in advance

(includes dinner and post-hike hot chocolate)

\$30/person at the gate

Must be 9 years old to attend

Hot Chocolate & Marshmallow Hike

Tuesday, December 28

Wednesday, December 29

Thursday, December 30

1-3 p.m.

\$7/person in advance

(includes post-hike hot chocolate)

\$10/person at the gate

All ages

EARLY JANUARY

Mommy and Me: Who Was Here?

Monday, January 10

10-11:30 a.m.

\$10/child and one adult in advance

\$15/child and one adult at the gate

Ages 3-5

Owl Day

Saturday, November 6

1-4 p.m.

\$7/person in advance

\$10/person at the gate

Owl Day Features Mysterious, Beautiful Creatures

Owl Day, one of the most popular programs at Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary for years, is set to return on Saturday, Nov. 6, for an afternoon of educational fun.

Amy MacKenzie, our Supervisor of Live Exhibits, will present Live Owl programs while other naturalists lead hikes through owl territory. The stars of the program are the non-releasable owls which are housed and cared for at the Sanctuary. They have long been our educational ambassadors and never cease to captivate the attention of youngsters and adults alike.

Participants will learn a variety of interesting facts about owls, including the diets of different species, and children and adults alike can express their artistic talent by creating one-of-a-kind owl pins. Of course, everyone enjoys browsing through the Owl Boutique for the latest in owl goodies.

"It really is a fun day and we usually have a good mix of adults, children and families who come out to learn about these mysterious, beautiful creatures," McKenzie says.

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.

\$20 – Songbird Seed

\$35 – Bluebird Nesting Boxes

\$50 – Pond: Help support our aquatic programs

\$75 – Trailblazers: Maintain our trails as an extension of the classroom

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

\$ _____ - 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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Nancy Garden
Director of Education

Amy MacKenzie
Supervisor of Live Exhibits

Travis Baker
Grounds Maintenance

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Mary Ann Sugg

Hoots and Hayrides to Feature Award-Winning Performer

The owls, pumpkins and fun games will once again be front and center at the annual Hoots and Hayrides festival, set for Sunday, Oct. 10, at Owl's Hill, but a new addition may just steal the show.

Roger Day, a Franklin resident who tours nationally performing his upbeat, witty songs, will be the featured musical artist at this year's event, and he is sure to be a delight for children and parents alike. Day has won numerous awards for his recordings, including a Parents' Choice Gold Award. (For more information on Day, visit www.rogerday.com.)

Hoots and Hayrides will be held from 1 to 5 p.m., with Day taking the stage at 2 p.m. As usual, the event will offer a variety of games and activities for families, as well as pumpkins ready for seasonal decorating.

Activities will include hayrides on the Hayride Taxi, searching for the Meadow Monster, guided hikes, games, races, face painting, pumpkin painting and visits to the Nature Playscape and a brand new Hidden Orchard Maze. And Mother Nature, or perhaps one of her creatures, will be wandering through the event and answering questions.

The cost is \$12 per person in advance or \$15 at the gate (admission of children ages 2 and under is free), and everyone who attends gets to pick out his or her own pumpkin, which can be decorated on site or taken home to get ready for Halloween. Proceeds help support the Sanctuary's live owl exhibits in addition to other Owl's Hill educational and conservation initiatives.

To purchase advance tickets, or for more information on Owl's Hill and its programs, visit www.owlshill.org or call (615) 370-4672. Owl's Hill is located at 545 Beech Creek Road, south of Murray Lane and east of Hillsboro Road.



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