



# *Preserving the Extraordinary*

## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2010, CNC completed its 3-year strategic plan: CNC's Plan 2011.  
The goal: to effectively engage our membership. See how we fared!



June 2011

DEAR MEMBER,

Two thousand ten was Cincinnati Nature Center's 44th year enriching people's lives through unique experiences and educational programs in nature. It was also the third and final year of our most recent strategic plan - CNC PLAN 2011. Two thousand ten was an exciting and successful year and Cincinnati Nature Center is stronger than ever! Over the past three years, we provided thousands of members and visitors a place to relax, reflect, and recharge during these often hectic and challenging times. As you will see in the pages of this report, we made substantial improvements to our land, facilities, and programs. CNC also clearly demonstrated its long term financial sustainability during this time. We are pleased to provide you with an overview of our 2010 finances which reflect a growing annual fund and endowment. CNC's successes and accomplishments are due in large part to the incredible generosity of many current and past members and friends, making CNC one of the top nature centers in the country.

In this Annual Report, we provide both CNC's financial results for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, and the overall accomplishments of the organization over the past three years. Since 2007, we have focused our energies on increasing Member Engagement and preparing CNC for the future.

Member Engagement is measured by four criteria: site visitation, program attendance, number of volunteers, and number of donors. We saw increases in all four areas over the past three years.

We gathered input from members through our "Voice of the Member" initiative, to provide direction and assess our plans and ideas for the future. This process will be on-going.

In 2009, the Board approved the Rowe Woods Site & Facility Master Plan, which identifies and prioritizes our land and facilities needs for the next 10-15 years.

*Making Nature Personal: Cincinnati Nature Centers' Educational Philosophy*© was adopted in 2010 and has led to a significant revamping of our educational programs to focus on supporting our members and incorporating nature into their children's, their friends' and their own lives.

The Board has launched Phase I of *Celebrating 50 Years – Preparing for the Next*, a capital campaign which identifies major funding priorities to prepare CNC to meet its future demands.

Please read the rest of our 2010 Annual Report for details on our recent accomplishments and our future initiatives. Cincinnati Nature Center is a wonderful community of nature enthusiasts with varied interests, talents, and life experiences. The lives of our Members and visitors are enriched through the contributions of many people.

We want to thank:

Our MEMBERS for their ideas and engagement,  
Our VOLUNTEERS their time and camaraderie,  
Our STAFF for their talents and dedication,  
Our DONORS for their support, and  
Our TRUSTEES for their leadership and commitment!

Appreciatively,



Grant S. Cowan  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Bill Hopple  
Executive Director

#### 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Grant Cowan, Chair  
Bill Hopple, President  
Michael Hirschfeld, Vice President  
Kathy Schneider, Vice President  
Beth Staggenborg, Vice President  
Deborah Krehbiel, Secretary  
Jim Vance, Treasurer  
Jill McGruder  
Graham Mitchell  
Carol Scallan





Grant Cowan, Board Chair (left) and Bill Hopple, Executive Director (right)

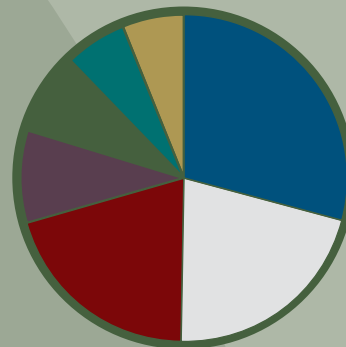
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# Finances

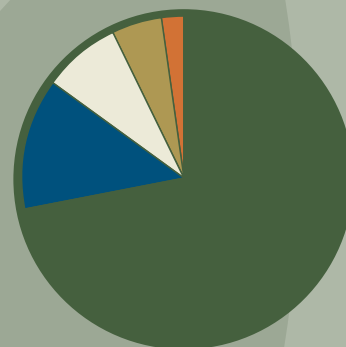
## REVENUE

Contributions, Grants & Fundraisers	\$968,395	29%
Assets Released from Restrictions	\$701,210	21%
Investment Income	\$647,350	20%
Memberships	\$287,591	9%
Educational Programs	\$270,842	8%
Facility Rental & Admissions	\$205,064	6%
Nature Shop Sales	\$200,188	6%
Other	\$13,358	0%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,293,998</b>	<b>100%</b>

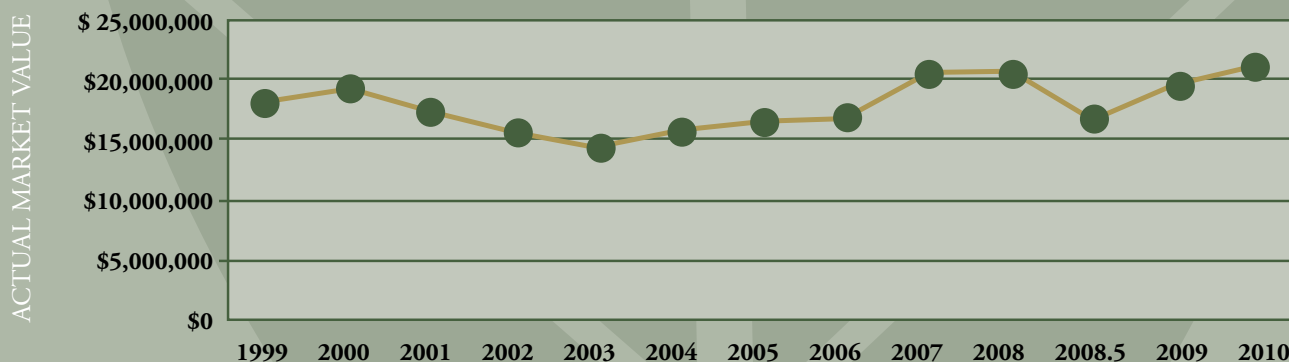


## EXPENSES

Education Program	\$2,088,315	72%
Development	\$388,800	13%
Administration	\$223,535	8%
Nature Shop	\$139,930	5%
Volunteer Program	\$64,241	2%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,806,255</b>	<b>100%</b>



## ENDOWMENT



AT CLOSE OF THE FISCAL YEAR

### 2010 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jim Vance (Chair), Virginia Kuertz, Grant Cowan, Frank Hamilton, Michael Hirschfeld, Rafael Mancera, Jill McGruder, Karl Scheer

### 2010 RETAIL COMMITTEE

Deborah Krehbiel (Chair), Deborah Long, Carol Scallan

# Development

## 2010 FUNDS RAISED

<i>Funds Raised (includes pledges not received)</i>	
Capital	670,104
Annual Giving Fund	329,827
Membership	289,281
Operating Grants & Foundations	140,643
Back to Nature	96,462
Celebration Garden and Honor/Memorials	25,935
<b>TOTAL RAISED</b>	<b>\$1,552,252</b>

### 2010 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Kathy Schneider (Chair), DeVere Burt, Grant Cowan, Frank Hamilton, Carol Scallan,  
Louise Head, Michael McGraw

# By the Numbers

## CNC PLAN 2011

**GOAL BY 2011: INCREASE MEMBER ENGAGEMENT BY 50%**

<i>Members</i>	<i>June 30, 2007</i>	<i>3 year goal</i>	<i>Dec 31, 2010</i>	<i>Change 2001-2010</i>
12 mo avg 3 of mbrs	5,101	5,665	5,586	+485/+9.5%
Visitation	40,728	60,000	54,083	+13,355/+32.8%
Attend Programs	4,419	5,000	5,591	+1172/+26.5%
Volunteers	174	350	302	+128/+73.6%
Donors	719	850	853	+134/+28.8%



*CELEBRATING 50 YEARS—PREPARING FOR THE NEXT!*  
**CAPITAL FUNDING UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010**

<b>ENDOWMENT FUNDING NEEDS</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Raised</b>
Louise B. & Stanley M. Rowe, Jr. Fund for Education	\$2,000,000	\$856,274
Phase I Endowment	\$300,000	\$150,000
<b>Total Endowment</b>	<b>\$2,300,000</b>	<b>\$1,006,274</b>
<b>CAPITAL FUNDING NEEDS</b>		
Nature Playscape & All Persons Discovery Trail	\$670,000	\$458,000
Sanitary Treatment (Algaewheel)	\$520,000	\$0
Nature Preschool Start-up	\$225,000	\$97,500
Entryway & Parking renovation	\$150,000	\$7,500
Abner Hollow Cabin Renovation	\$40,000	\$40,000
Matt's Pond	\$30,000	\$0
Experiential Education Facility	\$25,000	\$0
Unrestricted	\$0	\$191,500
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$1,660,000</b>	<b>\$794,500</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,960,000</b>	<b>\$1,800,774</b>



# Master SITE AND FACILITY PLAN

In 2010, the Board of Trustees sequenced and prioritized all the elements identified in the Rowe Woods Site and Facility Master Plan, which was adopted in 2009. It was determined that implementation should be in three phases driven by a comprehensive capital fundraising program: *Celebrating 50 Years – Preparing for the Next!* Phase I has a goal of \$3,960,000. By December 31, 2010, CNC received commitments totaling \$1,520,500. Each of the major elements of Phase I is described below:

**MARGE & CHARLES SCHOTT NATURE PLAYSCAPE** – The PlayScape Grand Opening is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2011. All members are invited to attend!

**ABNER HOLLOW CABIN** – Renovations to the cabin were completed in the summer of 2010. A porch was added on to three sides of the cabin, the foundation was secured, and windows and doors were repaired.

**NATURE PRESCHOOL** – A one-room nature preschool will open in September 2012 in the former Activity Building on the Groesbeck property. The start-up costs for staffing and facility renovation are included in the Phase I goal.

**SANITARY TREATMENT SYSTEM** – A modern, environmentally friendly on-site wastewater treatment plant will be completed in June 2011 to meet current and future needs. CNC has chosen the AlgaeWheel Technology, which has low energy demands and high decomposition efficiency, and utilizes natural processes.

**DISCOVERY TRAIL** – This interactive, hard surface trail will replace the previous All Persons Trail. It will provide access to key site features at Rowe Woods, and it will have interactive stations interpreting our natural and cultural history.

**MATT'S POND** – This teaching pond is home to Elliptical Leaf Arrowhead, an endangered aquatic plant in Ohio. The pond will become a stop along the Discovery Trail with additional plantings to enhance biodiversity.

**ENTRYWAY AND PARKING FACILITIES** – We are developing a plan to provide additional parking capacity to accommodate the expected increased visitation, while simultaneously enhancing the forest in the core of Rowe Woods.

**EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION CENTER** – The Krippendorf garage will be renovated to support experiential activities throughout the year.

**LOUISE B. & STANLEY M. ROWE, JR. EDUCATION FUND** – This \$2 million fund was established in 2007 by a gift from the Rowe Family. When fully funded, it will provide approximately \$100,000 annually to support CNC's education programs, with a special emphasis on children's programming.

# Enhancing EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE



## OUR NEW EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

In 2010, CNC's Education Committee created a philosophy paper entitled *Making Nature Personal: Cincinnati Nature Center's Educational Philosophy*®, based on research on social marketing theory, human behavior, and psychology. The paper emphasizes the need for adults to share their values, knowledge, and experiences in nature with others, and defines CNC's three key audiences: adult members, children, and school teachers/community mentors.

## NATUREVERSIY: HIGHER LEARNING FOR THE OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST

2010 was the inaugural year for NatureVersity: Higher Learning for the Outdoor Enthusiast. Through NatureVersity, Cincinnati Nature Center was able to provide adult nature education to members and non-members. Programs offered included Nature Knowledge Nights, Nature Mentors Level I, Member Naturalist Level I, and Certified Interpretive Guide.

## GETTING CHILDREN OUTSIDE

*Making Nature Personal* emphasizes that frequent time in nature, beginning at an early age, is essential for children to develop a conservation ethic and to grow up healthy. In 2010, Cincinnati Nature Center gave approximately 4,000 children the opportunity to learn and explore in the natural world. Highlights from CNC's children's programs include:

- » CincyNature Camp: 729 children between the ages of 3 and 14 participated in at least one of CNC's day camps at Rowe Woods and Long Branch Farm.
- » 23 boys from St. Joseph's orphanage participated in day camp at Long Branch Farm, as part of year-long partnership. Children from Clermont Boys and Girls Club attended "Earth Kids" camp, a 5 day camp that CNC operated for three weeks this summer.
- » During the second year of "Grow Up Great with Science," a project funded by PNC Bank, CNC provided hands-on outdoor experiences for 108 Head Start preschoolers in Clermont County.

## TRAINING TEACHERS:

Cincinnati Nature Center provided training for both school teachers and Head Start teachers in 2010, focusing on natural history, facilitating children's play in nature, mentoring children in nature, and focusing and managing groups of children outdoors. This training was part of the Grow Up Great program made possible by PNC Bank. As part of our partnership with schools and our field trip program, 4079 school children visited Rowe Woods during 2010.

## 2010 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Beth Staggenborg (Chair) Tucker Coombe, Rowley Elliston, Carol Scallan, Ginger Scheer, Barbara Moss, Bob Staggenborg

# Land STEWARDSHIP



## 2010 CNC LAND MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- » On February 25, 2010, CNC was awarded \$158,600 from the Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Fund to purchase 48 acres of riparian forest along O'Bannon Creek. These funds are designated for the purchase of additional property at CNC's Long Branch Farm & Trails, and will protect more than 20 acres of high quality Mesic Hardwood Forest and associated stream channel.
- » The Land Steward Volunteer program had another successful year in 2010. Thirty-seven Land Steward Volunteers committed 1,000 hours for the treatment of 75 acres at both Rowe Woods and Long Branch Farm & Trails. The primary invasive species treated were autumn olive, garlic mustard, Amur "bush" honeysuckle, Japanese knotweed, Asiatic wisteria, and lesser celandine.
- » Twelve volunteers participated in the Vernal Pool Monitoring Program. They monitored 14 ponds and wetlands at both Rowe Woods and Long Branch Farm & Trails for the presence of breeding amphibians. The most exciting find in 2010 was the observation of spotted salamanders at Marsh Pond. This is the first record of spotted salamanders at Marsh Pond.
- » Seven CNC bluebird volunteers maintained and monitored over 60 bluebird nesting boxes at Long Branch Farm & Trails. These volunteers recorded data including number of eggs, hatchlings and fledglings. During 2010, 77 bluebirds successfully fledged from these boxes along with 68 tree swallows, 29 Carolina chickadees, and 13 house wrens.
- » Forty acres of grassland habitat at CNC was enhanced by removing the non-native invasive shrub autumn olive. It was choking out grasses and forbs that provide important habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife.

## 2010 LAND COMMITTEE

Graham Mitchell (Chair), Cynthia Annett, Rowley Elliston, John Orłowski, Frank Hamilton, Linda Parlin, Marjie Becus, Helen Black, Cathy Chapman, Tre Sheldon, Drausin Wulsin

# Voice OF THE MEMBER

In 2010, CNC launched a full scale member survey in order to more effectively serve our members. This will be an ongoing effort, as member feedback is critical to achieving our mission to inspire passion for nature.

## 2010 VOICE OF THE MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

**98.8%** Feel CNC membership is a good value for the annual membership paid.

**78.3%** Are members because of our trails, and **45%** cited our mission as the reason for their membership.

**78%** Feel a sense of community when they visit CNC.

**42%** Visit CNC once a month, **19%** once a week.

**93%** of our respondents recycle.

**66%** of our respondents have children living in their households.

Nearly **one-third** of our respondents felt habitat destruction was the biggest threat to our environment locally, followed closely by urban sprawl.

CNC also emerged **second** only to print media (books and newspapers) as a top source of information regarding the environment for our members.



## 2010 MARKETING/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Deborah Long (Co-Chair), Linda Parlin (Co-Chair), Grant Cowan, Kathy Schneider, Dawn Mullican, Mark Woolsey



# Looking Forward

## CNC PLAN 2014

In early 2011, a planning team of board members and staff drafted a 3-year strategic plan. It identified our goals for the coming years with a renewed commitment to our mission:

To Enrich Lives  
by Inspiring Passion for Nature  
through Experience, Education and Stewardship.

The overall objective of the plan is to engage the next generation of members – young families.

*There are 4 strategies:*

- » Understand and recruit young members
- » Engage children and families in nature
- » Manage our land even more aggressively
- » Increase financial support from members and the community

*The actions necessary to implement these strategies are:*

- » Develop Regular dialog with our members through Voice of the Member
- » Open the Marge & Charles Schott Nature PlayScape
- » Offer unique experiential family programming
- » Develop on-going relationships with teachers to increase student contact with the natural world
- » Open a nature preschool in 2012
- » Increase the number of acres managed for invasive species
- » Enhance grassland habitat

We will keep you posted as we make progress towards these exciting goals!



Grant S. Cowan  
*Chair*  
*Frost Brown Todd LLC*



Cynthia P. Annett  
*Self-Employed*  
*Golf Instructor*



William H. Hoppell III  
*President & Executive Director*  
*Cincinnati Nature Center*



DeVere Burt  
*Artist, Hawkeye Studio*



Michael A. Hirschfeld  
*Vice President-Trustees*  
*Graydon Head LLP*



Tucker J. Coombe  
*Community Volunteer*



Kathy T. Schneider  
*Vice President-Development*  
*Community Volunteer*



E. Rowley Elliston  
*Retired, Indian Hill*  
*High School*



Beth Staggenborg  
*Vice President-Education*  
*Retired, St. Bernard*  
*Elementary School*



John Finnigan  
*Duke Energy*



Deborah M. Krehbiel  
*Secretary*  
*Community Volunteer*



Virginia B. Kuertz  
*JP Morgan Asset Management*



Jim Vance  
*Treasurer*  
*Western Southern*  
*Financial Services*



Deborah D. Long  
*Community Volunteer*



Jill T. McGruder  
*IFS Financial Services*



Frank T. Hamilton  
*Chexys Inc.*



Graham E. Mitchell  
*Retired, State of Ohio*  
*Environmental Protection Agency*



Rafael Mancera  
*Proscan*



Linda Parlin  
*Community Volunteer*



Carol F. Scallan  
*Community Volunteer*

# Board OF TRUSTEES

## 2010 COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Mike Hirschfeld (Chair), Kathy Schneider (Co-Chair), Grant Cowan, Jill McGruder, Louise Head, Tom Kirkwood, Michael McGraw, Richard Oliver, Tom Rink

# Donors

## INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE \$1000 OR MORE:

Edwin Ahrens  
Rick Ahrens  
Vicki and Peter Alpaugh  
Cynthia and Richard Annett  
Sally VonLehman and James Anthony  
Cheryl and G.W. Archibale, Jr.  
Gail Austin  
Sarah and Ward Bahlman  
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Susan and Douglas Brengle  
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Martha and Ralph Burchenal  
Anne and William Burleigh  
Patricia and DeVere Burt  
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Helen Chatfield  
Deborah and Charlie Clark  
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 Brenda Walker  
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 Jo Ann Withrow  
 Jean Wommack  
 Betsy and Alex Young

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 Camden Foundation  
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 Foundation

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 United Dairy Farmers  
 Vista Foundation  
 Webetook Fund  
 Welchwood Foundation  
 Western and Southern Financial Group  
 William P. Anderson Foundation  
 YOT Full Circle Foundation



2010 NatureVersity Workshop



Jon Young, author of *Coyote's Guide to Connecting with Nature*, launched our NatureVersity Nature Knowledge Night Series to a full house.



Clearing invasive species like Amor "bush" honeysuckle is labor intensive. Jim Downey is pictured above, working at Long Branch Farm & Trails.

Marge & Charles Schott Nature PlayScape Groundbreaking Ceremony—August 24, 2010  
Featured from Left to Right: Director of UC's Arlitt Child and Family Research and Education Center, Dr. Victoria Carr; 2010 CNC Board Chair, Grant Cowan; and CNC Executive Director, Bill Hopple.



# 2010 PHOTO ALBUM



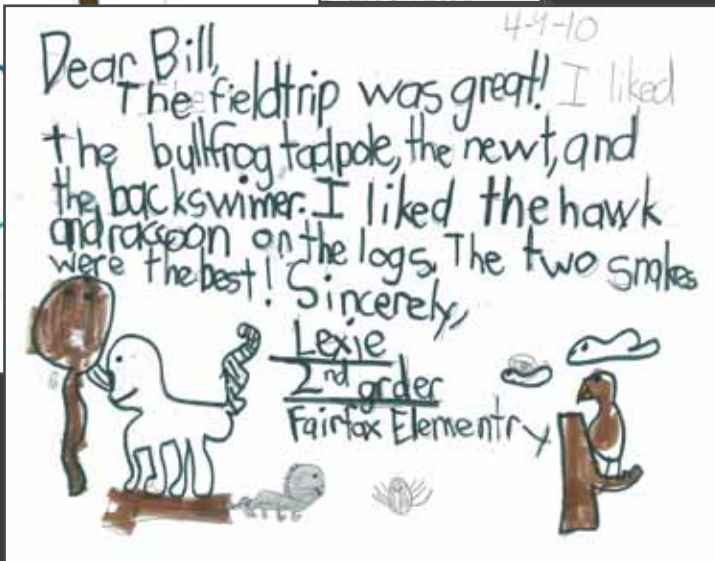
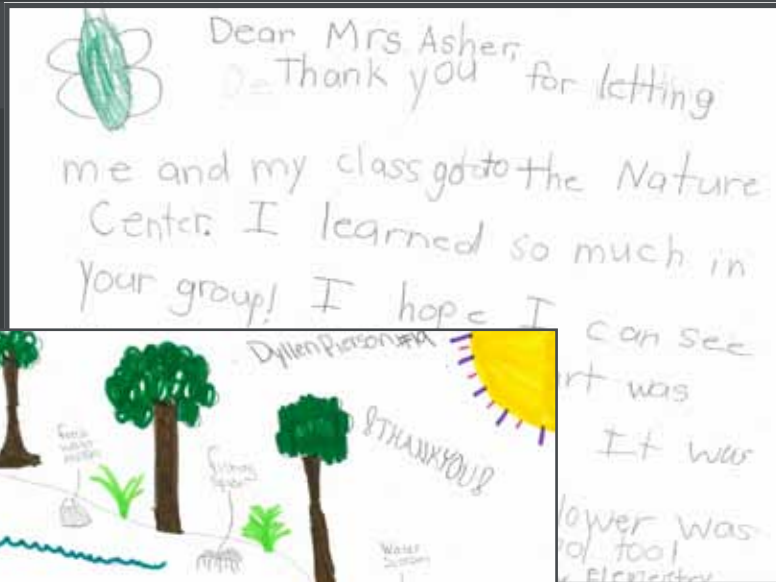
Thanks to a generous grant from the William P. Anderson Foundation, we hosted a week-long nature camp for 20 children from St. Joseph's Orphanage.



In 2010 CNC maintained and/or restored 17 miles of trails at its two locations.



Bill Hopple updates the 2010 Board on the Marge & Charles Schott Nature PlayScape construction.





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Milford, OH 45150  
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To Enrich Lives  
By Inspiring Passion for Nature  
Through Experience, Education, and Stewardship

