



Fall 2017
Volume XXVIII
Issue 2

Field Notes

From the Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center



On mission to continue to be the place *Where Nature Takes Root*

From the Director, Pamela Meyer

A month ago we shared our capital campaign appeal, *Where Nature Takes Root*, with our friends, our supporters and the larger community. This campaign and the impactful projects it encompasses, a renovation and revitalization of the Nature Center's Exploration Hall and the construction of a new satellite classroom, have been years in the making. Thoughtfully planned through first, a strategic plan and later, a larger master plan - the first ever for the park and nature center - these projects are aimed squarely at the future and focused on the work of our mission.

We appealed and were humbled by the quick response. At the public release of our \$2.6M campaign, our remaining need was \$250,000. I am pleased to report that we are now at 92% of our goal with just \$200,000 remaining! The generosity shown so far is tremendous and the stories and notes tucked in with donations warms our hearts. Sentiments from teachers that go "way back" to the days of Harry Buck, young families so excited for what's on the horizon, those honoring loved ones to longtime supporters who have cheered us on for years. Your words mean so very much. We really are the nature center the community built and together with your help Quarry Hill will continue to connect this generation and all that follow to the joys of nature and getting outdoors!

Donations are still needed to help us realize the full potential of our Exploration Hall additions and renovations as well as our new classroom.

Donate online via our [website](#) or by contacting the nature center at 328-3950.

Progress Update: Prairie House

With 92% of our campaign goal achieved both projects of the *Where Nature Takes Root* campaign have moved into construction and fabrication phases. The Prairie House, designed by CRW Architecture is moving along quickly.

Accessible by foot and only a short distance from the Nature Center, the journey to the Prairie House helps set the tone for being out in nature's classroom. Completion of the exterior shell of this new program space is targeted for November, with a grand opening and dedication in spring of 2018.

Fun Facts about the Prairie House:

The chimney has a dual flue. One to provide for the wood stove inside the building that will provide heat and the other to entice chimney swifts to take up residence.

The building's solar panels will produce more than 100% of the building's electrical needs!



Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

From Jill Danielsen, Volunteer Coordinator

The volunteer spotlight in this issue is an invitation to get involved on a local level in a national effort to celebrate something we all share, our public lands. Quarry Hill is an event site for National Public Lands Day 2017 and we invite you to take this day and enjoy the great outdoors!



National Public Lands Day 2017

September 30

9:00 am—12:00 pm

Sponsored by Minnesota Master Naturalists Quarry Hill is a sponsoring agency. Our worksite will be in the Oak Savanna at Quarry Hill Park. Volunteers will work to restore the oak savanna by removing invasive buckthorn. MN Master Naturalists will provide training and work along side volunteers. More details about National Public Lands Day along with registration information can be found at <https://www.neefusa.org/public-lands-day> T-shirts provided for volunteers!

**Fredricka, our snapping Turtle,
is turning 50!**

Join us to Shell-A Brate!

Sunday, October 1

1:30—2:30 pm

Quarry Hill Nature Center

**Treats for Fredericka
Turtle Sunday's for Humans
Party Favors & Fun!**

RSVP to this Turtle-rrific Party: 507-328-3950



**Be a Part of
TEAM NATURE!**

Volunteers are central to the success of Quarry Hill Nature Center. We value the expertise and time our volunteers provide each day to help accomplish our mission to *"opening eyes and minds to natural science discovery."*

Current opportunities include:

Volunteer Saturday

4th Saturday of every month

1:30—3:30 pm

Indoor and outdoor projects, gardening, button making and more: this opportunity is open year-round to families, groups or individuals (children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult). Volunteer one time or monthly. Sign up at uwolmsted.org or by calling the nature center at 507-328-3950.

Run Wild 5K and Wild Child Dash

September 2

7:00—11:00 am (shifts available)

Help with this unique trail run in Quarry Hill Park. Registration volunteers, water station helpers and course workers. Contact the Nature Center at 507-328-3950 or quarryhill@qhnc.org. T-shirts provided for volunteers!



Fall Festival

September 9 & 10

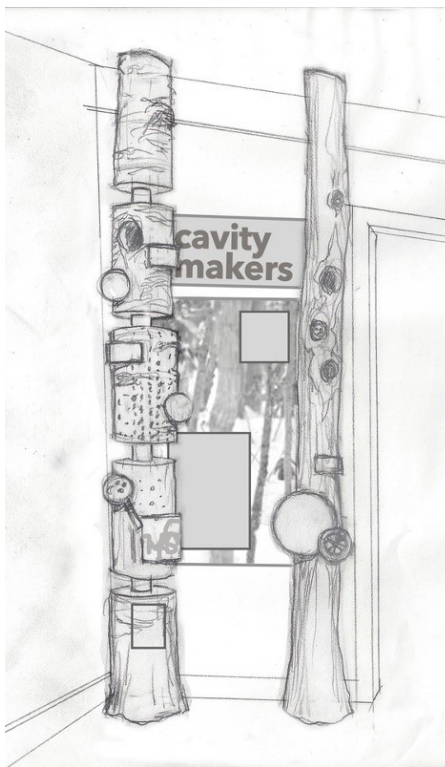
11:00 am—5:00 pm

Help with games, crafts, food service, and more at this community celebration of all things nature. Shifts of 2-3 hours available. If you are interested in volunteering, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jill Danielsen at jdanielsen@qhnc.org.

Fun Facts about the Exploration Hall

One of the artistic designers, Beth Zaiken, grew up in Rochester and was a true “Quarry Hill kid” attending many of our programs. Her artistic skill paired with her science knowledge and sharp observational skills of nature is a tremendous asset to this project. She gets us!
Science + Nature = Fascinating & wild!

Much of the wood in the exhibits is reclaimed and represents a wide variety of tree species. Blue Rhino Studios even found a very old bumblebee in a cavity when planing an old floor board!



Above: A sketch from an idea tossed out by our staff. We asked if different animals could “pop out” of a tree trunk in the cavities once used by woodpeckers? This drawing shows a possible solution as well as samples of woodpecker holes made in different types of trees.

Progress Update: Exploration Hall

We are pleased to be working with Minnesota based exhibit fabricators, Blue Rhino Studios. A tightly-knit creative team of skilled artists and craftsmen they design and build unique, high quality exhibits for museums, nature centers and zoos across the US and internationally.

Blue Rhino Studios was selected not only based on the quality of their work, but also their strong commitment to collaboration with our team of naturalists. Together we are wringing the interpretive value out of every inch of every element, providing hands-on experiences that engage the senses while staying true to being who we are - your local nature center that welcomes all, loves science and fuels curiosity, and where nature takes center stage.

Our knowledgeable team of naturalists are putting a lot of thought into each exhibit and from there, Blue Rhino Studios puts shape and form to the ideas. From conceptual sketches, to clay mock ups, to fabrication - the process of seeing dreams become reality is exciting work!



Top left: A concept drawing for the children's library.



Bottom left: The first step in creating the exhibit is a clay model called a maquette. This model is used to visualize shape and scale and to test ideas before creating a full scale exhibit.

Right: The full scale exhibit that will be our new children's library reading loft in progress.



Fall 2017

Programs



PRESCHOOL PARENT & CHILD CLASSES

Nature Toddlers

Observe, listen, and feel ... toddlers are natural explorers. Join us monthly for a nature-themed class and some special one on one time with your 2-3 year old. Story, art and outdoor adventures are part of the fun! Sign up for one session or all sessions, choose Wednesdays or Saturdays.

- Sept. 6** Looking for Critters
 - Oct. 7 or 11** Apples!
 - Nov. 4 or 8** Animals & Their Winter Clothes
 - Dec. 2 or 6** Winter Trees
- \$8 pair, \$6.50 pair/members**
Class time is 10—11am

Nature Nuts

Children are born naturalists, constantly exploring the environment around them with all their senses. Join us monthly for an adventure that nurtures that natural curiosity. Each month we explore a new nature-theme through story, art and outdoor adventure. Enjoy time with that special 2-5 year old in your life. Register for one class or the whole series.

- September 16** Monarchs
 - October** No Program
 - November 18** Time to Sleep
 - December 16** Wonderful Winter
- \$8 pair, \$6.50 pair/members**
Class time is 10-11am

YOUTH PROGRAMS

An Evening for Night Owls

Grades 3 and Up with an Adult

Every autumn a small north woods owl called the Saw-whet migrates south in a silent and secretive wave. The staff at Quarry Hill is among a small group of researchers trying to capture and band these birds in the eastern US in an effort to better understand their migration. You will be learning more about the secretive saw-whet owl and Quarry Hill's research. Then we'll travel in the Quarry Hill Critter Coach a few minutes east of town to visit the owl banding site. There, after a 10 minute hike to the study site, we will check the nets and band any captured owls.

October 19
8:30—10:30 pm
\$40/pair, \$32/pair for members
Advance registration required.

Grades 5 and Up with an Adult

Join a Quarry Hill naturalist to make a miniature pond in a glass globe. We'll collect water samples and some aquatic plants before using microscopes to explore our catch. You will then assemble a recipe of our pond water discoveries in a 6 inch glass globe to create a beautiful sealed miniature world to take home. Placed at room temperature in some natural light each day, your ecosphere may survive months or even years and serve as a daily reminder of the larger ecosphere we all call home.

October 7
1:00—2:30 pm
\$35/pair, \$27/pair for members
Advance registration required



Right: Pond Globes will last a long time if sealed properly and given the right amount of sun. Our naturalists have enjoyed these ecosystems for as long as two years.

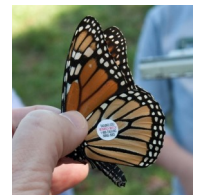
Monarch Tagging in the Field

August 29 and September 7
4:00—5:30 pm

Northern Hills Prairie:

3694 Nottingham Drive NW

Be a part of research in action! Join naturalists and other citizens at Northern Hills Prairie to capture and tag monarch butterflies as they begin their yearly migration. Nets will be available and ZVAS members and QH naturalists will be onsite to lead the tagging process. All ages welcome.



Pond Globe Ecosystems



CANCELLATION POLICIES

Quarry Hill may cancel programs due to weather conditions. Rescheduling and/or refunds will occur. If you cancel your registration more than 10 days prior to the program you'll receive a 75% refund. No refunds within 10 days of the program.

HOW TO REGISTER

Many Quarry Hill programs have a maximum number of participants. Advance registration helps us plan a great nature experience for all.

Call (507) 328-3950
Mon—Fri from 9 am—5 pm and we'll help you take care of all the details.

PAYMENT IS REQUIRED AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

ALL AGES:

Sundays at QHNC

Public programs open to all ages are held every Sunday at 1:30 pm.
\$2 adults, \$1 kids, free to members

Bird Banding Program

Experience the beauty of birds up close. Learn about bird characteristics, bird adaptations and the Federal Bird Banding Program. Program is hands on and includes trapping, netting, banding and releasing birds.

September 3

October 8

November 5

December 3

Critter Sunday

Enjoy an up close look at one of Quarry Hill's critters including a chance to learn about and observe feeding and care of the animals or enjoy an outdoor experience.

Sept 17 Fall Mushroom Hunt

Oct 22 Turtles

Nov 19 MN Bats

Dec 17 Silly Snakes

Cave Tour and Historic Hike

Quarry Hill Park was formerly the grounds of the Rochester State Hospital. Learn about the Park's historic structures on a short hike to the sandstone cave, carved in 1882.

Following the cave tour is an optional hike to a historical site.

Sept 24 Cave & Reservoir

Oct 15 & 29 Cave & Quarry

Nov 12 & 26 Cave & Cemetery

Dec 10 Cave & Climbing Wall

Nature Sunday

Head outside with Quarry Hill staff to explore the park's pond, meadow and woods. Each program focuses on a different nature topic and includes a hike or activity.

October 1 Fredericka's Birthday!

See Page 2 for details.

Nature Center Hours:

Monday — Saturday 9:00—5:00 pm

Sunday 12:00—5:00 pm



ADULTS PROGRAMS & CLASSES

An Evening for Night Owls

Every autumn a small north woods owl called the Saw-whet migrates south in a silent and secretive wave. The staff at Quarry Hill is among a small group of researchers trying to capture and band these birds in the eastern US in an effort to better understand their migration. During this evening, you will learn more about the secretive saw-whet owl and Quarry Hill's research. Then we'll travel in the Quarry Hill Critter Coach a few minutes east of town to visit the owl banding site. There, after a 10 minute hike to the study site, we will check the nets and band any captured owls.

October 13 or October 27

8:30—10:30 pm

\$22, \$17 member

Advance registration required.

Wreath Making

Join us this holiday season to make your very own evergreen wreath complete with a bow. We will instruct participants in arranging evergreen boughs into a splendid door sized wreath and adorning it with nature's accessories (pinecones, sumac, and more!). This craft is sure to please and to be the talk of the family this holiday.

December 1, 6—8 pm OR

December 3, 2:30—4:30 pm

\$17, \$13 for member

An additional \$15 supply fee will be collected at the class.

Advance registration required.

Wild Caving, A Spelunking Adventure!

Tired of the same old Friday night routine? Join other adventurous adults as we explore the underground world in a private system of caves near Spring Valley. We'll learn all about the fascinating world of karst geology that is unique to SE Minnesota. Belly crawling and crevassing will be optional. Helmet & headlamp will be provided. A packing list will be distributed to registrants prior to the trip. Transportation to the caverns will be provided by Quarry Hill.

November 3

6:00—10:00 pm

\$45, \$35 for member

An additional \$5 cave entrance fee will be collected the evening of the program.

Advance registration required.

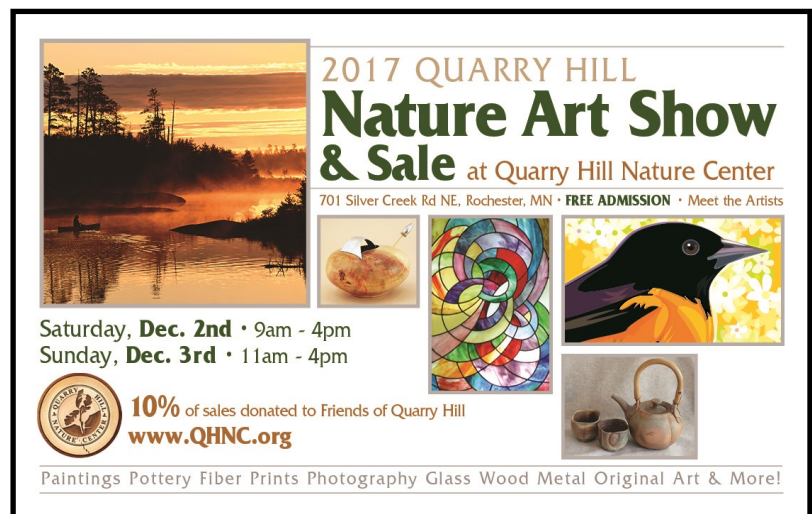
DIY Nature Wool Ornaments

Join us to make your very own decorative wool ornaments. Work with a beautiful assortment of natural and dyed wool to learn the basics of wool felting. We will use natural materials like milkweed pods, acorns, and more to create a variety of festive ornaments.

December 2, 1:30—3:00 pm

\$22, \$17 for member

Advance registration required.



**2017 QUARRY HILL
Nature Art Show
& Sale** at Quarry Hill Nature Center
701 Silver Creek Rd NE, Rochester, MN • **FREE ADMISSION** • Meet the Artists

Saturday, **Dec. 2nd** • 9am - 4pm
Sunday, **Dec. 3rd** • 11am - 4pm

10% of sales donated to Friends of Quarry Hill
www.QHNC.org

Paintings Pottery Fiber Prints Photography Glass Wood Metal Original Art & More!

CONNECT WITH US
Phone (507) 328-3950

Fax (507) 287-1345

quarryhill@QHNC.org

www.QHNC.org

HOURS (Sept 1—May 31)
Mon-Fri 9:00 am—5:00 pm
Sun. Noon-5 pm

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Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center

701 Silver Creek Rd. NE

Rochester, MN 55906

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OCTOBER 20 & 21, \$8/person, \$6/members

Meet the nocturnal animals of Quarry Hill during this non-scary (and sometimes humorous!) family evening in the forest. On a guided hike of the woods and cave, you will encounter the "Creatures of the Night" costumed characters featuring a skunk, raccoon, owl, and bat each with a tale to tell about their night life. Refreshments follow the hike inside the Nature Center.

Hike is approximately one hour long.

Hike is most appropriate for ages 4+.

Terrain is not stroller or dog friendly.

Hikes are held rain, shine, or snow.

Friday and Saturday guided hikes begin at 4:30 p.m. and leave at 15 minute intervals. The last hike leaves at 8:00 p.m.