

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY OF THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC STATES

ANNUAL REPORT

a year in review from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

Connecting People with Nature in the DC Region • anshome.org • 301-652-9188
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since I wrote you last year, the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) has undergone major changes. In fact, it's difficult to imagine a more jam-packed year. But, the changes have been positive and I am happy to share the good news with you.

Right after last year's annual meeting, in late October, the board retreated to set broad goals for the next five years. From that meeting, we identified goals around: advocacy, education, buildings and grounds, communications and marketing, financial sustainability/development and workplace environment. These goals would form the core of a new strategic plan. See: <http://anshome.org/index.php/strategic-plan-menu>.

With these goals in mind, the ANS staff fleshed out a plan focused on one-, three-, and five-year objectives. The board and staff also put into place a reporting system so progress could be tracked regularly. This strategic plan has taken firm hold as a living document that guides our budgeting and decision-making. The plan will change and evolve as objectives are achieved and new opportunities revealed. It is a growth-oriented, ambitious plan, which provides the blueprint for ANS to become a more diverse, influential and financially secure organization, and a better employer and steward of our sanctuary.

While the strategic plan may be the seminal achievement of the year, ANS experienced other major changes, too.

New Partnership at Rust Sanctuary

During fiscal year 2013, the board put in place all the components of a 40-year-lease agreement with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA)—a new partnership for Audubon Naturalist Society at Rust Sanctuary, in Leesburg, Virginia. The plan is for NVRPA to maintain the building and grounds of Rust Sanctuary while ANS retains office and classroom space for environmental education programming. A win-win for both NVRPA and ANS, this partnership has been several years in the making. NVRPA will maintain Rust Sanctuary in perpetuity as a nature preserve. Relieved of the financial burden of maintaining the property and buildings, ANS will be able to concentrate on providing mission-related, quality environmental education programs at Rust.

Save Ten Mile Creek

As part of our ongoing conservation advocacy to protect and preserve area streams, ANS identified Ten Mile Creek as a focus area for our conservation staff. The headwaters of Ten Mile Creek, our last, best creek in Montgomery County, is under threat of development that would destroy pristine habitats and threaten the emergency drinking water supply for more than 4.3 million in the region. ANS has made plans to organize partner groups, residents and volunteers to advocate for protection of this irreplaceable resource. ANS is looking ahead to share our message: Save Ten Mile Creek - Protect our Drinking Water, with media, citizens and county officials throughout the greater DC region. Our goal is to influence the Montgomery County Planning Board, engage hundreds of advocates and volunteers, host Montgomery County Executive Leggett on a tour of pristine Ten Mile Creek and much more. As we take the fight from the Planning Board to the Montgomery County Council, ANS will continue to hold Montgomery County's elected and appointed officials to their duty of maintaining clean, safe water sources for today's and future generations.

Continued on page 2

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued from page 1

Farewell Neal, Welcome Lisa

In March, Neal Fitzpatrick, who had been executive director for 10 years, announced his retirement to occur at the end of September 2013. This news was bittersweet as Neal has been an admired and respected member of the ANS staff for 33 years, first as environmental education director, then as conservation director, and finally as executive director. ANS planned a series of events celebrating Neal's tenure in spring and summer 2013. We will all miss Neal, but look forward to a continued association with him and his continued involvement in the Audubon Naturalist Society in other capacities.

(Late-breaking update: On October 19, 2013 the ANS board ratified an employment agreement with Deputy Director Lisa Alexander, naming her the new executive director. Lisa was chosen by the board after an exhaustive, six-month search led by a Search Committee comprised of present and former board members. Lisa competed against a large number of extremely well-qualified candidates but ultimately prevailed as the candidate who embodied the qualities the board was looking for to lead ANS. So while our search led us as far afield as California, we found just who we were looking for in our own neck of the woods. I am confident Lisa will provide the energy, passion, experience, and knowledge needed to fulfill the ambitious goals of the strategic plan and lead ANS into a bright future.)

Increased communications capability and enhanced financial reporting coupled with a balanced budget born of hard decision-making, cost-cutting, and increased revenue round out the achievements of the past year.

Thank you to our board, staff, volunteers, and donors who have worked so tirelessly and selflessly to further the mission and vision of the Audubon Naturalist Society. Together we have and will create a diverse community of people in the Washington region who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.

Sincerely,



Kathy Rushing, President
Board of Directors
Audubon Naturalist Society



Audubon Naturalist Society Board of Directors

Resolution June 2013

WHEREAS Neal Fitzpatrick is retiring after 33 years of service to the Audubon Naturalist Society during which time he served as Environmental Education Director, Director of Conservation, and Executive Director;

WHEREAS Neal Fitzpatrick's work has been informed and inspired by the knowledge that an environmental ethic is born from a love of nature and an understanding of the natural world;

WHEREAS Neal Fitzpatrick has brought to his work the highest levels of integrity, commitment, dedication, and knowledge;

WHEREAS Neal Fitzpatrick's standing in the environmental community and in the Washington region has brought credit to the Audubon Naturalist Society and enhanced the Society's reputation in the region as a leader in environmental education and advocacy;

THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Audubon Naturalist Society extends its deepest appreciation, admiration, and affection to Neal Fitzpatrick for his many contributions and confers upon him the title of Executive Director Emeritus.



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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended March 31, 2013

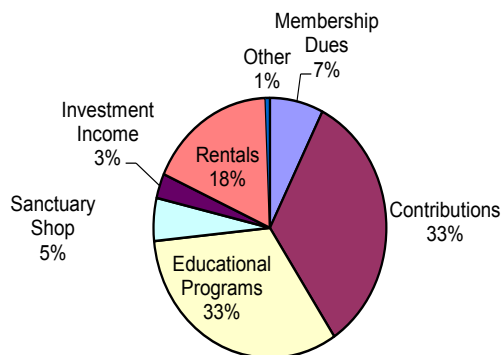
Revenue	
Membership Dues	\$ 249,214
Contributions	1,114,283
Educational Programs	1,095,016
Sanctuary Shop	178,772
Investment Income	102,481
Rentals	591,016
Other	19,960
Total Revenue	3,350,742
Expense	
Conservation and Education Programs	
Nature Sanctuaries	445,330
Publications	82,285
Education Programs	1,456,644
Conservation	444,084
Membership	159,713
Sanctuary Shop	109,367
Other	5,858
Total Program Expense	2,703,281
Support Services	
Fundraising	275,269
General and Administrative	339,190
Total Support Services Expense	614,459
Total Expense	3,317,740
Change in Net Assets	33,002
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	4,511,330
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 4,544,332

Statement of Financial Position

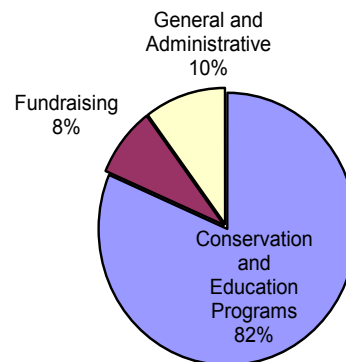
As of March 31, 2013

Assets	
Current Assets:	
Cash	\$ 1,291,761
Receivables	41,376
Inventory	237,574
Prepaid Expenses	31,580
Total Current Assets	1,602,291
Property and Equipment (Net)	2,618,271
Investments at Market Value	1,514,404
Total Assets	5,734,966
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	54,354
Accrued Expenses	200,956
Deferred Revenue	935,324
Total Liabilities	1,190,634
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	2,592,422
Temporarily Restricted	753,686
Permanently Restricted	1,198,224
Total Net Assets	4,544,332
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 5,734,966

FY 2013 Revenue



FY 2013 Expense



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ANS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONSERVATION ADVOCACY

This year conservation advocacy was punctuated by working for stronger storm sewer system (MS4) permit policies in Maryland, DC and Virginia; advocating for fair stormwater rates; restoring the Anacostia Watershed; and leading the launch of a coalition to Save Ten Mile Creek.

MS4 Permits

- ANS worked with multiple partners to comment on new rules to implement DC's Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. We are supporting the District's innovative program to encourage more rain gardens and green roofs.
- In Maryland and Virginia, ANS worked with the Choose Clean Water Coalition to urge strong MS4 permits to limit stormwater runoff.
- In Prince George's County, ANS worked with coalition partners and local officials to request that the State of Maryland issue an improved stormwater permit to accelerate the restoration of the Anacostia River.

Since the early 1990s ANS has operated a Water Quality Monitoring program. ANS' Cathy Wiss runs the program with a team of dedicated volunteers.

ANS Conservation efforts were made possible by generous funding from Cornell Douglas Foundation, The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Marpat Foundation, Cindy McGrath, Prince Charitable Trusts, The Summit Fund of Washington, Town Creek Foundation, the Wallace Genetic Foundation, and restricted gifts from individual donors.

Stormwater Fees

- ANS actively supported the unanimous enactment of a new stormwater utility fee in Prince George's County and an expanded stormwater utility in Montgomery County, so landowners will pay their fair share for stormwater services.
- ANS testified in support of a bill that was passed in Prince George's County, Maryland, called "Rain Check," which will give cash rebates to landowners who install rain gardens, green roofs, and other measures to capture runoff.
- In Virginia, ANS testified before Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, urging them to support a proposed 1 cent increase in the Stormwater Service District rate.

Save Ten Mile Creek

- ANS identified Ten Mile Creek as a focus area for conservation.
- ANS plans to organize partners, residents, volunteers and advocates to Save Ten Mile Creek and protect our region's emergency drinking water supply at Little Seneca Reservoir.
- Countywide, ANS will encourage people to demand for protection of our region's drinking water and put pressure on the Montgomery County Planning Board and County Council to seriously consider more protective plans for Ten Mile Creek.

Anacostia Watershed

- ANS and partners urged the DC City Council to oppose the Anacostia Waterfront Environmental Standards Amendment.
- ANS and partner, Seven Oaks-Evanswood Citizens Association, urged the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services to make Chelsea Court, project in the Anacostia Watershed, a model of Environmental Site Design.
- ANS led a coalition of organizations to oppose a proposed highway and massive commercial-residential project, which would destroy the open space at the University of Maryland Golf Course, part of the Anacostia headwaters.
- ANS members sent hundreds of emails to Montgomery County councilmembers in support of the Trees Matter campaign, which led to the successful enactment of two tree bills that expand urban tree protections.



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ANS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



ANS summer campers enjoy Boris the Turtle.

Hands-on nature exploration and field trips allow thousands of kids annually to tune into nature and unplug from screens through ANS environmental education programs. ANS also provides wonderful opportunities for adults to connect with the natural world. From expanding programs for school-aged children to engaging teens in nature during the summer to steady enrollment in the ANS/ Graduate School USA Natural History Field Studies program, this year was full of accomplishments in Environmental Education.

School Programs

- With the City of Gaithersburg, ANS received the Governor's Stream Restoration Grant to improve Muddy Branch, which is helping ANS engage Gaithersburg High School students, including members of the school's ESOL Environmental Service Club, to care for the natural world.
- Audubon Nature Preschool achieved certification as a 2012 Maryland Green School. The preschool serves as a model by providing environmental literacy resources to Maryland students and demonstrating sustainable practices to the community.
- ANS' Rust Sanctuary added a class to its Loudoun County Public Schools Headstart partnership program.

Summer Camps

- ANS launched the sold out Teen Naturalist in Training Program in the summer of 2012. The program combined our already popular volunteering program with teen leadership and natural history training to create an opportunity for older campers to continue to participate and grow in ANS' programs.
- Summer camp capacity was added for fifth and sixth graders with ANS offering one program for these age groups each week. Camps for fifth and sixth graders were full by the end of March.
- New camps this year included Upcycling, Eco-crafts and Survival Sisters—a girl's wilderness skills camp at the Smith Center.
- Revenue from summer and school's out camps increased by approximately \$30,000.

GreenKids

- ANS' GreenKids co-sponsored the Urban Farming and Environmental Action Student Summit where 50 students from Sherwood and Clarksburg high schools learned about careers in urban farming and sustainable agriculture.
- Our GreenKids School Garden Coordinator was tapped to serve on the Montgomery County Food Council—a newly formed public private partnership charged with improving the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of Montgomery County.



School programs at Rust Nature Sanctuary.

ANS GreenKids in Montgomery and Loudoun County public schools was made possible this year through generous support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Sharon and Bob Buchanan, the Environmental Protection Agency, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Jane Nordahl, Loudoun County Public Schools, PNC Foundation, Ruth McCormick Tankersley Trust, Wallace Genetic Foundation, Whole Foods Market, Whole Kids Foundation, and restricted gifts from individual donors.

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ANS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Adult Programs

- This marked ANS' 51st year of collaborating with the Graduate School USA to offer the Natural History Field Studies (NHFS) program for adults. Despite the economy, enrollment in NHFS classes was robust, making it a notable outlier among other continuing education programs.
- ANS offered more than 130 classes and outings for adults. We hit the trails close to home in Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens (DC), the C&O Canal (MD), and Dyke Marsh (VA) and farther afield, exploring nature from the shores of Cape May (NJ) and Cape Charles (VA) to the mountains of Shenandoah National Park (VA) and Dolly Sods (WV).
- The ANS Nature Travel program continues to be a success offering expert leadership for nature travel worldwide. Group size is intentionally limited to 14-15 participants and all trips in the past fiscal year—to Alaska, Yellowstone, Nova Scotia, South Texas, Costa Rica and Panama—ran successfully with rave reviews from participants!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Audubon Naturalist Society inspires residents of the greater Washington, DC, region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy.

VISION STATEMENT

The Audubon Naturalist Society seeks to create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.



Adult participants enjoy a winter walk along the C&O Canal with ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason.



ANS extends sincere gratitude to the hundreds of individuals who generously give to ANS through the National Capital Area Combined Federal Campaign or through their participation in annual Maryland and Virginia Charity Campaigns.

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TRIBUTES

April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

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Lynn Rhinehart

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Elizabeth Smigel

Michael Wilpers

Mary, Tom, Alice, Lucy & Rachel
Amory



Barred Owl spotted during ANS
outing near Carderock.

SUPPORTERS

April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

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

\$50,000 & up

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Howard Hughes Medical Institute

The Keith Campbell Foundation for the
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Ruth McCormick Tankersley Trust

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We are grateful to the following individuals and groups who have generously donated their time to ANS on a variety of tasks throughout the year including leading field trips and Woodend tours, working in the ANS Sanctuary Shop, removing invasive plants from our Sanctuary grounds, working to restore our pond and meadow, and tending to our Blair Native Plant Garden.

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We are grateful to nearly 150 ANS volunteers who gathered data and monitored the clean water status of 25 local streams in the DC metro region during the year. The Audubon Naturalist Society Water Quality Monitoring Program is one of the largest and longest-running citizen science programs in the country. Since the early 1990s, the program has operated throughout Montgomery County and in parts of the District of Columbia. For many years, it also operated in northern Virginia.

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ANS volunteers take part in Rock Creek Conservancy Extreme cleanup.

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