

View from the Hill

A newsletter for friends and members of Friends of Mosquito Hill, Inc. | Summer 2022

Hillside Gifts Now Open

By Mike Hibbard, Naturalist



Photo Credit: Gregory T Photography

The gift shop in the interpretive center has a new look and a new name. As you may recall, we announced a name-the-gift-shop contest in the winter issue of *A View From The Hill* along with plans for a grand re-opening of the gift shop.

More than 60 names were submitted. Two entrants submitted the name Hillside Gifts, which was chosen by our panel of judges.

Congratulations to Lois Herzfeldt and Gina Peotter for their winning submissions. Prizes awarded were \$50

(continued on page 2)

Grand Re-Opening

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JUNE 25 AND 26
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

Come see the newly remodeled gift shop and enjoy merchandise specials, giveaways, door prizes, and more!

people in touch
with nature



FRIENDS
of
MOSQUITO HILL
NATURE CENTER

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

Hillside Gifts Now Open *(continued)*

gift certificates to Hillside Gifts. Thank you to all who submitted names.

A grand re-opening will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM, featuring merchandise specials, giveaways, door prizes and more. Check out our expanded merchandise as you tour the newly-remodeled gift shop.

If you haven't seen the new and improved entryway and welcome desk since the recent remodel, you will be pleasantly surprised as you attend the gift shop grand-reopening. The office was expanded to add a new welcome desk that is front-and-center as visitors enter the interpretive building. This was done so staff and volunteers can better

serve our visitors by greeting and pointing them in the right direction for programs, room rentals, displays or restrooms. There is also a service window inside the gift shop leading directly to the new office space for a more convenient shopping experience. No more leaving the gift shop to check out merchandise.

Please stop out on June 25 or 26 to see the fresh new look of the entryway and Hillside Gifts. We hope to see you there.



Contemplation Trail Reconstruction Project

By Mike Hibbard, Naturalist

When you look at our new trail map next time you are out for a hike, you will see a newly named section of trail called Contemplation Trail. It is a short trail section, but it was one of the favorite sections of the trail system for one of Mosquito Hill's long-time neighbors and volunteers, Bob Wilkinson.

The Contemplation Trail starts at a small footbridge off Rogers Road and continues east, connecting with Wet Meadow Trail. The trail features a reconstructed bridge and a cedar bench for hikers to sit and contemplate while enjoying the scenery.

The trail section reconstruction was sponsored by the Robert and Joan Wilkinson family in memory of Robert and Joan, who were long-time New London residents and supporters of Mosquito Hill.

Construction of the bridge and bench will be completed early this summer and a dedication ceremony will take place mid-summer. Please watch our website and Facebook page for more details about the dedication ceremony. Thank you to the Wilkinson family for the generous memorial donation to complete the Contemplation Trail.

Naturalist's Corner

Improvements Abound at Mosquito Hill

by Adam Brandt, Park Ranger

You have probably heard us say, "Please excuse our mess," a few times over the past year or so. Well, this article is to inform you that we are going to ask for your continued patience and to excuse our mess a little longer!

If you have visited the nature center lately, you have hopefully noticed some of the recent updates. Over the past few years, the newer wing of the building has gotten a number of upgrades, such as new flooring, fresh paint and LED lighting. The main lobby, office and gift shop were part of a larger remodeling project. After moving some doors and walls, adding a new front desk and new signage, we hope to have created a more welcoming experience for visitors.

We are now turning our sights on updating the original wing of the nature center building. Over the coming years, there will be new flooring, lighting and a change to the floor plan in preparation for new educational displays. Prior to the start of these projects this winter, some initial cleaning of the space has already begun. If you have a favorite educational display, these is still time to bring your family to reminisce!

Don't worry, we haven't forgotten about fixing and updating things outside along the trails. Over the past year, you may have noticed our new maps and kiosks close to the main parking lot. In addition, there will be more trail markers and wayfinding maps installed.

During the pandemic, like many natural areas and parks, we saw an increased usage of our wonderful property. Because of this, Outagamie County was able to receive some federal dollars to help us make repairs to our trail system. Over the next few years, we will be fixing trail tread and surfaces to eliminate low and wet spots and steep cross slopes. We will

also be making repairs to certain structures, such as retaining walls, pond platforms, stairs, picnic tables and trail benches. We will have an increased number of summer staff helping to work on these trail projects during 2022, so be sure to thank them should you encounter them while on a hike.

We will have an extra busy stretch of trail work for the first two weeks of August. We will be joined by a trail crew from Wisconsin Conservation Corp to help us achieve some of our project goals. This work will mainly take place along Overlook Trail on top of Mosquito Hill.

We are very excited to make needed updates and improvements to our facilities and grounds. We ask your forgiveness in advance if a trail or part of the building is temporarily closed for this work. For your continued patience, we thank you.



Calendar of Events



www.mosquithill.com

- **Please note:** Outagamie County continues to require limited program enrollment and social distancing practices inside the interpretive building. Advance registration and payment are required for all programs. To register, please call us at 920.779.6433.
- You may either pay over the phone with a credit card or mail your check payable to MHNC. To check on the status of a program, visit www.mosquithill.com or our Facebook page.



Froggie Went a Courtin'

Saturday, June 11
1:00-2:00 PM

Did you know that male frogs sing to captivate the hearts of female frogs? Join naturalist Jessica Miller as she introduces you to Wisconsin's native frogs at Mosquito Hill Nature. We'll learn how to identify the frogs by their physical characteristics and calls, which will be followed by a hike on the property to locate frog habitat and listen for "froggies-a-singing."

\$6/person or \$10/household. Registration and payment are due by June 6.



Tyke Hike

Thursdays: June 16, July 7 & August 11
9:00-10:00 AM

During our slower-paced, family-friendly Tyke Hikes, explore who lives on the nature center property. Each of the hikes (3 in total) will focus on a specific animal that is abundant at that time. We'll learn about the animal, hike to the habitat where it lives and possibly see that animal in action.

\$6/person or \$10/household. Registration due one week prior to each session.



Summer Solstice Hike

Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 PM

There's no better way to enjoy the longest day of the year than with a casual hike before sunset. Join Naturalist Adam Brandt for a guided hike around the trails of Mosquito Hill Nature Center. We will explore different areas of the property and end on top of Mosquito Hill before sunset. Come dressed for the weather with good walking/hiking shoes.

\$6 individual/ \$10 family. Registration and payment due by June 17.



Investigating Insects

Saturday, July 23
1:00-2:00 PM

There are millions of insects on the planet, and Mosquito Hill Nature Center is home to several thousand species. Join naturalist Jessica Miller on an insect journey around the nature center grounds. Search for insects in a variety of vastly different habitats as she explains why bugs are so cool!

\$6/person or \$10/household. Registration and payment are due by July 13.



Overnight Moth Survey

Friday, July 15 through Saturday, July 16

8:00 PM-9:00 AM

Join us for a unique opportunity to explore the trails and grounds of Mosquito Hill after hours. Moth and wildflower enthusiast, Randy Powers of Prairie Future Seed Company, will be our guide for this overnight experience. Spend the night exploring the different habitats of the nature center and learning about the moths who inhabit it. Pitch your tent for the night and enjoy a light breakfast with us following the survey in the morning. Space will be limited, so sign up early!

\$25 individual/\$40 household.



Animal Detectives

Sunday, June 26
1:00 – 2:30 PM

When hiking the trails, we often see wildlife. Other times we must figure out what kind of animals live in an area by the signs they leave behind. Put on your detective hat and join naturalist Mike Hibbard for a walk in search of wildlife and the evidence they leave behind. This program is best suited for elementary age students but anyone is welcome.

\$8/adults, \$6/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment are due by June 19.

Unless otherwise noted, advance registration and payment are required. Call 920.779.6433 or email mosquithill@outagamie.org



Animals of the Night

Saturday, July 23
8:00 – 10:00 PM

Take an after-dark walk with naturalist Mike Hibbard and explore the world of nocturnal animals. A short indoor program will feature information on some of the many critters who live at MHNC we rarely see. Then head outside for a walk on the trails.

\$8/person or \$6/students, seniors, FOMH
Registration and payment due by July 17.



Volunteer Recognition & Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 17
5:00 – 7:00 PM

Every year, we make time to publicly thank all the volunteers that make this place hum. We'll gather for social time and cold beverages at 5:00 PM and enjoy a picnic meal at 6:00 PM. After dinner, a brief update from the Friends of Mosquito Hill board of directors will be followed by a program honoring the people we count on to make MHNC a great place to visit.

Please RSVP by August 7.



Build a Concrete-Top Outdoor Table

Saturday & Sunday
August 20 & 21

Saturday 9:00 AM – Noon &
Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Build a durable 17" x 34" concrete-top, outdoor table with cedar base. All materials and instruction from naturalist Mike Hibbard are included in this two-day workshop. Woodworking and masonry experience are

helpful but not necessary. Some basic hand tools will be required, but extra tools will be available to borrow if you don't have them. Register early, as space is limited.

\$25/table. Registration and payment are due by August 7.



Wooden Wind Chime Making

Saturday, August 27
1:00 PM

We all can use something extra to make us feel more relaxed. Come and create your own unique wooden wind chime. These beautiful, rustic pieces can add the perfect calming touch to spaces such as patios or nurseries. All materials will be provided.

\$25/person.

COMING THIS FALL!

Preschool Story Time



Preschool story time will take place in the Mosquito Hill Nature Center library. Watch future issues of *A View From the Hill*, our website and Facebook page for more details.

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Interpretive Building Hours:
Tuesday-Friday:
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday:
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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Amazon Smile for FOMH

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, you can help Friends of Mosquito Hill in the process. Amazon will make a small donation to FOMH, Inc. based on the amount of your purchase.



Log on to www.smile.amazon.com. This step is important. If you use Amazon.com, your purchase doesn't count! From there, you can use your regular password and select Friends of Mosquito Hill as your charity. Then start shopping. It's as easy as that!

We thank you for your part in supporting FOMH!

New Members

We extend our welcome to the following who recently joined Friends of Mosquito Hill.

- Joe Peikert
- Marlene Pihlstrom

Friends of Mosquito Hill, Inc. relies heavily on membership dues to power their organization. Please consider a contribution to support their environmental education mission. See page 8 for a membership form or visit mosquitohill.com and click on the "Donate" page. Thanks!

Wish List

- Round Folding Plastic Tables – contact nature center staff
- Garden tools: spades, hand pruners, shears, loppers, shovels
- Black Oil Sunflower Seed
- Gift Cards, any denomination, to Country Visions Cooperative in New London, Festival Foods in New London, New London Building Supply, Tractor Supply Co., Kwik Trip, Fleet Farm, Menards, Michaels or Petco.

Monetary gifts to purchase items are also appreciated. All donations are tax-deductible. Your generosity is appreciated!

Volunteer Voice

"Nature never did betray the heart that loved her."

~ William Wordsworth

Volunteer Spotlight: *Rocky and Gloria White*

If you've visited the nature center recently, you may have seen many improvements inside and out. At the heart of many of the changes have been Rocky and Gloria White, our super volunteers for the past one and a half years.

It started with a request by Rocky and Gloria to help "spruce up" the *Things with Wings Garden* adjacent to the main parking lot. Sprucing up is an understatement! They completely transformed it from an overgrown garden to a showcase garden for birds and insects (and people) to enjoy.

In addition, they revitalized the walking path and sitting areas within the garden. After finishing that, their thirst for volunteering moved indoors to help with the remodeling of the entryway by offering their cleaning and painting skills, spending many hours on weekends with paintbrushes and rollers in hand.

Their latest adventure has been cleaning out the many cabinets of unused items in preparation for remodeling the original portion of the interpretive building in 2023. Rocky and Gloria have a knack for organization and have helped re-organize many areas in the building to make life easier and less stressful for the staff.

Thank you, Rocky and Gloria, for your countless hours of volunteer service. We look forward to a continued partnership for years to come. If you see them outside working in the gardens or in the building this summer please say, "Hi!"



Rocky and Gloria White, our super volunteers, have been at the heart of many of the changes and improvements at Mosquito Hill Nature Center over the past one and a half years.

Photo Credit: Gloria White

FRIENDS OF MOSQUITO HILL, INC.
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Enjoy these benefits:

- ✓ Receive our quarterly newsletter.
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- ✓ Discount on programs.
- ✓ Complimentary snowshoe use on our trails.
- ✓ Know you make a difference!

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(Please check one)**

- Senior Citizen/Student [\$15]
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- Electronically*

*Please provide email address above.

For office use:	Check # _____	Date rec'd _____	Entered _____
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