



# OWL'S HILL

## NATURE SANCTUARY

WINTER 2012

[www.owlshill.org](http://www.owlshill.org)



Dear Friends & Supporters,

Twenty-eight years ago, Huldah Cheek Sharp donated her land to preserve it forever as green space and to provide a protected home for the wildlife she so loved. Through the years, Owl's Hill has evolved and emerged as an independent and vital community resource dedicated to protecting native species and educating young and old alike to be stewards of land and nature.

Today, we celebrate a year of discovery and enrichment as our work continues to build on that original vision. Inside this newsletter, you will see reports on what we've been up to, and acknowledgements of the people and businesses that helped us have a great year. In a nutshell, the success of Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary is due to the following:

- **A high-level and dedicated group of volunteers**
- **Keen leadership from our professional staff**
- **An active board of directors**
- **New and returning grants for education and restoration**
- **An updated, redesigned website (thanks to a Frist Foundation grant)**
- **Committed donors**
- **Strong and growing partnerships**
- **Innovative fundraising events**
- **A landscape of nurtured wildlife**
- **And, of course, "The Owls"**

So come visit us on a dark and quiet evening for owl prowling or get your groove on this summer at the "Music in the Meadow" concert series. Owl's Hill is a jewel for the community and your support is central to our mission.

With Appreciation,

Mary Brockman  
Chairwoman

## Learning Comes Alive

Environmental education is one of the core missions of Owl's Hill. While we take that responsibility seriously, our goal is for people of all ages to have fun as we help them learn about, appreciate and protect nature.

We offered a variety of programs in the past year for young and old alike, ranging from the Knee High Naturalist series (formerly Mommy & Me) for preschoolers to bird programs for a senior citizen group. Our special events, such as Hoots & Hayrides and Owl Day, are full of fun activities for the whole family.

Our arts and music programs continue to be successful in bringing new friends to Owl's Hill. The Music in the Meadow concert series, along with the ever popular Summer Nights and Owl Prowl sessions show that nature at night is also enjoyable. Renowned artist Charles Brindley's drawing workshops on trees offered a whole different view of the outdoors.

We were extremely proud when Owl's Hill hosted the first Tennessee Naturalist Program chapter in the state, offering a training program for adults on Tennessee's natural world to create a corps of citizen scientists. The aim of the program, which offered monthly courses from September through June, 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 requires 40 hours of coursework and 40 hours volunteer service to complete.

Owl's Hill closed out its fiscal year in the fall with some very exciting news that will be a great help in bringing our education programming to even more people – a grant from BPS&M/Wells Fargo that 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.

Photo by K. Salleng

# Land and Biodiversity Highlights



*Dogwood Trail with invasive plants removed*

- Owl's Hill worked with Brian Flock of the Private Lands Division of TWRA to develop a plan to restore our beautiful grasses and wildflower meadows, and to open cedar glades and oak hickory maple forests. Although work has begun, removing invasive species will be an ongoing project for many years. We hope to let people see how they can help wildlife by improving the habitat around them. Invasive plants are being removed through work with Nashville Natives and many volunteer groups.

- Frog Leap Pond near the visitor center was restored thanks to a generous grant from the AWC Family Foundation.



- The power line right-of-way along Beech Creek Road was planted with native grasses and wildflowers.

## Citizen Science:

- Participated in TOS fall bird count, Audubon/TOS Christmas bird count and TOS spring bird count.

- Participated in NABA Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day butterfly counts.

- Monitored 40 nesting boxes for Eastern Bluebirds and other cavity nesters from February until August.

- Hosted the first class of the Tennessee Naturalist Program.



*Blue Grosbeak, photo by Ken Salleng*



## Completed Eagle Projects:

- Michael Schueler Troop 13 – Trail to second Chinese Chestnut
- Scott Looney Troop 87 – Footbridge on Haircut Hill
- Daniel Pannock Troop 92 – Picnic Tables
- William Hayward Troop 93 – Creek Trail
- Jack Hartfelder Troop 37 – Orienteering Course

# Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Data

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 AND 2010

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 140,619	\$ 76,289
Promises to give	3,000	-
Prepaid expenses and other assets	<u>1,508</u>	<u>1,137</u>
Total current assets	145,127	77,426
<b>INVESTMENTS IN MARKETABLE SECURITIES</b>	<u>836,129</u>	<u>940,330</u>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:</b>		
Land and land improvements	500,437	496,509
Buildings	297,557	297,557
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	<u>101,068</u>	<u>101,068</u>
Total cost	899,062	895,134
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(154,468)</u>	<u>(116,945)</u>
Property and equipment, net	<u>744,594</u>	<u>778,189</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>1,725,850</u>	<u>1,795,945</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 665	\$ 293
Fees received in advance	<u>7,918</u>	<u>5,974</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>8,583</u>	<u>6,267</u>
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>		
Unrestricted	1,627,558	1,717,969
Temporarily restricted	<u>89,709</u>	<u>71,709</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,717,267</u>	<u>1,789,678</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 1,725,850</u>	<u>\$ 1,795,945</u>

**NOTE:** A copy of the full audit report is available upon request.



Ravenwood High School Workday participants

# Generous Friends of Owl's Hill

Thank you to the following individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations that made donations to Owl's Hill. We appreciate your support!

\*Fiscal Year October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011

## Individuals

Angie and Rich Adams

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. George Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Andrews

Dr. Troy Apple

Mr. and Mrs. Todd Arrants

Mrs. E. M. Bass

Mr. Ran Batson

Mrs. Randolph Batson

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Bent

Mr. Frank W. Blair, III

Ms. Elizabeth S. Boord

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Bradbury

Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Brockman

Ms. Jane Morgan Buchanan

Mr. and Mrs. E. David Buchanan

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan P. Calvin

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Cameron

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Canale, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. James Charron, Sr.

Ms. Leslie Christodoulopoulos

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Mr. W. Joe Diehl, Jr.

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Minton

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Mr. and Mrs. Steve C. Rollins

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Mr. and Mrs. John S. Sanders

Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Shirley

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Mr. and Mrs. Phil Venable

Ms. Laura Ward

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond D. White

Mr. David W. White

Ms. Margaret L. Wilburn

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Wise

Philip and Gretchen Zimmerman

## Business/Institutional

Andrews Cadillac

Barbara J. Mapp Foundation

Christ Church Alternative Christmas Gift Market

## In Kind Donations

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Cameron

Ms. Sharron H. Francis

Ms. Dancey Sanders

Mere Bulles Restaurant

Maryland Farms Wine & Spirits

RB Construction

Nashville Natives

**Thanks to the many people who support the Cans to Cash program to help feed the owls.**



## Honorary Gifts

**Thank you for gifts made to honor special people.**

In honor of Ran and Nellie Batson  
by Ellen and Tom Goodner

In honor of Beth Boord  
by Lucy and Andy Garrabrants

In honor of Leslie Christodoulopoulos by  
Mr. and Mrs Frank Benton

In honor of Margaret Howell  
by Dr. Alix Weiss-Sharp

In honor of the retirement of John Hollins,  
Sr. by Elizabeth G. Tannenbaum

In honor of Mark and Amy MacKenzie  
by Mr. and Mrs Robert I. Chaskes

In honor of Mariann McCoy  
by Virginia McCoy

In honor of King McGee  
by Mr and Mrs John C. Floyd

In honor of Charlie and Connally Penley  
by Beth Boord, Linda G. Cooper, Janet  
Davies and Carol A. Rehder

In honor of Owl's Hill Staff  
for work with TN Naturalist Program  
by James B. Nance

In honor of Carl Stumpf  
by Carla Gaul

In honor of Mary Ann Sugg  
by Dr. Mary L. Michal

## Memorial Gifts

**We gratefully acknowledge the following memorial gifts.**

In memory of R.C. Alexander  
by Cameron Worley, PC

In memory of Dr. Robert Doster  
by Dancey Sanders

In memory of Calvin Garden  
by Dancey Sanders

In Memory of Tammy Gentry  
by Cameron Worley PC

In memory of Charles Goehring  
by Elyce Shorb

In Memory of Orion  
by Mr. and Mrs. E. David Buchanan

In memory of Huldah Sharp  
by Mr. Robert P. Thomas

In memory of Grant Shirley  
by Mark and Janis McNeely

In memory of Joseph Sneed  
by Mrs. Randolph Batson

In memory of Sarah Taylor  
by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Peel

## Grants

**Thank you to the following people and foundations for their generous support.**

Atticus Trust, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brown

AWC Family Foundation

BPS&M/Wells Fargo Green Grant

Frist Foundation Technology Grant



Orrin H. Ingram Advised Fund  
of the Community Foundation,  
Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Ingram

The King Family Advised Fund  
of the Community Foundation,  
Mr. and Mrs. William B. King

John F. and Sara R. Lee Advised Fund  
of the Community Foundation,  
John and Sally Lee

The Merrell Family Fund  
of the AYCO Charitable Foundation,  
Mr. and Mrs. F. Max Merrell

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

## Event Sponsors

Cameron Worley, PC

Import Auto Maintenance, LLC

Journal Communication, Inc.

Pinnacle National Bank



## Owl's Hill Staff Is Invaluable

Owl's Hill has a full time staff of two and two part time staff. We are very dependent on our wonderful trained volunteers for carrying out our mission. An organization called Independent Sector ([independentsector.org](http://independentsector.org)) calculates the value of volunteer time. Its most recent calculation for volunteer time in Tennessee is \$18.62 per hour. With 2,584.5 volunteer hours this past year, that is equivalent to \$48,123.39. To us, however, those who give their time are invaluable. Many thanks, volunteers!

Rebecca Allison

Avery Arons

Bill Arrants

Jean Arrants

Alosha Baker

Kristy Baker

Masha Baker

Sasha Baker

Laura Berry

Mary Lee Blied

Mary Brockman

David Buchanan

Jean Buchanan

Bill Cameron

Jim Cameron

Rachel Cline

Cody Worley

Richard Connors

Beth Davin

Maureen Davin

Mike Davin

Robert Deagen

Joe Diehl, Jr.

Joan Donnelly

Bob English

Pandy English

Marcia Erickson

Sharron Francis

Evelyn Fredman

Catherine Gain

Scott Gain

George Garden

Carol Ann Graham

Erika Gray

Barbara Harris

Jack Hartfelder

Morel Harvey

William Hayward

Darl Hess

David Hill

Margaret Howell

Margie Hunter

Jan Kendy

Jim King

Richard Kirk

Denny Kohan

Scott Looney

Peggy Sue Maihl

King McGee

Steve Murphree

James Nance

Willie N. Nelson

Sara Ann Orman

Daniel Pannock

Connally Penley

Lillie Penley

Lee Peterseim

Jim Primus

Jerry Rainey

Virginia Ruben

Anne Sale

Dancey Sanders

Michael Schueler

Martha Shirley

Roger Shirley

David Sims

Suzanne Silva

Alex Steele

Helen Stewart

Andy Sudbrock

Mary Ann Sugg

David Todd

Dave Walters

Teri Wildt

Philip Zimmerman

Ravenwood High School  
Seniors

Currey Ingram Academy High  
School

Cadette Girl Scouts

*Volunteer Jim Primus gives presentation on the ancient sport of falconry.*





## 2012 WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

#### Knee High Naturalist: Where is the Groundhog?

Monday, February 6 or  
Tuesday, February 7  
10-11:30 am  
\$10/child with one adult  
in advance  
\$15/child with one adult  
at the gate  
Ages 3-5

**Celebrate Birds:**  
**Bluebird Workshop**  
Saturday, February 11  
9 am - Noon  
\$7/person in advance  
\$10/person at the gate

**Free the Trees**  
Saturday, February 11  
1-3 pm, No charge

### President's Day

#### Big Tree Hike

Monday, February 20  
1-3 pm  
\$7/person in advance  
\$10/person at the gate  
All Ages; two and under  
free

### MARCH

#### Knee High Naturalist: Hungry Birds

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

### St. Patrick's Day

#### Green Hike

Saturday, March 17  
10:00 am - Noon  
\$7/person in advance  
\$10/person at the gate  
Dogs on leashes  
welcome  
All Ages;  
two and under free

#### Free the Trees

Saturday, March 17  
1-3 pm, No charge

#### Spring Wildflower Walks

Tuesday March 20  
and 27  
April 3, 10, 7  
and 24  
1-3 pm  
\$7/person/hike in  
advance  
\$10/person at the gate  
Adults only

## Music in the Meadow Lineup Set

The third annual Music in the Meadow concert series kicks off on June 9 with the rockabilly-tinged country music of Barry and Holly Tashian, followed by up-and-coming performer Chris Janson on July 14 and singer-songwriter-pianist Elizabeth Eckert on Aug. 11. Tickets for each concert are \$75 per carload (up to six people.) Discount series passes can be purchased for \$175 through March 19, when they will increase to \$200.

For more information on these artists, visit [http://www.owlshill.org/events/art\\_and\\_music](http://www.owlshill.org/events/art_and_music).

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

**Jean Buchanan**  
**Maureen A. Davin**

**James R. King, Jr.**  
**Dennis Kohan**

**Susan Massey**  
**Jerry Rainey**

**Dancey Trabue Sanders**  
**Roger Shirley**

**Phillip Zimmerman**

### Honorary

**Leslie Christodouloupoulos**  
**Joe Diehl**

**Lee Peterseim**  
**Mary Ann Sugg**

# Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary BY THE NUMBERS



### 2011 VISITORS

**3,250** Adult Visitors

**4,192** Children

**7,442** Total Visitors

### 2011 EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

**191** Classes of school children

**11** Scout programs

**51** Group Visits

**4** Rentals

**12** Offsite visits

**61** Public programs

**27** Days of camp

**31** Art & Music programs

**Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary**  
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Brentwood, TN 37027  
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