



Harris Nature Center Foundation 2013 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.

2013 Board of Directors

Julie Moore, President

Mike McDonald, Vice-President

Patty Robbins, Secretary

Mike Lenkowski, Treasurer

Tony Bauer

Jim Buscetta

Barbara Kissling

Norm Grannemann

Steve Gruber

Bob Rusch

Ex Officio - Kit Rich, Senior Park Naturalist

Honorary Directors - Howard and Helen Tanner

Rick Preuss

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Harris Nature Center

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A Message from the President

2013 has been an exciting year of transition for the Harris Nature Center Foundation. After four years as Board President, Barb Kissling stepped down and continues to serve as an active Director. As the newly elected President in 2013, I was honored to carry on the successful traditions established by earlier members (School Bus Scholarships, Silent Auction, and Fall Fund Drive), and was excited to help usher in a new chapter of Foundation work.

First conceived in 2012, the Nature Exploration Area Project continued to develop throughout 2013 and proved to be a major focus of the Foundation's efforts. As the first installment of the project, local artist Doug DeLind was commissioned to design and build an Eastern Box Turtle Sculpture. Mr. DeLind worked on the sculpture through the summer and fall of 2013 and will complete finishing touches in 2014. The sculpture was dedicated at the first annual "Turtle Toast" in September, an evening of fine food, live music, and Harris Nature Center supporters.

Foundation Directors continued to work closely with Harris Nature Center staff and Meridian Township to develop plans for the Nature Exploration Area throughout the year. Landscape architects The Viridis Group were commissioned by Meridian Township to design the project. Their plans are available on the website and at the Harris Nature Center building.

Now in its seventh year, the Foundation has become a more robust presence in the community as a source of support for special projects at the Harris Nature Center. In this spirit, the Directors voted to establish an endowment fund that will help to ensure that financial support for the Harris Nature Center will be available for generations to come. The inspiration for the endowment fund came from the gifts in memory of longtime Harris Nature Center supporter Rodger Ederer. Other generous gifts have also contributed to this fund and Directors will be working on creating policies for investing and disbursing these assets appropriately.

On behalf of all Directors, I thank all of the community members who continue to support the Harris Nature Center.

Julie A. Moore
President, 2013

2013 – The Year in Review

Foundation Projects

- **School Bus Scholarships:** During 2013, 20 bus scholarships allowed 44 classes with 1,030 students to visit the Center. Teachers can receive up to \$100 for bus expenses. Scholarships are critical when school funding for field trips is limited or not available.
- **Nature Exploration Area (NEA):** Extensive planning occurred for the NEA, a natural play area, during 2013. Artist Doug DeLind began work on a large turtle sculpture that would be the signature feature of the project. After much research and consulting with experts by the Foundation, Meridian Township contracted with Viridis Design Group to create a master plan showing aerial and side views. Many thanks go to Patty Robbins for her intensive work on the Fossil Dig and to Tony Bauer for using his professional expertise to organize the project into phases with a timeline and to lead the Foundation through such an undertaking.

Fundraising Activities

- **Silent Auction:** In January the Foundation held its fifth 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 \$1900.
- **MABA Expo:** A March display at Haslett High School resulted in donations of \$43 and provided excellent publicity and contacts for the NEA project.
- **Grants:** Applications to the Darden Company (Olive Garden) and Fifth Third Bank were unsuccessful. A grant from Thrivent Financial resulted in \$1000 for the Turtle Toast fundraiser.
- **Major Donations:** Okemos Kiwanis (\$1001) and Helen and Howard Tanner (\$1000) were significant donors to the construction of the DeLind turtle.
- **Turtle Toast:** On September 26, 2013 the progress on the DeLind turtle was celebrated with a fundraiser that featured appetizers with beer/wine, music, and information/drawings from Viridis Design Group for the NEA. 76 tickets (\$25 each) were sold and over \$300 in donations were made. The net profit after expenses was \$1687 which includes the Thrivent grant.
- **Annual Fund Drive:** In the fall a letter describing the NEA project, the Turtle Toast and school bus scholarships was sent to individuals on the mailing list. The letter resulted in almost \$2400 in donations.

Organization Development and Administration

- The Foundation met on the second Monday evening of the month at the nature center except during June and July.
- The January meeting included the approval of the 2013 budget and the election of the following officers: President, Julie Moore; Vice-President, Mike McDonald; Secretary, Patty Robbins; Treasurer, Mike Lenkowski.
- The Foundation published a 2012 Annual Report with information on projects, activities, financial statements, budget, and a list of donors. This report was distributed to the Park Commission and placed on the Foundation website.
- 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.
- A combined Harris Nature Center and Foundation newsletter was e-mailed in March, May, and September.
- 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.
- A savings account was opened at Fifth Third Bank dedicated to the establishment of an endowment fund. Contributions to the Rodger Ederer Memorial Fund totaling \$2045 were deposited in this account.
- The Foundation had a booth at the Downtown Okemos Celebration in June.
- The Tree of Thanks, which indicates major donors, to the Foundation was updated with leaves for 2012 and 2013.
- The Foundation continued to carry Directors and Officers Insurance with Great American Insurance Company.
- Julie Moore resigned as President of the Foundation in August due to work commitments and Mike McDonald served as Acting President until the end of the year.
- During 2013, changes in membership on the Foundation board involved Steve Gruber leaving the board and Tony Bauer joining the board. At the end of the year, Mike Lenkowski and Mike McDonald agreed to stay on the board for another three year term.
- Officers elected for 2014 were President Patty Robbins, Vice-President Barbara Kissling, Secretary Norm Grannemann, and Treasurer Mike Lenkowski.

Harris Nature Center Foundation

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

101 Cash – checking 8764.03

105 Savings – Endowment Fund 2,045.66

Total Checking/Savings 10,809.69

Total Current Assets 10,809.69

TOTAL ASSETS 10,809.69

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

300 Opening Balance Equity 9,157.88

303 Unrestricted Net Assets -2,101.81

Net Income 3,753.62

Total Equity 10,809.69

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 10,809.69

Harris Nature Center Foundation

Profit & Loss

January through December 2013

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

401	Donations	5,948.86
402	Grants	7,001.00
404	Fundraising Events	4,006.97
408	Interest	.66
409	Gifts in Kind	165.00

Total Income 17,122.49

Expense

503	Insurance – Liability, D and O	712.00
505	Postage	162.00
507	Printing and Copying	195.13
513	Memberships	125.00
514	Fees	33.90
515	Website	55.19
550	Fundraising Expenses	1,822.58
600	Project Expenses	
601	School bus scholarships	1,597.17
607	Annie’s BIG Nature Lesson	4,600.00
608	Turtle Sculpture	3,711.94
609	Nature Exploration Area	290.00
610	Miscellaneous Projects	63.96

Total 600 Project Expenses 10,263.07

Total Expense 13,368.87

Net Ordinary Income 3,753.62

Net Income **3,753.62**

Harris Nature Center Foundation 2014 Budget

	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed
Income		
Donations:		
General Fund	2,457	4,000
Nature Exploration Area	224	
Kiwanis – benches T&M	-	1,000
Meridian Township	-	3,000
Dart Foundation	-	2,000
Jackson National Life	-	2,000
Individual Contributors	-	3,000
Turtle Sculpture	1303	-
Fundraisers:		
Silent Auction	1,967	1,500
Turtle Toast	2,010	
Fall Fund Drive	2,245	
School Bus Scholarships	1	
Interest Income		
Grants:		
Annie’s Big Nature Lesson	5,000	
Kiwanis – Turtle	1,001	
Thrivent Financial	1,000	-
Other		
Total Income	17,208	16,500

	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed
Expenses		
Insurance – D & O	712	750
Postage	162	200
Memberships	125	125
Printing	195	300
Fees	34	50
Website	55	100
Fundraising Expenses	1,823	
 Project Expenses:		
Bus Scholarships	1,597	2,000
Annie’s Big Nature Lesson	4,600	-
Turtle Sculpture	3,712	-
Miscellaneous Projects	64	-
Nature Exploration Area:	290	-
Phase #1 Excavation		1,800
Phase #2 Materials		2,000
Phase #3 Interpretive Signs		3,600
Phase #4 Fossils		1,500
Phase #5 Benches		1,000
Phase #6 Path Construction		4,000
Phase #7 Seeding & Native Plants		4,200
Contingency – 15%		2,700
Project Expense Total		20,800
 Total Expenses	 13,369	 24,325
 Net Income	 3,839	 (7,825)
 Beginning Equity Balance		 10,600
 Projected Year End Equity	 10,600	 2,775

2013 Donors

We thank the following friends of Harris Nature Center and Harris Nature Center Foundation for their support (financial or gift-in-kind) in 2013. If your name is missing or inaccurate, we apologize and ask that you let us know so that we may correct our records.

Businesses & Groups

\$1000 +

Okemos Kiwanis
Thrivent Financial

\$500 - \$999

Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society
Loomis Law*

\$100 - \$499

City Limits
Ducks Unlimited
Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
Preuss Pets
Zap Zone

\$1 - \$99

Deb Drew Brown Photography
Brilliant Sky
Court One Athletic Club
Cracker Barrel
Curves
Demmer Shooting Sports Center
Dusty's Cellar
Funtyme Amusement Park
Hilltop Yoga
Jonathon's Barbershop
Light & Shadow Photography
Michigan Athletic Club
Meridian Screen Printing
Meridian Township
Miller Studios
Noodles
Red Cedar Gymnastics
Riverside Cat Hospital
Tuesday Books
Van Atta's Greenhouse
Woodcraft Kits

Individuals

\$1000 +

Doug DeLind

Helen & Howard Tanner

\$500 - \$999

Gerry McNamara

\$100 - \$499

Ron Bacon

Andrew Bernard*

Rosemary Buscetta

Melissa Cochran

Carla Clos

Alan Ederer*

Forest Fennell

Karin Gagnon*

Norm Grannemann

Larry & Mary Hennessey

Arnold Johnson

Alan & Cara Jones

Tom & Barb Kissling

Mike & Connie Lenkowski

Michael & Betty Moore

Julie Moore

William Parsley*

Robert & Marie Peckham**

Pat & Larry Robbins

Kit Rich

James & Beverly Trosko*

Frank & Shar Walsh

James & Rose Zacks*

\$1 - \$99

James R. Anderson*

Violet Albertson*

Hugh & Catherine Bennett*

Joyce Benvenuto

Julie Brixie

Eileen Brooker

Kerry Chartkoff

C. & J.B. Coates*

Solveig Daffinrud*

Lana Dart*

Elaine Davis

David DeLind
Mike Eberlein
Barbara Guter*
Ronald Hagaman
Frances Kaneene
Judy Kindel
Clifton Kinlaw
Joan & Pat Kircher
Mark Kissling
Heidi Lyon
LuAnn Maisner
Mike McDonald
Winifred & J. Wesley Olds*
Hal & Betsye Prince
Martha Robbins*
Suzanne Rock
Martha Stanbury
Nancy Sundell*
Charlene Vogan
Gene Wasserman
Joan Witter

*Donations in Memory of Rodger Ederer (as requested by the Ederer Family)

**In Honor of Helen and Howard Tanner