

EXPERIENCE
YOUR ENVIRONMENT



Osprey Wilds
Environmental Learning Center



ANNUAL REPORT

FY20

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

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Sandstone, MN 55072

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LETTER FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

This annual report really reflects a tale of two years. We began the fiscal year as the Audubon Center of the North Woods, and had a busy summer and vibrant fall full of schools and programs. In November, we hosted our most successful Bids for Kids Fundraiser to date, holding it in the Twin Cities for the first time and raising over \$43,000 for K-12 scholarships. On January 1, we changed our name to Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center, marking a significant moment for the organization. Through February, Osprey Wilds was rolling, on pace to reach more K-12 learners than ever before. On March 15, as we waved goodbye to the Minnesota Internship Center, a K-12 public charter school, Gov. Walz announced that all MN K-12 schools would shift to distance learning. Little did we know at the time that Minnesota Internship Center would be the final school we'd host last school year.

With the new realities of COVID-19 thrust upon us, we acted quickly, securing Payroll Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans, and reducing expenses, including staff hours and positions. As we adjusted to the changing circumstances, we put into place protocols to safely allow staff to come back on-site and work, caring for our educational animals, maintaining our facilities, responding to schools, groups and program bookings, and creating new programs like virtual summer camps. In June, we began offering Picnic Pick Up events, which have become a popular way for local residents to safely get a delicious meal and enjoy it outside in a beautiful setting. Without groups on-site, we were able to spend time on land management activities including maple syruping, invasive species control, prairie burns, and exciting Trapp Farm initiatives including drilling a well, adding electric service and planting fields.

When COVID-19 knocked us down, our donors stepped up. Thanks to you, we raised more in general contributions during our last quarter than ever before. Your support allowed us to carry essential funds into this fiscal year, which is proving to be the most difficult in our history. As we continue to navigate a COVID-19 world where our previous models of instruction and education aren't currently possible, your support allows our staff to develop new and innovative K-12, family and community programs to fit the times. We wouldn't be here without the generosity of individuals like yourself, who have chosen to make Osprey Wilds a part of your charitable giving. Your support is allowing us to adapt and offer programs in new, safe and remote ways to connect people to the environment. We are deeply grateful for your generosity, relying on donor support at a higher rate than any other time in our existence. Thank you for standing with us as we make it through this together.

Sincerely,

Bryan Wood, Executive Director

ABOUT US

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) residential environmental learning center and conference & retreat facility on Grindstone Lake in Sandstone, Minnesota.

Mission

To instill a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning

Vision

A healthy planet where all people live in balance with the Earth

Our core values

- We demonstrate respect, care and passion for the earth, all people and all living things.
- We strive for excellence in everything we do through integrity, open communication and teamwork.
- We value, engage and appreciate individuals for their unique contributions.
- We believe in life-long learning through positive shared experiences with the natural world.
- We encourage others to recognize their interconnectedness with the earth through their actions.

OUR IMPACT



17,151

Students and adults served this fiscal year

K-12 PROGRAMS

Osprey Wilds hosts K-12 schools for multi-day and single-day field trips. Our accredited programming connects thousands of students to nature every year, immersing them in hands-on learning through classes focused on the outdoors, wildlife, and STEM. We also connect with students and families through wildlife outreach programming, school visits, and summer camps.

2,753

K-12 LEARNERS

Our K-12 programming includes residential, day use, and offsite learners.

53

ATTENDING SCHOOLS

Students across Minnesota, and out-of-state, visit our campus for one-day or multi-day field trips.

08

NEW SCHOOLS

Each year we are so excited to work with our new students and teachers and welcome them to our campus!

35

CAMP LEARNERS

We offered two summer youth camps for learners entering grades 4-8. One camp was cancelled due to COVID-19.



SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

\$66,426

Osprey Wilds offers scholarships to assist students and schools to visit our campus and participate in our outreach events.

20 schools received scholarships in FY20.



Brimhall Elementary
Cloquet Area Alternative
Education Program

Crestview Elementary
Edgerton Elementary
E-STEM Elementary

Excell Academy
Henry High School
Jackson Elementary

Metro Deaf School
Minneapolis Public Schools
Summer GEMS & GISE

MN Internship Center
Moose Lake Community School
Northern Lights Community School
Open World Learning Center
Pine City Elementary
St. John the Baptist — Excelsior
Stella Maris Academy
Taylors Fall Elementary
VOA High School
Webster Elementary

WILDLIFE OUTREACH

Our Wildlife Outreach programs bring the outdoors to students and adults. These off-site events allow our naturalists and wildlife coordinator to engage audiences using our Educational Animal Ambassadors.



3,985

Wildlife Outreach
Learners

14

Wildlife Outreach
Programs

OTHER PROGRAMMING

Our work spans many categories and groups. Learn more about our diverse portfolio of learners and program categories below.

CHARTER SCHOOL DIVISION
Osprey Wilds Charter School Division conducts oversight and evaluation of all schools authorized by Osprey Wilds throughout the state.

COLLEGE
We work with higher education institutions to offer college credit courses throughout the year, including a January interim course and Hamline University graduate classes.

ADULTS
Life-long learning is one of our core values, and we are delighted to provide so many learning opportunities for adults of all ages. Our adult programs include Women’s Wellness Weekend, Women’s Superior Hiking Trail Adventure, Road Scholar programs, and Charter School Division retreats.

COMMUNITY
Our community programs are open to all, and highlight education, activities, and fundraising. These programs include Dinner at the Lake events, our Bids for Kids fundraiser, Picnic Pick Up events, and volunteer weekends.

FAMILY
Our family programming offers our guests a great way to learn and enjoy the outdoors together. Our family programs include Winter Family Weekend and Road Scholar Intergenerational events.

CHARTER SCHOOL



9259
STUDENTS

35
SCHOOLS

OW Authorized Schools
9259 students ■ Minnesota
893,203 students

Students eligible for free and reduced-price **65.2%** **35.8%**

Black, Indigenous, or Students of Color **64.7%** **35.2%**

Students receiving special education services **15.9%** **16.6%**

English language learners **24.1%** **8.5%**

COLLEGE



141
STUDENTS

11
COLLEGES

ADULTS



172
LEARNERS

COMMUNITY



739
PARTICIPANTS

FAMILY



67
LEARNERS

FACILITIES & LAND IMPROVEMENTS:

This was an exciting year as we were able to replace and upgrade many necessary items thanks to grants and the generosity of so many donors and volunteers. We couldn't have gotten all these accomplished below without you. Thank you!

TRAPP FARM SEEDING

- 32 ACRES PASTURE
- 10 ACRES PRAIRIE
- 2.5 ACRES NATIVE POLLINATOR PLOT

TRAPP FARM INFRASTRUCTURE

- WATER WELL
- ELECTRIC SERVICE

LAND MANAGEMENT

- OAK SAVANNA BURN
- KNAPWEED TREATMENT
- GARLIC MUSTARD REMOVAL
- WHITE PINE BUD CAPPING

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE ON CAMPUS

- MAINTENANCE SHED
- OSPREY CAMERA
- WARNER NATURE CENTER EXHIBITS

PROPERTY UPDATES

- PERGOLA STAINED
- BARN INTERIOR PAINTED
- SCHWYZER PORCH REPAIRED
- NEW SIGNS
- SINK IMPROVEMENTS IN PUBLIC BATHROOMS
- NEW CEMENT SLABS AT BARN STAIRCASE, ENTRYWAY, & ZIPLINE LANDING

- NEW BENCHES FOR CHICKADEE LANDING
- TANKLESS WATER HEATERS INSTALLED AT LOWRY LODGE & STAFF HOUSE

MAPLE SYRUP

- 140 GALLONS OF MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCED



CURRENT STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE

Bryan Wood, Executive Director
Jill Rudolph, Operations Director
Jim De Young, Development Director
Jolene Palme, Finance Manager
Janette Nash, Front Desk/Receptionist
Jamie Delton, IT Coordinator
Carly Gelderman, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

CHARTER SCHOOL DIVISION

Erin Anderson, Director of Charter School Authorizing
Nalani McCutcheon, Associate Director of Charter School Authorizing
James Ewer, Authorizing Specialist
Addie Washington, Administrative Assistant

EDUCATION

Emily Porter, Education Director
Mary Dresser, Reservations Coordinator
Ashley Bozman, Fellowship Coordinator
Savannah Maiers, Wildlife Coordinator

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR FELLOWS

Rock Delliquanti
Joshua Dilling
Light Love
Jeff Lu
Allie Ott
Katrina Schlicker
Allie Steffen

FACILITIES

Ty Johnson, Land & Buildings Manager
Joel Barr, Farm Manager
Roberta Volk, Housekeeper
Steve Hanna, Groundskeeper

FOOD SERVICE

Amy Smyser, Food Service Manager
Becky Fromm, Cook

GOVERNING BOARD

Don Arnosti
Heidi Bringman
David Chasson
Christopher Crutchfield
Debra Curran, Vice President
Rick Fletcher
Don Janes
Kevin McCalib
Steven McNeill, Treasurer
Richard Newmark, Secretary
Lois Norrgard
Bill Owens
Susan Van Gorden
Don Verbick, President

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME

INVESTMENT INCOME	\$36,533
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$396,567
GRANTS	\$66,551
PROGRAM FEES	\$1,309,573
MERCHANDISE SALES	\$30,185
MISC INCOME	\$4,819
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,844,228

EXPENSES

PAYROLL	\$937,843
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$717,938
GRANT EXPENSES	\$50,521
LOAN/INTEREST	\$63,185
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,769,487

NET INCOME	\$74,741
DEPRECIATION	\$159,420
COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS	\$356,900

OUR DONORS

We've heard the word "unprecedented" often over the past several months; it's become something of a cliché. Describing the difficulties and devastations arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, it carries a strongly negative connotation. But amid the challenges that we faced at Osprey Wilds as the pandemic shut down our programs, the unprecedented support of the Osprey Wilds community was a very definite positive. From mid-March through the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 220 donors made 335 gifts totaling more than \$74,000. Those numbers are all huge increases over previous marks for the same timeframe. The contributions were financial lifeblood, of course, but they also provided a much-needed morale boost.

Even if the year hadn't ended so remarkably, "unprecedented" might have to been used to describe the development program in 2019-2020. Highlights included the following:

- Our most successful Bids for Kids Fundraiser ever in November, raising over \$43,000 for K-12 scholarships;
- More than 40 percent growth in our Sustainer program;
- More than \$159,000 donated for program support;
- \$8,000 donated for the launch of Trapp Farm;
- One of the largest individual gifts in our history, with which we were able to expand our K-12 scholarship program, then, when the residential learning program shut down, redirect funds toward maintaining day-to-day operations;
- Donor-designated gifts for the construction of a maintenance shed, which is currently going up near the Wildlife Barn.

Your partnership over the past year was more important than ever before, reminding us of the large, devoted community that stands behind the mission and work of Osprey Wilds. Thank you!

Jim DeYoung
Development Director



\$10,000 +

Robert Clark
Richard & Connie Glattly
Donald Janes
Richard & Joan Newmark
Lynn Vernon & Bruce Holcomb

\$2,500-\$9,999

Baxter Family Foundation
Cade Foundation¹
Frances Duritsa
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Renee Potts Lane Family Fund

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Marilyn J. Thompson
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\$1,000-\$2,499

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\$500-\$999

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Jim & Sue DeYoung²
Sarah Ernst

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Michael & Teresa Hejny²
Elise & Lee Jamison
Phyllis Kahn
Brian Larson²
Charles & Hope Lea
Sharon & Antoni Lewandowski
Nancy & Dennis Liebelt

See page 18 for footnote references.

\$500-\$999

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Tom & Phyllis Mahan
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\$100-\$249 Cont.

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Tom & Kristine Torborg²
Ezra VanderZiel
Maxine Wallin
Patricia & Edward Welch
Franklin & Michelene Wells
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Terry Wilton
Sylvia Winkelman
Elina Wivholm
Sharon Wolters, M.D., & Family
Bryan & Kat Wood^{2, 3}

\$5 - \$99

Ross Anderson
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Daniyal Baig
Helen Balcome
Linda Bartels¹
James Beaudry
Julianne Benson¹
Joan Betts
Steve Borgstrom
Sue Breska
Mark Brigham
Bill Brooks
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Lisa & Jack May

\$5-\$99 Cont.

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 Eric Wood
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 Violet Yahnke
 Mary Zajicek
 James Zaun
 Julie Zdrazil

1. These donors made gifts in memory of the following: Molly Cade, Sara Graffunder, Charles Sedgwick, Carl & Frances Wiberg, Linda Jadwin, Matthew Link, Robert Olson, Dakota, Joe White, Mertesdorfs, Ray Marcotte, Bradley Parker, Marge Riley, Colleen Haasl, Herman Wertz, Jean Sites, Lawrence & Mary Mans, Cica.
2. These donors provided monthly support as Osprey Wilds Sustainers.
3. Donor's support included gift-in-kind (non-cash contribution).
4. These donors made gifts in honor of the following: Connie Arnosti, Rose Adams, Joe Sausen & Family, Judy Seidmeyer, Doug Wood, Elaine Thrune, Don Arnosti, Savannah Maiers, Alexandra Siebell.

LEGACY SOCIETY

Anonymous
Ruth Allaman
Don and Meg Arnosti
Kathleen Aust
Robert Boelter
Crystal Clift
Harriett Crosby
Mike and Deb Curran
Jim and Sue DeYoung
Frances Duritsa
Lily Beth Frentz
Richard and Connie Glattly
Paulette Huddle
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Betsy Johnston
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Jean Roberts
Ruth Roberts
Marguerite Schwyzer
Steve and Judy Seidmeyer
Don and Barbara Shelby
Jane Spence
Lydia Steensen
Jack Telfer
Roger and Ruby Trapp
Mary Ellen Vetter

Organizations

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Berchin's A&W Restaurant
East Central Energy
Ecolab Inc.
General Mills Foundation¹
Grindstone Lake Association
Institute For Excellence
Marvin P Verhulst Foundation
Matt's Sanitation
Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
Minnesota Community Foundation
Moose Lake Chamber of Commerce
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Northern Pine Riders Snowmobile Club
Northview Bank
Polaris, Inc¹
Science Museum of Minnesota³
Small Business Administration
Southeast Auto Service
St. Croix River Association
St. Paul Audubon Society
Thomson Reuters¹
Thrivent Financial²
USG Interiors LLC³
215 Wabasha Properties, Inc
Wells Fargo Foundation¹

1. Matching gifts were received from these companies at the request of the following donors: Roy Sebald, Cindy Dogan, Matt & Maddy Masucci, David and Michele Heupel, and Eric Rigelhof.
2. Thrivent Action Team Grants and Choice Dollars were received at the request of the following Thrivent members: Dennis & Nancy Liebelt, David Sjoquist, Skinner Hanley, and Lois Kunze.
3. Donor's support included gift-in-kind (non-cash contribution).

We apologize for any mistakes listed in our Annual Report; please [contact us](#) for a correction.



Osprey Wilds

Environmental Learning Center

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Sandstone, MN 55072

Phone: 320-245-2648
OspreyWilds.org

