



Harris Nature Center Foundation 2012 Annual Report

The mission of the Harris Nature Center Foundation is to provide a reliable source of funding for special projects to enhance the quality of nature appreciation and education at the Harris Nature Center.

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A Message from the President

In 2009 I began my first term as president of the Harris Nature Center Foundation. The Foundation had just finished writing by-laws and it was time to begin fundraising for the Center. It was challenging to select a first project.

At one of the early meetings, Board Member Rick Preuss asked what made the nature center special. The Board felt it was the Red Cedar River. The discussion led to the birth of the “river overlook” project. Fundraising began with a silent auction in January 2009. Despite a recession, the Foundation managed to collect funding from businesses, organizations, and individuals. Three and a half years later in spring of 2012, the overlook was constructed and dedicated.

During this time, the Foundation worked on many more things than just one project. As the result of requests from teachers, bus scholarships were introduced and over a thousand students visited the Center in 2012. Other activities included creating a website and designing a brochure to publicize the Foundation.

The Foundation’s newest project is a playscape or natural play area. In the first phase, local artist Doug DeLind will construct a large concrete turtle for children to climb on. This work of art will be the initial feature in fundraising for tree houses, a fossil dig, and a miniature stream for play. 2013 promises to be an exciting year in the development of this project!

Barbara Kissling, President
Harris Nature Center Foundation

2012 Board of Directors

Barbara Kissling, President
Mike McDonald, Vice-President
Norm Grannemann, Secretary
Mike Lenkowski, Treasurer
Jim Buscetta
Mike Eberlein
Steve Gruber
Julie Moore
Rick Preuss
Patty Robbins
Bob Rusch

Ex Officio - Kit Rich, Senior Park Naturalist
Honorary Directors - Howard and Helen Tanner

2012 – The Year in Review

Foundation Projects

- **River Overlook:** In the spring a large river overlook was constructed and two interpretative signs were placed on and near the overlook. A dedication ceremony, along with a birds of prey presentation and the red-tailed hawk exhibit, occurred on June 9th. Many classes, groups, and visitors are using the overlook since it was built.
- **School Bus Scholarships:** During the 2011-12 school years, 16 bus scholarships allowed 38 classes with 829 students to visit the Center. In the fall of 2012 seven bus scholarships permitted 13 classes with 319 students to visit. Teachers can receive up to \$100 for bus expenses. Scholarships are critical when school funding is limited.
- **Nature Center Sidewalk:** The Foundation funded a sidewalk that extends from the overlook past the back of the Center to the front of the building. Visitors can now easily walk to the screened-in porch, animal feeding area, and red-tailed hawk exhibit.
- **Student Stools:** 40 foldable stools were purchased with Foundation funding for students to use during Annie's Big Nature Lesson and other outdoor activities.
- **Playscape:** With the overlook completed, the Foundation is working on creating a natural play area for visitors of all ages. The Playscape Committee has spent a great deal of time meeting with artist Doug DeLind who will design and construct a large turtle and other community members whose expertise is required for such a project.

Fundraising Activities

- **Silent Auction:** In January the Foundation held its fourth silent auction in conjunction with the Center's annual Winter Wonderland festivities. The auction featured nature-related items and merchant gift certificates/donations and raised more than \$2700.
- **Noodles Fundraiser:** On February 2 the Foundation sponsored a fundraiser at Noodles Restaurant from 4:00 to 9:00 in the evening. A Noodles customer with a flier or mentioning "HNC" enabled 25% of their bill to go to the Foundation. It was a fun event and many nature center supporters participated.
- **Garden Art Plaques:** The Second Monday Artists and other local artists partnered with the Foundation in 2011 and 2012 by painting garden plaques to be sold at a variety of events throughout the year.
- **Kevin Palmiter, Contractor:** Local contractor Kevin Palmiter provided the Foundation with an estimate of \$6000, which included a donation of \$1000, to build the river overlook.
- **Home Depot:** The Foundation applied for a grant from Home Depot and received a substantial discount on building materials for the river overlook. Home Depot also provided employees to help work on the project.

- **Explore Nature Raffle:** Throughout the summer and early fall, almost 1000 \$5 raffle tickets were sold to win a kayak, cross country skis, and snowshoes. Most of the tickets were sold at the Meridian Township Farmer's Market where many of those who bought tickets told us how much they valued Harris Nature Center programs, facilities, and trails.
- **Annual Fund Drive:** In the fall a letter and brochure describing Foundation projects were sent to individuals on the mailing list. The letter resulted in donations ranging from \$20 to \$1000.
- **Olive Garden Grant Application:** The Okemos Olive Garden selected the Foundation to apply for a grant from the Darden Company which owns Olive Garden. The Foundation has submitted the required paperwork and is waiting for a response.

Organization Development and Administration.

- The Foundation met on the second Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m., at the nature center except during July and August.
- The Foundation published a 2011 Annual Report with information on projects, activities, financial statements, budget, and a list of donors.
- The Board of Directors adopted a revised mission statement: The mission of the Harris Nature Center Foundation is to provide a reliable source of funding for special projects to enhance the quality of nature appreciation and education at the Harris Nature Center.
- A mailing list of about 260 names was used for event publicity and fundraising. Efforts were made to collect e-mail addresses to avoid mailing costs.
- The Foundation is a member of the Meridian Area Business Association with Board Director Mike Lenkowski as representative. The Foundation had a booth at the annual MABA community event at Haslett High School in March.
- Board Director Julie Moore developed a new website for the Foundation at www.hncfoundation.org.
- The Foundation had a booth at the Downtown Okemos Celebration on June 7.
- A new brochure describing the Foundation and its mission were printed by Statewide Printing. 1000 brochures were printed and distributed at the Meridian Farmer's Market and to the mailing list during the Annual Fund Drive. Another 1000 copies have been printed.
- A raffle license was obtained from the state of Michigan for the Explore Nature Raffle.
- The Foundation assumed management of the Tree of Thanks, which indicates major donors, from the nature center.
- The Foundation continued to carry Directors and Officers Insurance with Great American Insurance Company.
- During 2012, changes in membership on the Foundation board involved Mike Eberlein leaving the board and Steve Gruber joining the board. At the end of the year, Rick Preuss became an honorary director and Jim Buscetta, Barb Kissling, and Patty Robbins agreed to stay on the board for another three year term.

HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION 2012 Balance Sheets

	2012
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
101 · Cash - checking	7,167.11
Total Checking/Savings	7,167.11
Accounts Receivable	
115 · Accounts Receivable	25.00
Total Accounts Receivable	25.00
Total Current Assets	7,192.11
TOTAL ASSETS	7,192.11
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
260 · Deferred Revenue	
265 · Endowment Fund	100.00
Total 260 · Deferred Revenue	100.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	100.00
Total Current Liabilities	100.00
Total Liabilities	100.00
Equity	
300 · Opening Balance Equity	9,157.88
303 · Unrestricted Net Assets	4,893.62
Net Income	-6,959.39
Total Equity	7,092.11
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	7,192.11

HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION
Statements of Revenue & Expenses
For the Years Ended December 31, 2012

	2012
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
401 · Donations	8,534.06
404 · Fundraising Events	7,588.63
409 · Gifts in Kind	1,253.92
Total Income	17,376.61
 Expense	
311 · Sales Tax	84.94
501 · Supplies	122.07
503 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	687.00
505 · Postage	291.70
507 · Printing and Copying	674.75
513 · Memberships	125.00
514 · Fees	2.50
515 · Website	79.96
550 · Fundraising Expenses	1,699.13
600 · Project Expenses	
601 · School bus scholarships	1,717.33
603 · River Overlook	13,893.04
604 · Interpretive Signs	2,114.58
605 · Sidewalk	2,500.00
606 · Camp Stools	344.00
Total 600 · Project Expenses	20,568.95
Total Expense	24,336.00
 Net Ordinary Income	 -6,959.39
Net Income (Loss)	-6,959.39

HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION
2013 Budget

	<u>Actual</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u> <u>By Class</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2013</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
401 · Donations	8,534		
General Fund		1,590	1,400
River Overlook		3,165	-
Bus Scholarships		82	1,000
Fall Fund Drive		2,675	3,000
Raffle		444	0
Noodles Fundraiser		12	0
Silent Auction		296	100
Turtle Sculpture			5,000
Play Scape			15,000
404 · Fundraising Events	7,589		
Raffle		4,895	0
Noodles Fundraiser		250	0
Art Placque Sales		245	0
Silent Auction		2,469	1,500
Grants:			
Annie's BIG Nature Lesson			5,000
Other			
409 · Gifts in Kind	1,254		
Raffle		1,254	0
Total Income	<u>17,377</u>	<u>17,377</u>	<u>32,000</u>
Expense			
311 · Sales Tax	85		50
501 · Supplies	122		200
503 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	687		750
505 · Postage	292		300
507 · Printing and Copying	675		1,000
513 · Memberships	125		125
514 · Fees	3		0
515 · Website	80		0
550 · Fundraising Expenses	1,699		1,000
Raffle		1,329	0
600 · Project Expenses			
601 · School bus scholarships	1,717		2,000

	603 · River Overlook	13,893	0
	604 · Interpretive Signs	2,115	0
	605 · Sidewalk	2,500	0
	606 · Camp Stools	344	0
	Annie's BIG Nature Lesson		5,000
	XXX-Turtle	0	5,000
	xxx-Play Scape	0	15,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total 600 · Project Expenses	20,569	27,000
	Total Expense	24,336	30,425
	Net Ordinary Income	-6,959	1,575
	Net Income	<u>-6,959</u>	<u>1,575</u>

Donors

We thank the following friends of Harris Nature Center and Harris Nature Center Foundation for their support (financial or gift-in-kind) in 2012. If your name is missing or inaccurate, we apologize and ask that you let us know so that we may correct our records.

Businesses

\$1000 + (2011-2012)

Home Depot - Okemos Store
KP Construction - Kevin Palmiter

\$500 - \$999

Summit Sports

\$100 - \$499

Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
Marvel Lanes
Meijers
Noodles & Co.
Preuss Pets
Star Polarity Therapy Massage
Zap Zone

\$1 - \$99

Akagi Restaurant
All of Us Express
Deb Drew Brown Photography
Breadsmith
Brilliant Sky
Buddies
Claudia's Creations
Coffee & Friends
Cottage Inn Pizza
Court One Athletic Club
Cracker Barrel
Curves
Demmer Archery
Dusty's Cellar
Funtyme Amusement Park
Gordon Food Service
Great Harvest
Ingham County Parks
Jackson National Life
J.D.Small Photography

Jonathon's Barbershop
Michigan Athletic Club
Meridian Sun Golf Club
Meridian Township
Red Cedar Gymnastics
Riverside Cat Hospital
Sherwin Williams - Okemos
Soldan's
Spagnuolo's Restaurant
Sue Selke, Court One Tennis Pro
Van Atta's Greenhouse
Vision Tire & Auto
Woodcraft Kits

Individuals & Clubs

\$1000 +

Helen & Howard Tanner
Anonymous

\$500 - \$999

Thomas & Barbara Kissling

\$100 - \$499

Frances Dittrich
Roberta DuByne
Rodger & Virginia Ederer
Charles Hagen
Larry & Mary Hennessey
Arnold Johnson
Michael & Connie Lenkowski
Kathrine Neils
Billie Proper
Katherine Rich
Patty and Larry Robbins

\$1 - \$99

Anonymous
Rebecca Armstrong
Terry Banas
Ronald Bacon
Barb Bidigare
Tom and Sherry Corwin
Elaine Davis
Eckhart Dersch
Mike and Judy Eberlein
Ronald Hagaman
Alan Jones
Judy Kindel
Marilyn Lee
Michael and Betty Moore
Susan Pelkey
Barbara Scott
Pam Smith
Linda Sutton
Bruce Tanner
Tracy Teal
Charlene Vogan
Sue Weiss
Jeanne Van Wieren