



"...to use my land for camping and other outdoor activities, and to do so with a feeling that it belongs to all..." Robert Sever Hale

Naturally Speaking

Families in Nature

WHOM DO YOU CONSIDER FAMILY? We think of relations such as parents, siblings, children, or cousins. Many consider friends, neighbors, or even pets as part of the family. Hale Reservation is home to many different wildlife families. We refer to these animals in our backyards and here at

Hale by their common names, such as owl, turtle or mouse. Most of us are not readily familiar with the scientific nomenclature that defines a family, and it is hard for us to think of animal families without comparing them to our own. If we think back to what we learned in school, however, we may remember the levels of taxonomy designed by Carl Linnaeus - Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species.

In the scientific world, a family is a group within this taxonomic classification system. Scientists around the world, use the same system so that no matter where the organism is found, we can understand how it is related to every other organism on the planet. Each category is part of a naming hierarchy that helps us understand where organisms are similar, and at what level they start to differ. For example, birds and mammals are in the same Kingdom and Phylum, Animalia Cordata (animals with a backbone), but birds are in the Class Aves (birds) while mammals are in the Class Mamalia (mammals). You can see how common descriptions relate to the Latin names. While the classification helps us identify where each animal is placed in the taxonomic hierarchy, it does not give us a full picture of how animal families develop and function. Looking at the structure and behavior of common species helps us understand how family composition and dynamics contribute to maintaining healthy, productive populations.

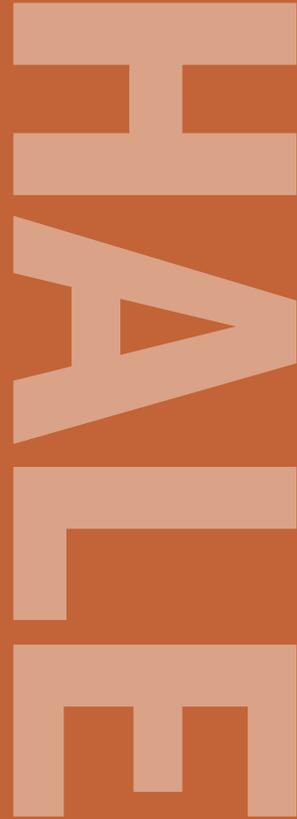
Great Horned Owls (Family Strigidae, Genus *Bubo*, Species *virginianus*) mate for life, and spend up to six months caring for their young and teaching them to hunt. After mating in December or January, the female will lay up to five eggs, and both the male and female share incubating and feeding responsibilities. Older chicks will compete with younger ones for food, sometimes to the death. A great horned owl growing up at Hale Reservation is likely taught to hunt mice or skunk. An owl family stays together during mating and chick rearing, living solitarily for the rest of the year. Genetically, the

chicks from the next year will be brothers and sisters to the previous clutch. There will be no intentional interactions between generations of offspring from the same parents.

Common Snapping Turtles (Family Chelydridae, Genus *Chelydra*, Species *serpentina*) can be seen crossing Hale roads in the spring and summer. These are likely females seeking a sandy, warm place to lay their eggs. An adult female may lay up to forty eggs a year, letting the sun incubate the eggs. Everything a young turtle needs to know about survival is imbedded in their genetics - we call this instinct. Hatchlings grow to become solitary grazers and hunters. Females are able to retain viable sperm in their bodies for several years, so it is not necessary for them to mate yearly. Outside of infrequent mating rituals and territorial disputes, snapping turtle families have no social component.

At one time or another, most of us have encountered the versatile house mouse (Family Muridae, Genus *Mus*, Species *musculus*). These adaptable rodents serve as an important food source for many of Hale's predatory residents. They inhabit fields, woodlands, and buildings. Mice communicate territorial boundaries. They identify family member and reproductive readiness through squeaks and smells. Males mate with multiple females living in communal family groups that can range in size from 12-750! Mice breed year round, producing up to ten litters a year, each with as many as eight babies. Young, born blind and hairless, are breast fed and cared for by the mother for three weeks. Reaching sexual maturity in five to seven weeks, males move on to start their own family groups.

In these three examples, we see that the social structure of families is as diverse as their nomenclature. It is hard not to personify or even judge these animal families against our own human standards. Looking closely at family structures and behaviors in nature can help us understand the evolutionary influences that shape our natural world.



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Falling for Hale

FALL IS MY FAVORITE SEASON. The hectic summer is behind us, the weather in New England is beautiful most days, and if I can stay out of a mall, I won't have to think about the holidays for a few weeks more.

It is also a wonderful time for families. With my own children settling in to a common routine, we have more dinners together. Although they may resist having to clear the dishes and make time for homework, I think there is something very calming about having a schedule that is more familiar.

Fall also gives us the chance to catch up with our friends and neighbors who were scattered about in July and August and it's the time that so many people return to Hale. Our dog walkers are back. Many school groups are returning. For us it feels as if everyone is coming home – home to the Hale Family. Which brings us to the theme of this issue of the Powissett Press – Family.

The Hale Family consists of so many who, over the years, have had such an impact on thousands of people. From Jim Earley and Lon Smith (both past leaders of Hale) to the 16 year old staff members who joined us for the first time this summer – everyone is part of the family.

As you read on in this issue, you will see that Hale is also about strengthening the family. Our work mentoring campers and teaching skills that help family dynamics is core to what we do.

Enjoy the fall, connect with friends and family, and make time to visit Hale.

All the best,

Eric Arnold
Executive Director

Hale Welcomes Susan Rauchwerk

Hale is delighted to welcome Dr. Rauchwerk to the staff as the Director of Operations. She received her undergraduate Ecology degree and teaching certificate from Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey. She completed her Masters and Doctoral degrees in Teaching and Learning at Harvard University, studying under Eleanor Duckworth.

She comes to Hale with a strong background in science, education, administration and teacher professional development through her twenty years with the Massachusetts Audubon Society at Trailside Museum and as the Education Manager for Drumlin Farm. Most Recently, she was the Director of Education for Earthwatch Institute. Dr. Rauchwerk conducted scientific research around the globe, and developed grants and learning opportunities for teachers and students to work alongside scientists.

Rauchwerk serves as a board member for Critical Explorers, an organization committed to developing rich, curriculum materials that can engage students of all ages in deep, meaningful learning experiences. A perfect fit for Hale, her teaching-research method involves all students in hands-on explorations that invite learners to become critical thinkers and reflective practitioners.



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Hale Reservation is a private, non-profit educational organization that manages over 1,130 acres of woodlands, including four ponds and over twenty miles of trails in Westwood and Dover, Massachusetts. Hale is most widely recognized for its summer day camp programs which annually serve over 4,400 children from over 70 communities in the Greater Boston area. Hale Reservation also offers a family program, outdoor and environmental education experiences for children and adults, and open space for casual recreational use.

The essence of Hale Reservation can be found in Robert Sever Hale's original desires for the organization he began in 1918. The current programs and land management practices are the legacy of his desire "to provide education which will develop intelligent, capable and responsible citizens" and to use the land "so long as it is charitable and benevolent in nature." Today's programs strive to develop intelligent leaders and educated environmental citizens. We also believe that the diversity of the natural environment must be reflected back in the diversity of the people who experience our programs. Therefore, we strive to provide programs and opportunities for people of any race, background, religion or economic status.



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A Day at the Beach

FAMILIES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES AND THAT IS ESPECIALLY TRUE AT MEMBERSHIP BEACH. MANY TYPES OF FAMILIES JOIN EACH SUMMER TO PARTAKE IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES; HALE ALSO LIKES TO THINK OF THE STAFF AND MEMBERS ALIKE, AS ONE GIANT FAMILY AT “THE BEST BEACH IN THE WORLD.”

AT THE BEGINNING of the summer, new staff members are getting to know one another, and moms and dads are still figuring out what level swim lessons their children should participate in. Usually by the 4th of July, members and staff start to come together as a giant family.



A father and daughter dance on the beach during a family event at Hale's Membership Beach.

The July 4th Extravaganza is a special event at Membership Beach filled with various activities. Families collaborate to build the best sand castle, children who are not yet friends pair up for the water balloon toss, and lifeguards step in to help a child with the three legged race. The tug-of-war, however, brings everyone – kids, adults,

lifeguards – together to achieve fame and glory against the other side.

Evening events, like Family Movie Nights and Family Campouts, also bring the Membership Beach Family together. While a traditional family movie night is typically held in a living room with everyone crowded around one bowl of popcorn, Hale's Movie Nights are under the stars with more than enough space to spread out in the sand. There is something special about sharing laughs and tears while the light from the homemade movie screen illuminates smiles on everyone's faces.

At Camp Outs, familiar songs are sung, but towards the end of the night, the group stories begin. Each member is encouraged to share one line of a tale so that everyone is heard. One night



There is nothing quite like time with family, unless of course, it's time with family and a S'more.



Former Family Member and current Staff Member, CJ Perry, gets to know some of the children at Membership Beach.

there may be floating evil whales that were eaten by the floating good whales. The next, there are armies of ghosts on different planets. Regardless of the tale, it always ends with a combination of belly laughs and creativity and a happy ending for all who participated.

At the end of every season, as we say goodbye to summer, it is also time to say goodbye to our Membership family. Because the family spreads out to different school districts and colleges all over the country, everyone is forced to imprint all the good times into our memories. All the cookouts, all the boat rides, all the swimming lessons with your favorite instructor, all the ice cold popsicles consumed over the course of 101 days, all these amazing memories are sad to say goodbye to; however, comfort comes in knowing it will only be nine short months until you'll have your next “Family” reunion.

Take the Challenge Course to Your Family

“How can we succeed in this challenge?”



Teamwork at its best!

THIS IS A COMMON QUESTION heard on the ropes course at Hale Reservation. Staff members work with small groups of children, teens, college students and corporate professionals to find ways to overcome an obstacle facing the group. Ensuing discussion revolves around roles for each person, ways to support everyone, the pitfalls along the way, and the joys of success upon completion.

Seems ideal – and for many groups this setting is an ideal way to evaluate success in a challenging environment and then find ways to apply it to their school or corporate setting. What happens, however, when we take this and apply it to our families?

While we don't have many education programs based on family dynamics, we know that the skills learned from a day on the ropes course can easily be applied to help create a successful family environment. A few examples:

- When one group member experiences some challenges on the course, the entire group works to come up with a solution. The same can occur in a family. Parents



With a little encouragement, goals are often met on the ropes course.

frequently isolate challenges to focus on individuals instead of involving the entire family. The family “team” is strengthened when everyone works to help solve challenges.

- Identifying the key roles played by members of the team on the challenge course is common. We need leaders, entertainers, task masters, supporters, workers and good listeners. Same in our families: What would happen if you asked every family member to write down the roles that each person plays and then sat around a table to share? It could result in a great discussion about the roles we enjoy, the responsibilities we take, the assistance we need and the help we provide.

- The Leap of Faith is one of our most exciting ropes course elements. After climbing staples in the side of a telephone pole, a participant balances on the top of the pole 35' in the air and leaps off attempting to touch a large orange ball. Jumping off can be quite scary as a participant is full of uncertainty. With the help of the team holding the ropes, the challenge is met. Going to college, entering Kindergarten, starting a new job or heading off to summer camp can also be frightening, but it is all easier when there is a solid support team under us. Our family is that support team.

As we move from fall to winter and all the joyous family events that come with the Holiday Season, we hope you can take a bit of the Challenge Course into your household and build a strong family bond.

There's no place like Day Camp

THIS SUMMER 450 FAMILIES chose to send 600 children to Hale Day Camp where they all became members of the Hale Family. Lots of these campers have siblings attending camp and most campers enjoy a parent BBQ or picnic during their sessions at camp. Many staff members are former campers who have “graduated” to employees and some staff are parents themselves who bring their children to camp for the summer.

For many members of our extended HDC family who have moved on, often summer is somehow incomplete without a visit. They want to walk the trails, visit the beach, and see friends they made at camp. They are trying to fill a whole summer's worth of fun and memories into one afternoon. A visit back to camp can recharge their batteries with the sights and sounds of camp, and, as they drive away - all seems right with the world again. They can return with a smile that one only gets from being at camp.

As each summer comes and goes, we are eager to meet the newest members of our family at Hale Day Camp and enjoy watching them as they learn, grow and become their own individuals at camp and beyond. Just don't forget to come by and charge your batteries once in a while!



The family picnic at the Hale Day Camp is one of the summer's most popular events.

HOLA! Welcome to the Family!

THE NEWEST MEMBER of Hale's summer programming family, HOLA (Hale Outdoor Learning Adventures) has just completed its third season. This innovative program is a collaborative effort with the Boston Public Schools and focuses on preventing summer learning loss. The program brings students to Hale for all the traditional summer camp activities as well as classroom study of English Language Arts and Math.

As is often the case, the newest member of our “family” is receiving quite a bit of attention. The students are engaged, the teachers are committed and the counselors, lifeguards and support staff are enthusiastic. This enthusiasm is echoed by a chorus of support for the program which has resulted in Hale's establishing an “alumni” version of HOLA. This is a two week camp for past participants of the HOLA program and allows us to bring these same students back to Hale to enjoy more adventures in learning.

We are excited to welcome back HOLA campers and families over the next several summers.



The HOLA Program is part of the Boston Summer Learning Project - 2013 New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Winner!

Bits and Pieces

Hale Reservation has a multitude of programs for you and your family. To register, download a public program registration form from our website at www.HaleReservation.org. If you have questions, call 781-326-1770.

VOLUNTEERS – We need you to join the Hale family of volunteers!

- Trail Crew Members
- Race Team Members
- Event Volunteers
- School Groups
- Corporate Groups
- Conservation Enthusiasts
- Eagle Scouts

Email Hale today at
info@halereservation.org



Rodman Team Rides Again!

Hale Reservation's Rodman Ride Team was out in full force for the 26th Annual Rodman Ride for Kids. With a couple new riders joining many veteran team members, the group raised more money than ever before.



Boston Marathon Team looks forward to 2014



TEAM HALE will partake in the 118th Boston Marathon on April 21. With 15 bibs through the Boston Athletics Association's Charity Program and an additional 10 runners who didn't finish last year, Hale Reservation will be well represented at this premier event. Team Hale will raise much needed funds to support our camp programs.

Firewood

DON'T FORGET to stock up on wood for those cold winter nights. Stop by Hale and pick up a bundle today for \$20, or call and order a cord. 781-326-1770

Delivery available for extra charge.



Family Matters

For non-profits, the process of looking for potential foundation support often involves searching for matches on paper (or the internet). It can feel transactional or very boilerplate. That is not who we are at Hale. Hale is about human interaction, teamwork, collaboration, developing individuals and connecting with people.

As a staff, we were fortunate to connect with David McGrath just as we were beginning the effort to re-build the Wellness Center at camp. As a trustee of the Highland Street Foundation, one of his objectives is to search for projects that have meaning and impact. Given that Mr. McGrath's mother, a founder of the foundation, was a nurse, the link between the Highland Street Foundation and Hale moved from transactional to inspirational. The Highland Street Foundation agreed to be the lead sponsor of the project, which entailed replacing an outdated facility with a new space giving our Wellness Center what it did not have before – two rooms for added privacy, a bathroom with running water, and pavilion space for programming.

This summer, we welcomed the McGrath family to the Hale family with the opening of the new "JoAnn McGrath Wellness Center" and it was then that the



The JoAnn McGrath Wellness Center opened in June and served 1,200 campers throughout the summer.

occasionally "transactional" process of funding a project became very personal. JoAnn watched with delight as campers shared their fitness efforts during the summer and it was our pleasure to show her the building named in her honor and take her for a tour of the acres and acres of land that the campers use. A retired nurse, mother of five and grandmother of 10, JoAnn understands the importance of a having a dynamic and modernized hub for health and wellness at Hale Reservation. It meant a lot to us at Hale to share this with a woman who has dedicated her life to helping others in the medical world while raising her own family.

"It only takes one visit to Hale Reservation to be impressed by not only the surroundings but the resources and services it offers to all. Acres and acres of natural beauty and unspoiled land is the perfect setting to educate and inspire our youth. Thanks to our friends at Hale, thousands of children's lives are enriched every summer by their camp experience and we are proud to play a small role in those efforts."

– David McGrath



Additional sponsors for the JoAnn McGrath Wellness Center include:

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Yes, Hale Matters!

Please accept my donation.



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HALE RESERVATION began as a generous gift to all of us.

YES, I would like to help Hale continue the tradition.
Enclosed is my gift of

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to help preserve, protect and allow for public use of the natural resources at Hale Reservation.

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Think of Hale for your next family event!

YOU KNOW THAT Hale Reservation has acres and acres of beautiful land, but did you also know that Hale now has facilities that you can rent for events? Come and check out our Trading Post or the spacious Powissett Lodge. We can accommodate 25 – 100 of your closest friends for small weddings, family reunions, birthday parties and showers.

Hale also welcomes corporate groups for meetings, volunteer projects and team building.

Call today for more information on rates and availability, 781-326-1770.



Rent new Hale facilities
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