



Hawthorn Hollow Newsletter

Spring 2023

www.hawthornhollow.org

A Year of New Experiences at Hawthorn Hollow

2023 is shaping up to be a huge year of new projects, programs, and trails at Hawthorn Hollow. Over the course of the year, Hawthorn Hollow will be celebrating the opening of a number of new features, most of which will be available to the public to enjoy.

"This looks like it's going to be one of the single biggest years in terms of new public features and trails at Hawthorn Hollow since we opened in 1967" said TJ Leveque, Hawthorn Hollow Director. "Since acquiring the 50 acres to the south that makes up the Heritage Farmstead and Ozanne Outpost, we have been hard at work restoring the land".

This summer 25 acres of newly-restored land will finally be opened to the public. Over a mile of new trails will pass through a conifer stand, along a grove of sumac, and over the new wetland on a 250-foot long boardwalk. Since acquiring the property in 2016, Hawthorn Hollow had to embark on a number of projects, spearheaded by retired Ecologist Lori Artiomow, to convert a former tree farm with poor drainage back to its natural wetland state. The new trails will allow guests to get up close and personal in restored land and learn about the diversity of this new ecosystem. A grand opening day is to be announced soon.

Some exciting new structures are in the works as well. Final preparations are underway to build the *Thursday Morning Club Overlook* in Margaret's Garden, a cantilevered deck that will project over 20 ft into the tree canopy, providing a new perspective on the Pike River Valley. (see above). This structure will recognize a dedicated group of volunteers, known as the Thursday Morning Club, who have been helping out at Hawthorn Hollow for decades. Construction on the overlook will begin in April.

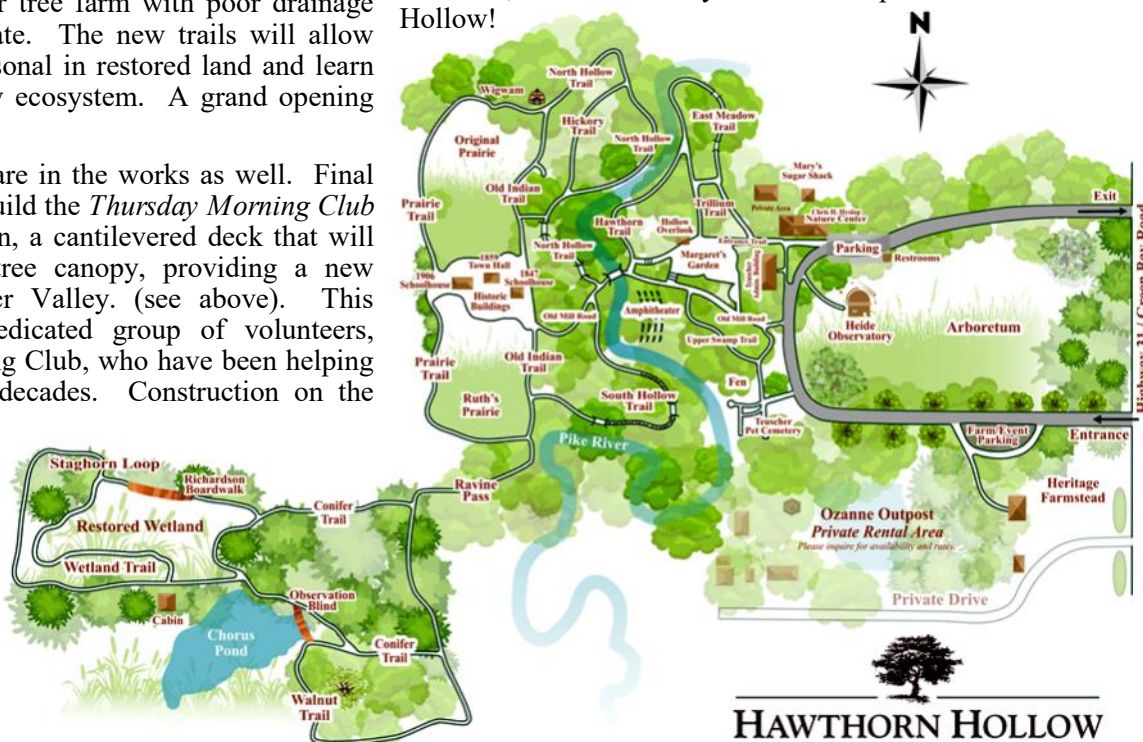
A new map of Hawthorn Hollow, including over a mile of new trails through 25 + acres of restored wetlands and pine stands.



Rendering of the Thursday Morning Club Overlook

On top of those, Gateway Technical College's Landscape Construction class, taught by Gerrit Tichelaar, will be working on building a concession stand, partially funded by a 2021 grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation, in the Amphitheater this autumn. This will provide much-needed storage space in the amphitheater for events such as wedding ceremonies and the Pike River Benefit Concert Series.

Although Hawthorn Hollow has had an arboretum since it opened in 1967, it has never actually been certified. WE Energies recently awarded HH a generous grant to improve and become a certified arboretum. This grant allows Hawthorn Hollow to hire a seasonal arborist to confirm identity, label, and plant trees in the Arboretum. In addition, the grant will allow for additional educational signage, which will be combined with the sign project funded by the Creativity by Kids grant through the Kenosha Community Foundation. All in all, 2023 will be a year of new experiences at Hawthorn Hollow!



HAWTHORN HOLLOW
NATURE SANCTUARY AND ARBORETUM

Map created and designed by supporters of Hawthorn Hollow, Terri and Gus Walton

The Return of the Red-Winged Blackbird

By Emily Leonard, Hawthorn Hollow Ecologist

What better way to celebrate the arrival of spring than by singing loud for all to hear? From frog calls to chipmunk chirps, there are numerous nature sounds that can be heard once the days grow longer and warmer. Perhaps the most recognizable and earliest of these sounds, however, is the song of the male red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).

While the red-winged blackbird's name may lack creativity, this bird has no shortage of audacity. The male red-winged blackbird is a medium-sized, glossy black bird with yellow and red shoulders. Most red-winged blackbirds migrate south in the late fall around the time that the winter birds, such as dark-eyed juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), arrive.

In early spring, the male red-winged blackbirds return to Wisconsin to claim their territory near bodies of water and wetlands. These boisterous males can be heard defending their territory in early- to mid-March. They are known to be



Male red-winged blackbird

loud and persistent, chasing off other birds, wildlife and even humans who may be intruding on their claimed patch of dogwood or cattails. Their call is a three note pattern that ends in a trill (*conk-la-lee*). However, some people recognize the call as “cup of tea!” or “brush your teeth!” which offer a fun way to teach this bird song to budding, young ornithologists.

Female red-winged blackbirds will not venture north again until much later in the spring. The paler, less distinct females of this species have brown bodies that are streaked with lighter, tan markings and a white eye stripe.

When the females arrive, a month or more after the males, the females search for a mate and select a nesting site. In most areas, several females have to share nesting sites, fitting all of their nests into the territory of just one male red-winged blackbird.

Keep your eyes and ears peeled this spring for the red-winged blackbird at Hawthorn Hollow!

Lyrid Meteor Shower

On the night of April 22, the annual Lyrid Meteor Shower will reach its peak for 2023. This is a result of Earth passing through the tail of the comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher. When our planet moves through this debris field, the space rocks burn up in Earth's atmosphere, causing spectacular lights to streak across the night sky.

The Lyrids are one of the weaker annual meteor showers visible from Earth. On peak nights, they usually produce no more than 20 shooting stars per hour. The event is also unpredictable: On rare occasions, spectators are treated to incredible surges of up to 100 meteors per hour. For this reason, the Lyrid Meteor Shower is worth checking out for diehard astronomy enthusiasts.

- ♦ Tickets and chairs are limited so reserve soon.
- ♦ This event is weather-dependent and will be canceled or rescheduled by e-mail 24 hours before the scheduled start time in the event of a cloud cover forecast greater than 30%.
- ♦ If canceled, reservations can be transferred for any other nightly observatory event.
- ♦ Dress appropriately for being still in nighttime outdoor weather.

Questions? Please contact the observatory at observatory@hawthornhollow.org.

HAWTHORN HOLLOW WISH LIST

Good Condition Only, Please

- GARBAGE BAGS
- TOILET PAPER
- PAPER TOWEL
- LAUNDRY SOAP
- OFFICE PAPER
- CLEANING SUPPLIES
- BIRD SEED
- GRASS SEED
- LARGE CORK BOARD
- PITCH FORK
- HOSE NOZZLE
- UTILITY MAT
- SNOW SHOES
- FIRE PIT
- SHED FOR OBSERVATORY
- BIRD SEED
- PRINTER PAPER
- METAL MINNOW TRAPS
- WHITE DISH TUBS
- TAXIDERMY/FURS
- FLASHLIGHTS/ SPOT LIGHTS/ HEADLAMPS
- PAVERS (15 BY 15 IN)

Thank you for your support!

Wetland Restoration Presentation

On February 1st, current and former Hawthorn Hollow Ecologists gave a presentation as part of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association's Coffee Break series. The presentation focused on the Wetland Restoration for Ravine Protection project that was completed last year on Hawthorn Hollow's newly acquired property.

Retired Hawthorn Hollow Ecologist Lori Artiomow, who conceived and ran the project, described the former state of the heavily-eroded ravine leading to the Pike River from the former tree farm and how her plan was implemented over the course of over five years. Hawthorn Hollow's Current Ecologist Emily Leonard then explained invasive species management and future plans for the property.

The Wetland Coffee Break presentations are open to all wetland lovers, and aim to teach people about wetland habitats and the many benefits they provide.

You can watch the presentation recording for free at www.wisconsinwetlands.org/updates/wetland-coffee-break-wetland-restoration-for-ravine-protection-in-se-wisconsin/.

Once upon a child® AND SAS STEIN'S AIRCRAFT SERVICES PRESENT

THE PIKE RIVER BENEFIT CONCERT SERIES

AT HAWTHORN HOLLOW NATURE SANCTUARY & ARBORETUM



ALL SHOWS START AT 6PM
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT HAWTHORN HOLLOW
\$10/PERSON AT GATE (CASH ONLY, PLEASE)
NO CARRY-INS
FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

FRIDAY JUNE 23
YVES FRANCOIS & RHYTHM DE VIE

FRIDAY JULY 28
KR BLUEGRASS

FRIDAY AUG 18
BEN MULWANA

SPONSORS:
EQUINOX, KESSLER'S CLOCK CO., MINDFUL YOGA, PEACETREE, Design Partners INCORPORATED, impact, Creative Designs, studio moonfall.

Birds & Plants

A BIRD WALK & PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER FOR THE FRIENDS OF HAWTHORN HOLLOW

Live Music by
Colby Millea
and Friends

Native &
Decorative
Plant Sale

Bird Walks hosted by
Hoy Audubon Society

Saturday
May 13th
9 AM-1 PM

HYSLOP NATURE CENTER
AT HAWTHORN HOLLOW



Plant Sale Donations Wanted!

Please divide, label, & donate your non-invasive potted plants between May 2-12

MEMORIALS

At Hawthorn Hollow

Commemorative Brick



A personalized engraved brick at the entrance of the Hyslop Nature Center or Margaret's Garden.

Memorial Trees



Choose from a variety of existing Hawthorn Hollow trees or plant and dedicate your own.

Memorial Bench



A memorial bench with an engraved dedication plaque located in a beautiful setting at Hawthorn Hollow.

Contact Lsmith@hawthornhollow.org
for more information.



HAWTHORN HOLLOW

NATURE SANCTUARY AND ARBORETUM

880 Green Bay Rd
Kenosha, WI 53144



A few of Hawthorn Hollow's Super Volunteers helping out with Maple Sugarin' Time.

Garlic Mustard Pull Party & Luncheon!



**SATURDAY
APRIL 29TH
9 AM - NOON**

Join us for a morning with friends, family, and nature enthusiasts as we clear garlic mustard for our spring ephemerals. Afterwards, enjoy a delectable lunch of garlic mustard entrees made by Hawthorn Hollow staff in appreciation of your help.



HAWTHORN HOLLOW
NATURE SANCTUARY AND ARBORETUM

SPRING EVENTS

April

- 4/7 Conservation Volunteer Day.....9:00 am
- 4/21 Night Hike*.....6:30 pm
- 4/22 Lyrid Meteor Shower*.....7:00 pm
- 4/29 Garlic Mustard Pull Party & Lunch.....9:00 am

May

- 5/05 Conservation Volunteer Day.....9:00 am
- 5/13 Birds & Plants.....10:00 am
- 5/17 Night Hike*.....6:30 pm
- 5/20 Spring Wildflower Walk*.....10:00 am
- 5/27 Pollywog Pond*.....10:00 am

*Registration Required

WWW.HAWTHORNHOLLOW.ORG