

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

OF THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC STATES

ANNUAL REPORT

a year in review, from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009

Fostering stewardship of the region's environment since 1897 ♦ www.AudubonNaturalist.org ♦ 301-652-9188

Woodend Sanctuary/Headquarters, Chevy Chase, MD ♦ Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg, VA ♦ Webb Sanctuary, Clifton, VA

President's Report

If Thomas Paine were with us today, he might be tempted to agree that "these are the times that try environmentalists' souls."

ANS fiscal year 2009 began promisingly on April 1, 2008. The society had enjoyed several years of growth, successful education and advocacy programs, and financial stability. The presidential election provided a political backdrop in which environmental issues took on renewed prominence, and we saw the Administration and Congress tackle an exciting, ambitious environmental agenda. At both the national and the local levels, the "climate" for resolving environmental issues appeared propitious. But against this hopeful "green" backdrop, that fiscal year also flung ANS into its gravest financial situation in years. As the U.S. economy reeled, FY 2009 ended less with a bang than a whimper on March 31, 2009.

ANS has not been immune to the serious challenges facing non-profits in these difficult financial times. Nor have ANS members, and the corporate and individual donors who support the Society, been immune. Despite cost-savings measures and a projected balanced budget, ANS ended FY 2009 with an operating deficit approaching \$181,000. When combined with the loss in value of the ANS investment portfolio, this deficit reduced the Society's net assets by approximately \$455,000. Trying times, indeed.

To address the deficit, the ANS Board of Directors approved a

stringent "bare bones" budget for 2010, and additional cost-savings measures have been implemented. This belt-tightening has taken a toll on the ANS staff that we should acknowledge and appreciate. ANS is truly fortunate to have staff leadership whose dedication led them to choose to undergo a hiring freeze, reductions in salary and employee benefits, mandatory unpaid leave days, and other privations rather than cancel ANS programs. I hope you will join me in thanking them.

In the face of these sobering obstacles, when we see what the ANS staff accomplished in FY 2009, we are reminded of TV newscaster David Brinkley's remark that a successful person "is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him or her." The bricks have been flying, but ANS continues to do what the organization does best: fulfill its mission to educate people of all ages about the natural world and protect this region's natural habitats. Please take time to review the Annual Report, which covers these accomplishments in detail.

ANS continued its strong environmental education outreach this year. In addition to its popular school, camp, adult and family programs, staff provided hands-on nature experiences for all children in the Montgomery County Headstart Program for the third consecutive year. ANS also launched Nature R.O.C.K.S.

at our Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg, Virginia, for at-risk children. And as a sure sign of goodwill, ANS Nature Preschool parents established a Legacy Fund to support preschool improvements in years to come.

Also, ten new Montgomery County Public Schools were added to the two-year *GreenKids* program, bringing to 22 the total number of active and alumni schools participating in *GreenKids*. We're also proud that 100% of our graduating schools have now been Green School Certified by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Kudos also go to staff members Lisa Alexander and Stella Koch, who garnered awards and recognition for their achievements on behalf of ANS.

At the organizational level, ANS was selected last fall as "one of the finest small charities greater Washington has to offer" by the Catalogue for Philanthropy. This spring, the Maryland Association of Non-profit Organizations awarded ANS its Standards for Excellence certification, an indication of the Society's highly-regarded conservation and environmental education programs.

The ANS Conservation Advocacy program continues its "watchdog" role in advocating for the conservation and effective protection of forests, farms, wetlands, streams, and wildlife in the greater Washington region. Most significantly,

ANS's Diane Cameron led a successful effort to negotiate with state and local officials a stronger stormwater permit for Montgomery County that will lead to the widespread adoption of green stormwater management techniques.

During its illustrious 112-year history, ANS has endured through good times and bad times. I hope (and, optimistically, expect) that when the next Annual Report rolls around, we can look back at these "trying times" from the perspective of a recovering economy, strong ANS membership, full environmental educational programs, effective conservation advocacy, and renewed donor support for ANS. But we cannot take that rosy scenario for granted. More than ever, the Society needs and deserves the commitment and generous support of its members, staff, board, volunteers, and other partners to achieve its worthwhile mission in this tough 21st century.

Anne W. Cottingham

Anne W. Cottingham



Financial Overview

Statement of Activities For the Year Ended March 31, 2009

Revenue

Membership Dues	\$ 223,687
Contributions	1,025,954
Educational Programs	846,206
Sanctuary Shop	176,536
Investment Income	(291,078)
Rentals	674,236
Other	54,542

Total Revenue 2,710,083

Expense

Conservation and Education Programs

Nature Sanctuaries	663,737
Publications	106,065
Education Programs	1,285,539
Conservation	302,468
Membership	183,143
Sanctuary Shop	111,252

Total Program Expense 2,652,204

Support Services

Fundraising	253,391
General and Administrative	259,813

Total Support Services Expense 513,204

Total Expense 3,165,408

Change In Net Assets (455,325)

Net Assets, Beginning of Year 4,019,271

Net Assets, End of Year \$ 3,563,946

Statement of Financial Position As of March 31, 2009

Assets

Current Assets:	
Cash	\$ 405,553
Receivables	130,109
Inventory	175,491
Prepaid Expenses	39,170
Total Current Assets	<u>750,323</u>
Property and Equipment (Net)	3,038,725
Investments at Market Value	762,376

Total Assets \$ 4,551,424

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 71,453
Accrued Expenses	161,426
Deferred Revenue	698,572
Notes Payable	16,208
Other Liabilities	39,819
Total Liabilities	<u>987,478</u>

Net Assets

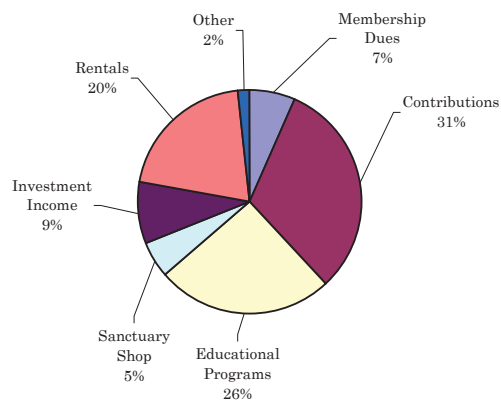
Unrestricted	1,306,567
Temporarily Restricted	1,059,155
Permanently Restricted	1,198,224

Total Net Assets 3,563,946

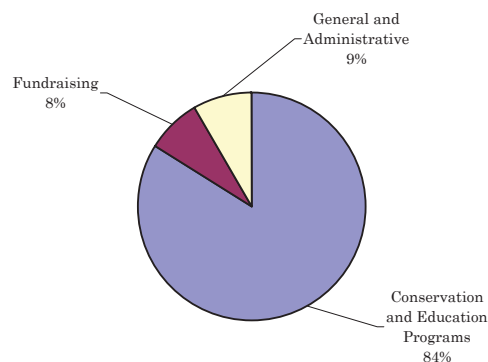
Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 4,551,424

Copies of Audubon Naturalist Society's complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

FY 2009 Revenue



FY 2009 Expense



ANS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**CONSERVATION /
ADVOCACY**

Continued to serve on the C&O Canal Task Force, which is working to strengthen laws protecting the environmental assets of this National Park; worked against the mammoth Georgetown University boat-house proposal for C&O Canal parkland.

Continued to serve on the Legacy Open Space Advisory Board, a nationally regarded program for preserving open space in rural and urban areas.

Continued to establish greater support for organic and sustainable farm production, working closely with elected officials to create policies that would support and encourage locally-grown food in the metro region; helped to establish two new farmers markets in the Agricultural Reserve.

Made several presentations on smart growth, transportation, and land preservation to various school and civic groups.

ANS Virginia Advocate Stella Koch was appointed by Governor Tim Kaine to serve as the VA Representative for the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

Continued to serve on the Fairfax County Task Force responsible for planning the future growth of Tysons Corner, the single largest redevelopment project in the U.S.

Helped organize the Whole Foods 5% day with Montgomery Countryside Alliance to benefit farmland preservation.

Successfully encouraged landowners of a 400-acre historic farm near Poolesville, MD, to place the entire farm in conservation.

Provided testimony to oppose a special exception for a Dickerson, MD, commercial landscaping operation with a huge impervious footprint in the Agricultural Reserve.

Helped designate for preservation five undeveloped properties, helping protect the Left Fork Headwaters Region of the Anacostia River.

Successfully worked for passage of Montgomery County Road Code Revisions, which constitute an overhaul of the way streets and roads are built.

WATERSHED MONITORING

Provided 22 training workshops of biological and geographical stream monitoring techniques to 213 citizen volunteers and professionals from other environmental organizations.

Monitored environmental conditions at 20 stream sites in Maryland and D.C. and engaged hundreds of students and adults in ANS Water Quality Monitoring Program activities.

Attended the World Water Monitoring Day on the National Mall, and provided a 'Hipwaders Presentation' at "Stream Days," a major event for 6th grade students at Westland Middle School in Bethesda, MD.

Worked with Maryland Stormwater Consortium, a statewide umbrella group of 35 organizations, to press for rules that would require stream-friendly development designs.

ANS Conservation Director Diane Cameron led a network of 22 organizations, the Stormwater Partners, to successfully negotiate with state and local officials a stronger stormwater permit for Montgomery County that will lead to the widespread adoption of green stormwater management techniques.

Monitored the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) consent decree, which requires the WSSC to invest \$350 million over 12 years to improve its wastewater collection system. We also worked with WSSC officials to document the damages to their infrastructure from excessive stormwater flows.

Worked with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other partners to set tougher restrictions on mud pollution from construction sites.

EDUCATION

More than 800 children participated in ANS summer camp, and nearly 900 participants attended birthday parties, scout and family nature programs at our Woodend and Rust Nature Sanctuaries.

ANS launched Nature R.O.C.K.S. at our Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg, VA for underprivileged/at-risk children.

More than 300 adults enrolled in college-level courses through the Natural History Field Studies Program, co-sponsored with the USDA Graduate School.

ANS's Nature Escapes program opened up new worlds to nearly 100 adult travelers this year.

Nature Preschool parents established a Legacy Fund to support preschool improvements in years to come.

More than 1,700 adults hiked, biked, birded, and botanized during more than 120 classes, field trips, and outings to natural areas of the Mid-Atlantic States.

ANS continued to serve in a leadership capacity on the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (LESA) to support and expand environmental learning and stewardship in the County.

For the third year, ANS staff provided hands-on nature experiences for all children in the Montgomery County Headstart Program.

Nearly 5,000 students participated in ANS naturalist-led programs at our Woodend and Rust Sanctuaries and at local public and private schools.

GREENKIDS

Ten new Montgomery County Public Schools were added to the two-year *GreenKids* program, bringing to 22 the total number of active and alumni schools participating in *GreenKids*.

Six participating *GreenKids* schools received Maryland Green School Certification from the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. (100% of our graduating schools have now been Green School Certified!)

GreenKids helped launch Green Teams of students to improve recycling and energy conservation in school buildings.

Students picked up pounds of litter from local streams, removed invasive plants, and studied stream invertebrates to assess water quality as part of the *GreenKids* Stream Study Days.

GreenKids Program Director Lisa Alexander received the Montgomery County Outdoor Educator of the Year Award from the Montgomery County Outdoor Education Association.

GreenKids linked schools with community environmental partners including the National Wildlife Federation, the Potomac Conservancy, Montgomery County Master Gardeners, Trout Unlimited, and Monarch Sister Schools.

ANS launched the *GreenKids* Alumni Network to provide ongoing environmental education support to graduating schools.

GreenKids' students partnered with Honest Tea and Washington Capitals hockey player Matt Bradley for a Cap Collection to help remove plastic bottle caps from the solid waste stream.

No Child Left Inside legislation was announced at a press conference at the Woodend Sanctuary by U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes with the help of *GreenKids*' students.

ANS *GreenKids* program was featured as a model program for the Chesapeake Bay Trust and received multi-year funding from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TRIBUTES

April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009

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The family of Dr. Marcia P. Sward made a \$50,000 contribution in her memory to support the Audubon Nature Preschool and the ANS *GreenKids* Program

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ANS offers sincere thanks to the following individuals, families, foundations, businesses and organizations that supported ANS during our last fiscal year. Although we do not have the space to acknowledge everyone, we are extremely appreciative for the generosity of each of our supporters.

\$50,000 & up

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for the Environment
Wallace Genetic Foundation, Inc.

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The trunk buttresses of a jungle giant dwarfs Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason in Costa Rica, a popular Nature Escapes destination.

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The Audubon Naturalist Society is a proud member of the Environmental Fund of Maryland, an alliance of more than 20 nonprofit organizations dedicated to preserving, protecting, and sustaining Maryland's natural heritage. We thank the hundreds of donors who have made gifts to ANS through their employer's workplace giving campaigns.

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Diane Lill

Students in ANS's *GreenKids* Program help restore their elementary school's butterfly gardens by removing invasive plants.