Celebrating 50 Years!



FY 2019 Annual Report

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



54165 Audubon Drive, Sandstone, MN 55072 ■ www.audubon-center.org ■ info@audubon-center.org



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to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning

Our Vision

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

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

The Audubon Center of the North Woods celebrated its 50th Anniversary as a nonprofit organization on June 10, 2019. Fifty years is quite an accomplishment for an organization with such humble beginnings. In 1968, the initial 535-acre property was graciously bequeathed by Marguerite Schwyzer to the National Audubon Society. After an initial feasibility study determined that an

environmental education center could not succeed here and thus no National Audubon Society funds would be committed, Twin Cities Audubon chapters passed the hat around to raise funds in order to get something started. In November 1971 our first staff member was hired, former Executive Director Mike Link, having agreed to a whopping contract of \$300 per month for three months and tasked with the job description "See what you can do". The monthly heating bill alone for the staff house he and his family moved into was more than his monthly earnings. Not exactly a scenario destined for success. Yet somehow, some way, here we are today.

Today, our educational impact has reached over 300,000 people over our 50 year history, and our relevance continues to strengthen each day as our planet experiences more environmental challenges and opportunities that we can help address. That's what you help us do, you help us make an impact on people's lives so they may in turn make informed decisions and take actions that help the planet. We believe in the power of education and in hands-on learning experiences to create lasting impact and affect change. None of what we have accomplished these past 50 years, including last year, would be possible without the support from generous individuals like yourself. You help make everything we do possible. Last year, over 16,000 people were impacted by our programs thanks to you. I hope that as you review the following pages, you will share my enthusiasm about the wide-ranging effects your support makes for so many individuals. I am deeply appreciative and look forward to beginning our next 50 years with you. Let's see what we can do.

Sincerely,

Bryan Wood

Executive Director

man Wood

Our focus is on developing an understanding, ethics and responsibility regarding the environment and the role of humans through formal and informal experiences that link nature and humans.

K-12, Youth & Family Programs

This past year, we were pleased to be able to increase the amount of scholarships awarded to K12 schools. The very backbone of our organization, our residential K-12 schools program connects thousands of students to nature every year, immersing them in hands-on learning during their several days with us and leaving indelible impacts on them. We had a strong summer camps program, creating and strengthening a connection to nature in scores of children, as well as family campers at our Winter Family Weekend and intergenerational Road Scholar® program.



- 10 new attending K-12 schools
- 3 summer camps:
 - Ways of Wildlife
 - Outdoor Explorers
 - Rocks, Ropes & Rafts
- 1 Winter Family Weekend
- 1 Intergenerational Road Scholar® camp:
 - Rafting & Raptors: Northwoods with Your Grandchild







College, Adult & Community Programs

This past year saw an increase in offerings with

our college, adult and community programs as we offered a new Road Scholar week, an additional college course and our 50th Anniversary celebration. Life-long learning is one of our core values, and we are delighted to provide so many learning opportunities for adults, young and old. Here are some highlights:

- 4 Dinners at the Lake:
 - St. Croix & Namekagon Rivers: The Enduring Gift
 - Reintroducing Elk to Minnesota
 - Monarch Butterflies
 - ACNW at 50 Years
- Maple Syrup Day
- Bids for Kids K12 Scholarship Fundraiser
- 3 Volunteer Work Weekends
- 50th Anniversary Weekend
- Donor and Volunteer Recognition Dinner
- 2 Womens Wellness & Adventure Weekends
- 5 Road Scholar programs:
 - 2 Voyageurs National Park & Canoe Country: Deep Woods, Wild Waters
 - 2 Spring in the Mississippi River Valley: Birds and Wildflowers
 - 1 Walking Discovery of Lake Superior: Michigan's Upper Peninsula
- Women's Superior Hiking Trail Adventure Spree



- January Interim Wolves & Northwoods Carnivore: Predator Ecology course (18 colleges and universities represented)
- 7 Hamline University graduate courses:
 - Biomes: Ecological Systems
 - Reading the Landscape
 - Winter Ecology
 - Minnesota Forests
 - Clean Energy Solutions
 - Spring Flora
 - Sustainable Food Systems
- College courses offered
 Hills Community College &
- 6 Community College courses offered through Inver Hills Community College & Anoka-Ramsey Community College
 - 2 Outdoor Samplers
 - 2 Wilderness Navigation
 - Flatwater Canoeing
 - Summer Bridge



Our programs use the great outdoors as the blackboard and laboratory to educate our visitors.













Facilities & Land Improvements:

Once again, 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!

- Broadband internet installed throughout entire campus
- New 2-story High Ropes course
- Crosby Lodge re-shingled
- Mile-long Audubon Drive upgraded with class v gravel
- New XC Ski Trail grooming snowmobile
- New Maple Syrup flue pan
- New gravity-line system for maple syruping
- 6 Old Town® Penobscot canoes and 2 new canoe trailers
- Pergola built at Dining Hall entrance
- Countertops installed in all Crosby bathrooms
- Dining Hall & Crosby Lodge bathroom floors tiled
- Selective timber harvest on 17 acre red pine plantation





By working with all ages and audiences, ACNW creates leaders in the environmental field that spans generations, disciplines and the globe.

Our Impact

16,283 learners

participated in our educational programs



K12 Learners | 3,462

Through our K12 residential and day programs as well as our homeschool camps, we provide on-site experiential nature learning to thousands of kids each year. Our K12 classes are aligned with MN Academic Standards, with choices in natural history and science, environmental education, outdoor skills, team-building, and adventure/challenge.

"This was the most fun I ever had in a class."

 $-\,Poplar\,Bridge\,5th\,grade\,student$

"I learned to push myself and not give up."

- Woodland Hills 5th grade student

"Great opportunity for kids to experience the 'great outdoors' in a safe, nurturing environment. The program encourages teambuilding and fosters an awareness of the world around us."

- Crossroads Elementary teacher

Attending K12 Schools 71

Schools from throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin bring their students on one-to three-day field trips to ACNW for a nature-immersion experience. Many of our visiting schools have students who have never really experienced the great outdoors and whose visit here is transformational.

New K12 Schools Welcomed in FY19 10



K12 Scholarships Awarded \$69,274

Charter School Students Served 8,548

We are the largest authorizer of charter schools in Minnesota by number of schools authorized. ACNW remains committed to authorizing charter schools as an effective vehicle for advancing the organization's mission and vision. Our vision is to authorize a portfolio of high performing charter schools that instill a connection and commitment to the environment in their school communities, while working towards a healthy planet where all people live in balance with the Earth.

Number of Charter Schools Authorized | 36

"Because of this course and the knowledge I have obtained, the experiences I have had, my future has been changed for the better... Conserving the beauty and awe of the natural world is my passion after taking this class...My life has forever been changed for the better.""

- J-Term student from Franklin College

College Learners 212

We provide a range of undergraduate, graduate, and teacher training opportunities through our Audubon College program. We also serve as a field campus for Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education and other post-secondary institutions.

Number of Colleges Served 18



Summer Camp Learners

These include of 3 summer camps: Ways of Wildlife, Outdoor Explorers, and Rocks, Ropes & Rafts.

Adult Program Learners 257

These include programs such as our 2 Women's Wellness & Adventure Weekends, Women's Superior Hiking Trail Adventure Spree and 5 adult Road Scholar® programs.

Community Program Learners 1,238

These include our Dinners at the Lake, Bids for Kids, Maple Syrup Day, 50th Anniversary, and volunteer weekends.

Family Program Learners 75

Families attend our annual Winter Family Weekend and Rafting & Raptors: Northwoods with Your Grandchild Road Scholar® camp. These programs provide families time for discovery, adventure and fun in the great outdoors.

Wildlife Outreach Learners 2,517+

We provide a number of off-site outreach programs throughout the year for audiences of all ages including: schools, churches, Audubon chapters, birding festivals, fairs, expos, environmental festivals, corporate events, etc. By including live animals (members of our 'wild staff'), these programs have the ability to engage an audience and inspire a concern for wildlife and our environment.

Number of Wildlife Outreach Programs







"I'll never walk in the woods the same way again. Wonderful!"

- Women's Wellness & Adventure Weekend participant

Our Staff

ADM	INIST	RAT	ION:
ADM	INIST	RAT	ION:

Bryan WoodExecutive Director Jill Rudolph......Operations Director Jim De Young......Director of Development Jolene Palme......Finance Manager

Janette NashReceptionist

Rob Sidenberg Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Jamie DeltonIT Coordinator

CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION:

Nalani McCutcheon Associate Director of Charter School Authorizing

James Ewer...... Authorizing Specialist

EDUCATION:

Emily Porter..... Education Director Savannah Maiers.......Wildlife Coordinator Mary Dresser......Reservations Coordinator Clarissa Ellis-Prudhomme:......Program Specialist

Antonio Martinez-Montavon Mentor Educator

Light Love...... Environmental Educator Fellow Alexis Lyons Environmental Educator Fellow Celia Montemurri...... Environmental Educator Fellow Katrina Schlicker Environmental Educator Fellow Allie Steffen Environmental Educator Fellow Hannah Sugrue Environmental Educator Fellow Julia Zyla..... Environmental Educator Fellow

Addie Washington......GreenCorps Member

FACILITIES:

Ty Johnson......Land & Buildings Manager

Roberta Volk.....Lead Housekeeper Morgan Moris Housekeeper Steve Hanna......Groundskeeper

FOOD SERVICE:

Amy Smyser Food Service Manager

Scott Axell Lead Cook Becky Fromm.....Lead Cook

Leslie Haupt Cook

Our Governing Board

Don Arnosti Heidi Bringman David Chasson Chris Crutchfield Debra Curran, Vice President Donald L. Janes Kevin McCalib Steven McNeill. Treasurer Richard Newmark, Secretary Lois Norrgard

Sam Rankin Susan VanGorden Don Verbick, President







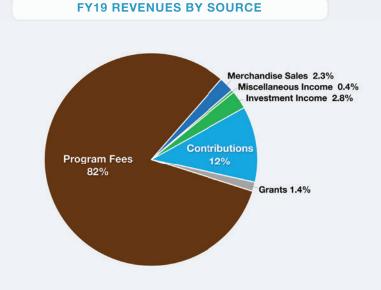




Financial Summary

Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

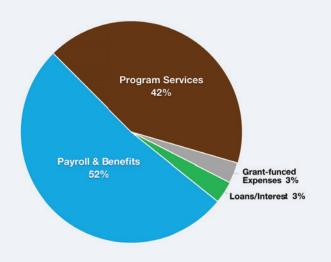
Income	
Investment Income	\$52,256
Individual Contributions	\$218,502
Grants	\$26,200
Program Fees	\$1,537,987
Merchandise Sales	\$43,480
Misc Income	\$7,697
Total Income	\$1,886,122



Expense	
Payroll & Benefits	\$1,002,305
Program Services	\$813,794
Grant-funded expenses	\$58,242
Loans / Interest	\$62,436
Total Expense	\$ 1,936,777

Net Income	(\$50,655)
Depreciation	(\$190,500)

FY19 EXPENSES BY SOURCE



Our Donors

More than 400 donors gave more than \$218,000 during the 2018-19 fiscal year. Your generosity set new records for giving, enabling us to provide powerful connections to nature for more than 16,000 children, young people, and adults.

You gave nearly \$150,000 for program support, exceeding the budgeted \$125,000 by 20 percent. Your generosity helped more than 4,000 children and young people have hands-on encounters with nature through our K-12 programs, summer camps, and wildlife outreach activities. Your support also touched thousands more involved in our family camps, community events, college courses, adult weekends, Road Scholar® programs, and charter schools.

You gave more than \$45,000 so we could make scholarships available to hundreds of deserving students. More than \$30,000 of that came through our second annual Bids for Kids fundraising dinner and auction, surpassing the budgeted amount by 20 percent and the previous year's total by nearly 7 percent.

The Audubon Center campus benefited from your generosity, as more than \$23,000 was contributed for maintenance and improvements, including reroofing our main dormitory, Crosby Lodge, purchasing a trail-grooming snowmobile, and replacing the maple syrup evaporator flue pan.

Your partnership over the past year was once again foundational to our success in helping thousands make meaningful connections with the environment, nurturing their commitment to its preservation. Thank you for making a difference!

Legacy Society

Anonymous
Ruth Allaman
Don & Meg Arnosti
Kathy Aust
Robert Boelter
Crystal Clift
Harriet Crosby
Mike & Deb Curran
Frances Durista
Lily Beth Frentz
Richard & Connie Gla

Richard & Connie Glattly
Paulette Y. Huddle
Don Janes &
Marilyn Thompson

Richard &
Joan Newmark
Lois Norrgard
Jim & Wilda Obey
Sam & Diana Rankin
Jean Roberts
Ruth Roberts
Marguerite Schwyzer
Don & Barbara Shelby
Jane Spence
Lydia Steensen
Jack Telfer
Ruby & Roger Trapp
Mary Ellen Vetter

\$10,000 +

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\$2,500-\$9,999

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George & Mary Crambes

Kate Crowley

Mary Minnick Daniels

Ed & Pam D'avignon

Cindy Dogan

Larry & Nancy Dolphin

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Alanna Dore*

Mary Dresser**

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Bruce & Marlene Ehresman

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David & Pearl Wright

Violet Yahnke Kathy Yerich James Zaun

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David Eagan

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Lynn Eikenbary
In Honor of Susan Diersen
Greenwell Corp.
In Honor of David Krig & Family
Barbara Krig

In Honor of Todd Noel
Mary & Mike Noel
In Honor of Rose Adams
Walt Seibert
In Honor of Mike Nystrom
Jill & Jeff Waataja

Memorial**

In Memory of Jacqueline Olson
Duane & Sarah Altman
In Memory of Janet Beck
Mary Beck

In Memory of Imogen Berchin Berchin's A&W Restaurant

In Memory of all who have volunteered & supported ACNW from the beginning

Maureen Borell

In Memory of C.J. Wiberg
George & Margaret Brandel

In Memory of Molly Cade
Cade Foundation

In Memory of Betty Crosby
Harriett Crosby

In Memory of Elyse's grandfather Mary Dresser In Memory of John Alden Falk Ronald & Grace Falk

*In Memory of David Manninen*Mindy Herring

*In Memory of Joe White*John & Linda Hickman

In Memory of Jean Sites
Gail & George Krasean

In Memory of Alley Cat II
Jon & Laurel Larson

In Memory of Mark Ledin

Tamara Ledin

In Memory of Dave Denton

Sylvia Marcotte

In Memory of Donney Denton

Sylvia Marcotte

In Memory of Raymond Marcotte

Linda Marcotte

In Memory of Natash Lukacs

Natasha Lukacs Memorial Fund

In Memory of Chuck & Bette Sedgwick

Pamela & Steve Neidenfeuhr

In Memory of Bradley J Parker

Camelle Parker

In Memory of Roger Trapp John & Brenda Perrault In Memory of Joe White Betsy & Ed Souther

In Memory of Gene Steele
Gail & Chris Steele

In Memory of Gary Warren Crawford

Diane Tessari

In Memory of Mary Wilton

Terry Wilton

Thrivent Choice Dollar Grant Funds & Action Team Project Support

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Blackbaud Cares Center/Michael Russell Carolyn Foundation/matching gift from Franklin & Gisela Crosby IBM/William Bruins Noel-Levitz, LLC/Noel
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Thompson Reuters/Dave Heupel
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
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Wells Fargo Foundation/ Erik Rigelhof Wells Fargo Foundation/ Tammy Fleming

Grants

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Marvin P Verhulst Fdtn Inc
MN Community Fdn (MN Philanthropy Partner)
MN Department of Commerce
United Way of Carlton County
Vernon Holcomb Household

Employer/Volunteer Matching

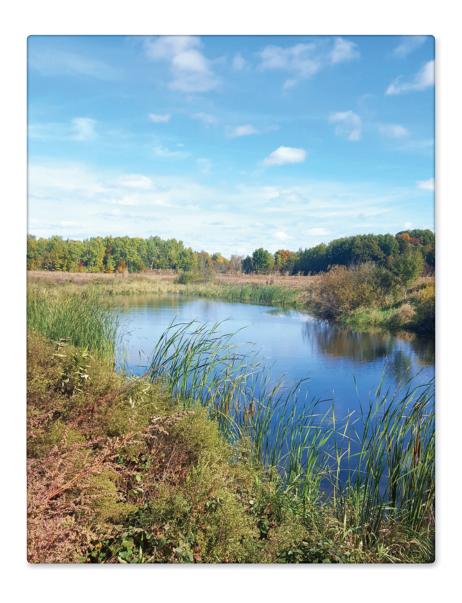
Blackbaud Cares Center/Michael Russell
Carolyn Foundation/matching gift from
Franklin & Gisela Crosby
IBM/William Bruins
Noel-Levitz, LLC/Noel Household
Thompson Reuters/Deb Kubes
Thompson Reuters/Dave Heupel
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Fdn/
John Bachhuber
Wells Fargo Foundation/Erik Rigelhof
Wells Fargo Foundation/Tammy Fleming

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you notice any errors, please accept our apologies and contact us with the needed corrections at 320-245-2648 or palme@audubon-center.org.

- * Honorary donation
- ** Memorial donation

In our 50 years of providing environmental and outdoor education programs, there has never been a more critical time to help people discover their connection to the natural world and begin to form a lasting commitment to respect and care for the environment. That is the heart of what we do, and we can't do it without you. Thank you!







54165 Audubon Drive, Sandstone, MN 55072 Phone: 888-404-7743; Fax: 320-245-5272 www.audubon-center.org info@audubon-center.org