



## **Harris Nature Center Foundation 2011 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**

On a recent visit to a Detroit suburb, I took my grandson to a nature center in Madison Heights. We stopped at the center building and were sad to learn that it was minimally manned by volunteers because the city could no longer afford to financially support it. The volunteers were worried about how much longer they could maintain the center and were quite distressed about the school classes that no longer came for a nature experience.

Thank goodness the Meridian Township community values the Harris Nature Center (HNC) and supports it with funds from a park millage. HNC is a mid-Michigan treasure with its location along the Red Cedar River and the variety of habitats within the park. The nature center building houses educational exhibits and live animals while outside the back of the building, a feeding station draws many of the local animals.

With projects like constructing a river overlook and funding bus scholarships, the Harris Nature Center Foundation expects to enrich the nature center above and beyond its current status. As our mission statement declares, we place a high value on nature appreciation and education.

Barbara Kissling, President  
Harris Nature Center Foundation

## **2011 Board of Directors**

Barbara Kissling, President  
Mike McDonald, Vice-President  
Norm Grannemann, Secretary  
Jeff Hicks/Mike Lenkowski, Treasurer  
Jim Buscetta  
Mike Eberlein  
Rick Preuss  
Patty Robbins  
Bob Rusch  
Andy Such  
James Wood  
Ex Officio - Kit Rich, Senior Park Naturalist  
Honorary Directors  
Howard and Helen Tanner

# 2011 – The Year in Review

## Foundation Projects

- **River Overlook:** After fundraising for the last two and a half years, the Foundation requested that Meridian Township Department of Parks and Recreation start the process for construction of a river overlook. After several months a site plan was approved with conditions. As soon as those conditions are met, an application for a building permit will be filed and the Foundation hopes begin construction in spring, 2012.
- **School Bus Scholarships:** During 2011, the Foundation funded for the first time 7 bus scholarships that brought 18 classes to HNC. With increased publicity, the Foundation hopes to enable more teachers to bring their classes to the nature center.
- **Individual Program Scholarships:** In the fall of 2011 the Foundation voted to help with funding young people who need financial help to attend classes at HNC. Funding will occur after a scholarship policy is developed.

## Fundraising Activity

- **Silent Auction:** In January, 2011 the HNCF held its third annual silent auction in conjunction with the Center's annual Winter Wonderland festivities. Over 600 people attended Winter Wonderland and many of them came inside the Center building to check out the silent auction. The auction, which featured nature-related items and merchant gift certificates/donations, raised more than \$1500 minus sales tax.
- **Noodles Fundraiser:** During the silent auction, Foundation directors and volunteers handed out fliers for a Noodles Fundraiser scheduled for the next Thursday, February 3, from 4 to 9. If a Noodles customer had a flier or said "HNC," the Foundation would receive 25% of the customers' bill. With additional publicity, we had a terrific turnout and earned \$262.
- **Garden Art Plaques:** The Second Monday Artists partnered with HNCF for this fundraiser. With donated materials and paints, almost 50 plaques were painted and sold at a Coffee & Friends Café exhibit during April and at the Wildflower Festival in May. Over 30 plaques remain with some already painted and others needing to be finished. The Foundation received almost \$1000 minus sales tax.
- **Lake Trust Proposal:** HNCF applied for a \$10,000 grant from Lake Trust Credit Union to help construct the river overlook. The Foundation did not receive the grant.
- **Kevin Palmiter, Contractor:** HNCF contacted Kevin Palmiter for an estimate in building the river overlook. Mr. Palmiter submitted an estimate of \$6000 with \$1000 subtracted from that amount as a donation.
- **Home Depot:** HNCF applied for a discount on building materials for the river overlook and Home Depot indicated they would give a discount of almost \$900 on the materials.
- **Annual Fund Drive:** A letter describing our projects with a donation card was sent to individuals on HNCF's mailing list. The letter resulted in donations ranging from \$20 to \$500.

## **Organization Development and Administration.**

- In 2011, the HNCF met on the second Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m., at the nature center except during July and August.
- The Foundation produced a 2010 Annual Report with information on HNCF projects, activities, financial statements, budget, Board bios, and a list of donors.
- A mailing list of about 220 names was used for event publicity and fundraising. Efforts were made to collect e-mail addresses to avoid mailing costs.
- Treasurer, Mike Lenkowski, purchased and installed Intuit Quick Books for the Foundation's financial data and reports.
- HNCF joined the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) and Mike Lenkowski was the Foundation representative at meetings.
- Various people volunteered to update the HNCF website, but that did not occur. Since our site with GoDaddy.com expires in February, 2012, we plan to create a new website on weebly.com.
- Providing monthly tours of HNC was proposed for future development to help publicize HNC and aid in fundraising.
- A publicity brochure about HNC was drafted and will be ready soon for copying.
- The HNCF Director's and Officer's Insurance has changed to Great American Insurance Company.
- As a part of the Foundation's efforts to develop a strategic plan, work has been done on revising the HNCF mission statement.
- During 2011, changes in membership on the Foundation board involved Jim Wood and Andy Such leaving the board, Bob Rusch and Mike Lenkowski joining the board, and Mike Eberlein and Norm Grannemann staying on the board for another three year term.

**HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION**  
**Balance Sheets**

December 31, 2011 and 2010

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 17,519	\$ 11,618
	_____	_____
Total Assets	<u>\$ 17,519</u>	<u>\$ 11,618</u>
 <b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>		
Net Assets:		
Restricted – Endowment Fund	\$ 100	\$ 100
Restricted – School Bus Scholarships	32	550
Restricted – River Overlook Project	3,335	1,610
Restricted – Interpretive Signs	-	200
Unrestricted	14,052	9,158
	_____	_____
Total Net Assets	<u>17,519</u>	<u>11,618</u>
Total Net Assets & Liabilities	<u>\$ 17,519</u>	<u>\$ 11,618</u>

**HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION**  
**Statements of Revenue & Expenses**  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	\$ 4,748	\$ 2,614
Fundraising Events	2,744	5,065
Miscellaneous	-	389
Transfers from restricted funds	<u>700</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Revenue	<u>8,192</u>	<u>8,068</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programs	700	700
General Administration	1,225	1,116
Fundraising	366	
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,291</u>	<u>1,816</u>
Increase in Net Assets	5,901	6,252
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>11,618</u>	<u>5,366</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	<u>\$ 17,519</u>	<u>\$ 11,618</u>

**HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION**  
2012 Budget

**Revenue**

Donations	\$ 6,000
Fundraising Events	4,000
Grants	<u>1,500</u>
Total Revenue	<u>11,500</u>

**Expenses**

Programs:	
River Overlook	15,000
Bus Scholarships	1,000
Individual Program Scholarships	<u>500</u>
Total Programs	<u>16,500</u>
General Administration:	
Insurance- D & O	700
Office Supplies	200
Postage	250
Memberships	125
Printing	300
Newsletter	200
Fees	<u>25</u>
Total General Administration	<u>1,800</u>
Fundraising Expenses	<u>300</u>
Total Expenses	<u>18,600</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	<u>(7,100)</u>
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>17,519</u>
Net Assets at End of Year (Projected)	<u>\$ 10,419</u>



# Donors

We thank the following friends of Harris Nature Center and Harris Nature Center Foundation for their support in 2011. 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 +

Home Depot - Okemos Store  
KP Construction - Kevin Palmiter

### \$500 - \$999

2nd Monday Artists

### \$100 - \$499

Amon Massage  
Bodies in Motion  
Granger Waste Management Co.  
Linda Moore, Bird Photography  
Marvel Lanes  
Meridian Screen Printing & Embroidery  
Noodles & Co.  
Preuss Pets  
Star Polarity Therapy Massage  
Zap Zone

### \$1 - \$99

Akagi Restaurant  
Bargain Books  
Coffee & Friends  
Cottage Inn Pizza  
Curves  
Denny's Central Park Bicycles  
Down to Earth Flowers  
Dusty's Cellar  
Funtime Amusement Park  
GFS Foods  
Great Harvest  
Ingham County Parks  
Independent Bank  
Jonathon's Barbershop  
Lansing Lugnuts  
Meridian Township  
Panera Bread  
Schuler Books  
Soldan's  
Tina Kahn Massage  
Tuesday Books  
Van Atta's Greenhouse  
Vision Tire & Auto  
Woodcraft Kits

## **Individuals & Clubs**

### **\$1000 +**

Helen K. & Howard Tanner

### **\$500 - \$999**

Alan & Cara E. Jones

Barbara & Tom Kissling

### **\$100 - \$499**

Martin Amon

Arnold Johnson

Deborah Brown

Frances Dittrich

Rodger T. & Virginia L. Ederer

Norman G. Granneman

Ken Larvick

Michael & Connie Lenkowski

Gerry McNamara

Julie & Nathan Moore

Michael & Betty Moore

Meridian Garden Club

Katherine Rich

Patty and Larry Robbins

Matt Segerlind

### **\$1 - \$99**

Anonymous

Ronald Bacon

Joyce Bartels

Joyce Benvenuto

Jim & Rosemary Buscetta

Tracy & David Clark

Dr. Susan Stein Cook

Mike Eberlein

Eric Ederer

Grand River Boys

Clara Green

Ronald Hagaman

Haslett Women's Club

Dianne Holman

Judy Kindel

Erica & Mark Kissling

Thomas Lack

Stuart & Diane Leslie

Branden & Heidi Lyon

LuAnn Maisner

Meridian Garden Club

Winifred & J. Wesley Olds

Angela Miller-Porter

Suzanne K. Rock

Pam Smith

Debra Spillane

Bruce & Marcia Tanner

Kay Trosko

Charlene Vogan

Phyllis White

Carroll Whitehead

John Wuycheck