Even though I grew up in a suburb of Milwaukee, WI my childhood backyard always had a strong presence of nature. My mom’s huge organic garden, dad’s brush and compost piles, bird feeders and baths, and plenty of flowers and trees provided the habitat to satisfy our wildlife neighbors, which definitely intrigued my curiosity and love for nature. My memories are countless of my outdoor explorations and connections I had with creatures in my own yard and I have my parents to thank for that.

My parents wouldn’t have considered themselves birders, but they were definitely backyard birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts. Dad would make sure the bird feeders were always filled and Mom would sit outside and watch the birds with her morning cup of coffee. We would talk over the phone about what they were seeing. Stories of swooping Cooper’s Hawks, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and orioles feeding on oranges, stunning Indigo Buntings, exciting occasional visits from Eastern Bluebirds, woodpeckers clinging the suet feeders, feisty House Wrens in the nest box, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds zipping to all my mom’s beautiful flowers, noisy Blue Jays, serenading robins and cardinals, American Goldfinches on the thistle, nuthatches climbing the trees, Chimney Swifts as nature’s insect repellant at dusk, hooting Great-Horned Owls in the evening, and the year-round fearless presence of sparrows and chickadees who would make sure my dad kept those feeders filled.

I am certain my conservation values were also instilled with my childhood experiences and the influence of my parents. The dead-end road with the great field and forest I loved so deeply, and was allowed to freely play in, brought Barn Swallows (which nested in our garage). Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Ring-necked Pheasants to our yard. When that area was developed into new housing, I felt like someone stole something very precious from me. I remember so wishing I could’ve stopped it. The Barn Swallows, woodpeckers, and pheasants disappeared, as did the many other species [snakes, mushrooms, small mammals] that I encountered in that habitat. The nature in our neighborhood was changed, but those experiences became part of me. Similar to the loss of my parents in late 2012, my life has changed, but they are part of me. I am ever thankful for those memories. How fortunate I feel to take those nature explorations and experiences, that my parents helped instill, and to able to use that passion in my career today with Hawk Ridge. Thank you all for your support during this difficult past year. And, thank you Mom and Dad.
Thank you to all the wonderful people that worked for Hawk Ridge in 2012. We appreciate your dedication and commitment in sharing your knowledge and passion with others for the good of birds. Some notable staff changes were the addition of the Operations Director position, hiring of the new Education Director, adding part-time and seasonal employee positions versus contracts, and staffing the passerine banding volunteer project coordinators, naturalist substitutes, and an intern through grant funding.

**STAFF**

**BANDERS**
Frank Nicoletti (16)
Nova Mackentley (4)
Chris Neri (2)
Sam Roberts (2)

**COUNTERS**
Karl Bardon (6)
Cory Ritter (2)

**NATURALISTS**
Gail Johnejack (2)
Sarah Glesner (6)
Margie Menzies (2)
Erik Bruhnke (5)
Max Bockes
Jessica Chatterton

**NATURALIST SUBSTITUTES**
Beth Miller (9)
Tessa Enroth (2)
Brian Scott
David Stieler
Kati Kristenson
Kari Hanson

**INTERN**
Katie Swanson (2)

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**
Julie O'Connor (10)
Dave Grosshuesch (19)

**OWL MONITORING**
Julie O'Connor (10)
Dave Grosshuesch (19)

**PASSERING BANDING PROJECT VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS**
Kaitlin & Matti Erpestad (2)

**PEREGRINE WATCH**
Julie O'Connor (10)
Gail Johnejack (2)
Katie Swanson (2)

**RAPTORS IN THE CLASSROOM**
Julie O'Connor (10)

Numbers in parentheses indicate number of years staff have been with Hawk Ridge.

Katie Swanson (holding Northern Goshawk) completed a 600-hour internship with Hawk Ridge through UMD, which was made possible through the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation.

**VOLUNTEERS**

We have approximately 200 volunteers helping us out with various projects, committees, events, and programs each year. We can’t express enough how much we appreciate each and every one of you for your time given.

**SPRING & FALL COUNT**
Dave Carman
Frank Nicoletti
Erik Bruhnke

**FALL BANDING**
Karen Stubenvoll
Annmarie Geniusz
Todd Burnside
Jessamy Schwartz

**PASSERINE BANDING**
Margie Menzies
Robbie Tietge
Grace Glick
Heather MacDonald

**ADOPTION PROCESSING**
Gretchen McDaniel
Katie Swanson
Tessa Enroth

**OFFICE & ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS**
Gretchen McDaniel
Lisa Ciopri 
Lisa Ciorlieri
The Long Family (Shannon, Carl, Kerry, and Adam)

**WEBMASTER**
Molly Thompson

**NEWSLETTER DESIGNER**
Ashley Lindsey
COMMITTEES

Hawk Ridge has seven active committees in the areas of research, education, stewardship, finance, fundraising, personnel, and the Hawk Weekend Festival. A special thanks goes out to those members:

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE**
- Jerry Niemi (chair)
- Matt Etterson
- Dick Green
- Jan Green
- Jerry Grosshuesch
- Frank Nicoletti
- Dave Alexander
- Ed Zlonis
- Ron Regal

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
- Tim Bates (chair)
- Dave Schaeffer
- Katie Erpestad
- Julie O'Connor
- Erin Zoellick
- Matti Erpestad
- Gail Johnejack

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**
- Bob Owens (chair)
- Andrew Streitz
- Steve Wilson
- Judy Gibbs
- Josh Vineyard
- Tim Bates
- David Yount

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**
- Molly Thompson (chair)
- Dave Alexander
- John Baumgarten
- Bob Owens

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**
- Mark Martell (chair)
- Ann Redels
- Karen Stubenvoll
- John Baumgarten
- Dave Alexander
- Sandra Van den Bosse

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**
- Karen Stubenvoll
- Bob Owens
- Martha Markusen

**HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**
- Karen Stubenvoll (chair)
- Christine Ebert
- Harold Nordin
- Judy Haugen
- Gretchen McDaniel
- Julie O'Connor

Thank you to all the Hawk Ridge Board of Directors for listening and for being pro-active in decisions. Their hands-on commitment is helping the organization succeed in its mission, as well as grow and change. In 2012, we welcomed back board member Steve Wilson.

MEMBERS AND DONORS

We’d like to sincerely thank all of our Hawk Ridge friends (members and donors). You inspire us to work harder and smarter. With your continued gifts of support, we are moving forward and making improvements to enhance our bird research, education, and stewardship efforts. Thank you for being an essential part of Hawk Ridge. We look forward to connecting with you in 2013!

GRANTORS

All of the following grantors helped make our 2012 education and research programs possible.

- The Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
- Donald M. Weesner Foundation
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union
- Minnesota Power Foundation
- Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation (*Biodiversity, Community Parks and Recreation, & Red Oak Funds*)
- Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (*Blue Heron Fund*)
- Schwab Charitable Fund

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- ZMC Hotels, Inc. (John Goldfine)
- The Edge Resort & Waterpark (Lisa Filzen)

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- General Mills

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- Wild Birds Unlimited (Bob & Lois Heller)
- The Lake Superior Garden Center (Doug Blackmore)
- michaelfurtman.com (Michael Furtman)
- Naturally Avian (Erik Bruhnke)

**SPEAKERS AT HAWK WEEKEND**
- Anna Peterson
- Sharon Stiteler

**MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AT HAWK RIDGE NATURE RESERVE**
- City of Duluth

**BIRD SEED FOR FEEDERS AT THE MAIN OVERLOOK**
- Marshall Hardware

**EDUCATION PARTNER FOR RAPTORS IN THE CLASSROOM**
- Lake Superior Zoo

**PHOTOGRAPHY**
- michaelfurtman.com (Michael Furtman)
- Naturally Avian (Erik Bruhnke)
- Night Flight Images (Chris Neri & Nova Mackentley)
### MEMBER AND DONOR GIFTS

Note: this list does not include the many adopters or event registrants, whose support we truly appreciate.

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- Elisabeth J. Dayton
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- June & Alan Sroufe
- Susan Streitz

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- Mark & Jane Wolf (In Memory of Burnette Hojnacki)
- Richard & Gretchen Wunderlich
- Kathy & John Yee
- Ben & Heidi Yoked Family (In Memory of Susanne Yoked)
- David & Geiger Yount
- Pamela Zalesky
- Michael & Sheralyne Zonis
- Friends of Wolsfeld Woods (In Honor of Volunteers Bill Marenko & Esther Gesick)
- Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (In Honor of Speaker Mark Martell)
- Vermilion Community College (Road Scholar Program)
- Whole Foods Co-op

#### Photo by Karen Stubenvoll

Stephen and Evelyn Fisher sponsored the day of education and research programs on October 6, 2012. Thanks to all those that helped sponsor last fall season!
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Elizabeth K. Neuvair

HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Photo by Hawk Ridge staff

Passerine banding education programs at the overlook, thanks to a grant from the Biodiversity Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation

Thank you for your support in 2012!

Frank & Kate Nicoliatti
Wayne Norling
Daniel & Maryanne Norton
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Dr. Connie Osbeck & Mark Citsay
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Doug Zaun & Emily Larson
Roy Zimmerman
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL DONORS

HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY

WE SINCERELY THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT DONATED TO THE 2012 HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL AUCTION & FALL RAFFLE

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On The Limit
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Peter Ross
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Whole Foods Co-op
Wild Birds Unlimited
Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center
Yarn Harbor

Dave Alexander (left) and Nova Mackentley (right) hold the Golden Eagle "Jack" caught at Hawk Ridge. Transmitter was put on as part of the Golden Eagle Tracking Project.

Photo by Hawk Ridge staff
## FISCAL YEAR END
**DECEMBER 31, 2012**

### ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

#### Income
- Merchandise Sales: 20,787
- Direct Public Support: 71,820
- Membership Dues: 20,745
- Grant Income: 31,771
- Other Types of Income: 1,555
- Investments: 28
- Program Income: 43,659
- **Total Income**: 190,365

#### Expense
- Sales Purchases: 10,915
- Conferences & Meetings: 31,130
- Bank Fees: 2,672
- Contract Services: 3,344
- Depreciation: 365
- Dues & Subscriptions: 345
- Facilities & Equipment: 5,430
- Operations: 13,609
- Insurance: 4,812
- Payroll Expenses: 105,152
- Permits and Licenses: 295
- Transportation: 4,399
- **Total Expense**: 182,468

- **NET ORDINARY INCOME**: 7,897
- **NET INCOME**: 7,897

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets
- Cash: 31,208
- Savings: 26,303
- Temp. restricted: 31,172
- Petty cash: 50
- Other current assets: 12,328
- Unrecorded incoming funds: 12,328
- **Total Current Assets**: 101,061
- **Total Fixed Assets**: 6,035
- **TOTAL ASSETS**: 107,096

#### Liabilities & Equity

- **Liabilities**: 36,842
  - Unrestricted Net Assets: 59,913
  - Unrealized Gain/Loss: 2,444
  - Net Income: 7,897
  - **Total Equity**: 70,254

- **TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**: 107,096

### 2012 HAWK RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS

#### RAPTOR BANDING

Three banding stations yielded a total of 4,805 raptors banded! Total included 2,169 owls (2,041 banded at Hawk Ridge, which is highest total to date), a Red-shouldered Hawk (third record at Hawk Ridge), and a Golden Eagle (first adult captured at Hawk Ridge and fitted with satellite transmitter and named ‘Jack’ after the late Dr. Pershing ‘Jack’ Hofslund).

#### PASSERINE BANDING

2,137 passerines of 67 species were banded in 2012, including both species of cuckoo, two species of sandpiper, twenty-three species of warbler, a beautiful adult male Varied Thrush, a leucistic Red-eyed Vireo, and an amazing 104 Nashville Warblers on September 13th. Thanks to the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation Biodiversity Fund, a group of 13 volunteers contributed over 300 hours to complete our first passerine banding volunteer training program.

#### RAPTOR COUNT

56,974 raptors of 19 species were counted in close to 889 hours of observation this fall. This includes a record flight of 57 Golden Eagles on November 12th, and totals of 3 Mississippi Kites, 5 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 18 Swainson’s Hawks.

#### NON-RAPTOR COUNT

This was the 6th season of this fall count. Close to 211,000 birds [non-raptors] of 149 species were counted in 2012. This includes new state high counts for Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, Eastern Kingbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Bobolinks, and American Goldfinches. Other highlights were a Clark’s Nutcracker [an accidental species in Minnesota seen only once previously in the last 25 years], Mountain Bluebird, Townsend’s Solitaire, Red-throated Loon, and Franklin’s Gull (the first for the Hawk Ridge checklist).

#### SPRING COUNT

Volunteer efforts provided close to 75 hours to count 3,043 raptors [13 species].
2012 HAWK RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Naturalists were on-site daily at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve delivering public interpretation about the migration, bird banding demonstrations, and bird adoptions throughout September & October. We offered over 40 free weekend education programs (raptor id, owl evenings, passerine banding, etc.) for the public, reaching over 900 visitors. We also taught formal programs to approximately 40 groups, reaching 850 students/participants (pre-K through college, elderhostels, scouts, etc.). A grand total of approximately 18,000 visit Hawk Ridge each fall!

EDUCATION CAPACITY BUILDING
Thanks to the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, we had a successful transition into the new Education Director position, new Operations Director position, Internship program, naturalist training, new partnerships, and program development and evaluation.

EXPERIENCE HAWK RIDGE
This was the 7th year of the program. 46 classes (approx. 1,150 5th grade students) came to Hawk Ridge this fall thanks to supportive funding from Donald M. Weesner Foundation and individual contributors.

WESTERN GREAT LAKES OWL MONITORING
This was the 8th year of collaborative effort between HRBO, Natural Resources Research Institute, MN DNR and WI DNR to monitor owl populations. 314 owls of seven species were counted by 118 volunteers, including record high numbers of Eastern Screech Owls in WI.

Peregrine Watch
This was the 7th year of the program. Over 1,000 people visited to watch and learn about the nesting falcons in downtown Duluth. Four chicks fledged this season! Thanks to funding from Minnesota Power Foundation and individual contributors.

HAWK RIDGE SOCIAL EVENT
A second summer social event was held in Duluth as a way to get to know our members, donors, neighbors, and users of Hawk Ridge. New Education Director, Gail Johnejack, shared her vision for the Hawk Ridge education department. Approximately 50 were in attendance.

HAWK RIDGE BIRDATHON
Celebrated the 26th annual in May with 184 species being counted in a 24-hr period in St. Louis County, including a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Eared & Western Grebes, and 25 species of warblers!

HAWK WEEKEND FESTIVAL
New evening event venue, fundraiser with live & silent auction, and workshops. Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Laura Erickson. Proved to be a great success with over 100 in attendance!