



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Nature Center Friends,

2009 was truly a remarkable year for the Nature Center. When I accepted the challenge to be board president I never imagined the issues we would be facing this past year. Thanks to the help of many volunteers and staff and funded by a variety of grants, the Nature Center continued—and has now nearly completed—flood recovery. That, in itself, is a major accomplishment. Staff and volunteers, however, did not stop there. The nature center has continued to serve children and adults through the difficult times of the past two years.

Hallmarks of 2009 include a complete rebound in attendance to pre-flood levels; construction and dedication of the Sense of Wonder Trail/Outdoor Classroom; the completion of Wood Duck Way, a new trail that includes a long boardwalk in the wetland; and, completion of the Founders' Trail. Walkers and children have new opportunities to enjoy the peace and wonder of our natural world. Finally, planning began for an exciting Earth Day 2010 rain barrel project.

Thanks to generous business and individual contributions, sales, memberships, endowment earnings and grants, the Nature Center completed the year with a slight cash surplus!

The board is skilled, dedicated, and committed to making the Nature Center an ever more interesting place for people to enjoy. It was truly a privilege to serve as president of an organization with so many dedicated supporters. Thank you for making "my" year so productive.

Sincerely,

Lisa Henderson

Lisa Henderson, President
2009 Board of Directors



Lisa Henderson

FINANCIAL POSITION, ENDOWMENTS

2009 OPERATING FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| INCOME | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Programs | \$61,382 |
| Guild | 37,895 |
| Sales | 14,311 |
| Contributions | 109,505 |
| Grants | 104,000 |
| Endowment Distributions | 30,730 |
| Memberships | 31,960 |
| Memorial gifts | 3,393 |
| Miscellaneous | 17,087 |
| TOTAL | \$410,263 |

| EXPENSES | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Programs | \$5,669 |
| Guild | 15,501 |
| Sales | 7,139 |
| Personnel | 283,140 |
| Facilities | 15,334 |
| Administrative | 18,478 |
| Fundraising | 1,861 |
| Miscellaneous | 10,628 |
| TOTAL | \$357,750 |

NOTES: (1) The figures above exclude restricted income and expenses.

(2) Nature Center finances are audited annually by Koppenhaver & Associates, PC.

(3) Because the Nature Center has spent years building its endowment and is vigilant at keeping expenses low, the financial health of the organization in this challenging time is solid, if not robust.

Thank you to those donors who gave to the Indian Creek Nature Center via a Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (GCRCF) fund. Those who contributed to these endowed funds include:

Bena Homestead Endowment Fund

Bill & Lorrie Copper

Gladys Bock Children's Fund: *See Memorial Gifts, pages 5-8.*

ICNC Charitable Trust Endowment Fund

Neil & Renate Bernstein · Roger Heidt · Dave Kubicek · Sue & Ron Neil · Fred & Janet Pilcher · Rockwell Collins · Rohde Family Charitable Foundation · Bob Rush & Judith Whetstone

Founders' Fund *See Memorial Gifts, pages 5-8.*

Dorothea Garberson Wildflower Project Fund

Emily Garberson

Land Perpetual Care Endowment Fund

Lynne Carlson & Doug Beach · General Mills Foundation · Lisa Nagle · David & Anne Nordstrom · Dave & Ann Parmley

The **Indian Creek Nature Center Charitable Trust** is an endowed fund managed by The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, with oversight by the ICNC Board of Trustees. As of Dec. 31, 2009 Charitable Trust assets totaled approximately \$1.15 million. Annual disbursements support Nature Center operations. ICNC friends have established numerous other funds at the GCRCF to benefit the Center. *See list below.*

In 2009 the Nature Center gratefully accepted support from the following funds of The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Robert W. & Elizabeth M. Allsop Fund · Bena Homestead Endowment Fund* · Blahnik/Garden Club Speakership Fund · Bloomhall Family Donor Advised Fund · Gladys Bock Children's Fund · Steven & Joanne Carfrae Fund · Paul Christiansen Memorial Fund · Clancey Family Fund · The Community Fund · Norm & Floy Erickson Endowed Fund · Dorothea Garberson Wildflower Project Fund · Dean & Laura Gesme Family Fund · GP Fund for the Environment Fund · Robert A. Handler MD Ecology Education Fund · ICNC Charitable Trust Endowment Fund · ICNC Founders' Fund · ICNC Land Perpetual Care Endowment Fund* · Kolln Family Endowed Fund · David & Chris Kubicek Endowed Fund · Lynch/Schulz Environmental Fund · Carl & Doris McClain Fund for Ecological Restoration · Jo & Larry McGrath Endowed Fund · Nancy McHugh Fund · The Momentum Fund · William B. Quarton Fund · Doug & Pat Sedlacek Donor Advised Fund · Jay G. Sigmund Fund · Lynne Stimple Memorial Trail Fund · Alex Strait Memorial Fund · Helen Troxel/Ella Johnson Miller Fund · Youth POWER Fund

* also received a distribution from the equivalent Friends Fund

SENSE OF WONDER OUTDOOR CLASSROOM/TRAIL

Indian Creek Nature Center staff and volunteers worked with Metro High School students and faculty over a multi-month period to convert an area behind the Center's headquarters into a wondrous children's trail, the Sense of Wonder Outdoor Classroom. The classroom, which encourages interactions between children and accompanying adults, includes willow tunnels to crawl through, logs and rocks to climb on, a swinging bridge to



Natalie Stewart smiles at her mother, Tina (unseen) while playing a drum on the Sense of Wonder Trail stage

cross, a natural game area, a music station, and more. During favorable weather the trail receives intensive use as parents and grandparents bring little children for a fascinating, fun experience.

For nearly a year, Metro students and faculty came to ICNC almost weekly. Constructing the trail allowed students to discover how to craft wooden structures, cut and place stone, apply permeable paving and

much more. Funders include the State Farm Insurance Foundation, Cedar Rapids Garden Club, The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, Alliant Energy Foundation and Rockwell Collins. Several suppliers also discounted or donated items.

In December 2009, the Sense of Wonder Outdoor Classroom was certified as a Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom by the National Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. ICNC now helps other groups as they consider establishing their own classrooms.



HIGHLIGHTS, NATURE CENTER GUILD

The ICNC staff is proud to work side-by-side with the **Indian Creek Nature Center Guild**, a

volunteer group that hosts two major fundraising events annually. This spirited, dedicated crew provides critical financial assistance to the Nature



Volunteers Donna & Doug Burkle at the Guild's 2009 Spring Plant Sale

Center. **THANK YOU** to our many inspiring Guild members! We appreciate you in so many ways.



In May 2009 beautiful Věčný Woods was dedicated and formally opened to the public. ICNC now manages the land.

MORE WAYS TO EXPLORE THE NATURE CENTER: THE FOUNDERS' TRAIL & WOOD DUCK WAY

In 2009 the Nature Center dedicated and opened to the public the Founders' Trail (photo, left), sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Garden Club, and Wood Duck Way. Brochures are available at the Center to guide you along the Founders' Trail, named to honor the memory of founders Jean O'Donnell and BB Stamats. Wood Duck Way is primarily a boardwalk trail that winds past ephemeral ponds between Indian Creek and the Paul & Sigrund Lynch Wetland.

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Indian Creek Nature Center operations are partially supported by a **Hotel-Motel Tax Fund** grant from the **City of Cedar Rapids**.

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*To our many members: **thank you**
for believing in what ICNC does!*

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In 2001 Art Swarzenruber (left) donated this Oliver tractor to ICNC. Thanking him for his contribution is ICNC Director Rich Patterson. The Center continues to use and appreciate the tractor for land projects.

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D. L. & D. A. Hansen
Ivy & William Hurtz
Roy Karon & Phyllis Simon
David & Patricia LaRonde
Charles & Kathryn Litow
Deanna Mallow
Eileen Newman
Jim & Beth Payne
Bradley & Linda Peyton
Daniel Sarasin & Amanda Colehour
Marcy & Terrence Shie
Aaron & Jill Underwood
Kelli Venjohn
Vernon & Marsha Wakeman
Jean & Gary Wenisch

Bev Grindeman-Adams
Dann Grindeman

Sheila Hahn
Stephen Streff

Jeanne Hepker
Bob & Beth Allsop

Rick & Pam Low (Belton, TX)
Jim & Diane Low

George & Janelle McClain
Logan, Quin & Yara McClain

Rich Patterson
Peggy Whitworth

Curt & Sigrid Reynolds
Harlo & Joy Hadow
Stephen & Kay Jackson

RESTRICTED GIFTS & GRANTS

Alliant Energy
Alliant Energy Foundation
Tom & Sarah Anderson
Andreas Foundation
Anonymous
Cedar Rapids Garden Club
Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid
Waste Agency
Crescent-Janko Masonic Foundation
Norman Erickson
Jeanne Hepker
International Paper - Cedar River
Mill
Jump Start
Linn County Trails Association
Jim & Diane Low
Rockwell Collins
Seatasea LLC
Spiniello Companies
William & Julianne Thomas
TrueNorth Companies

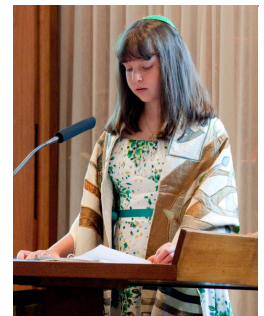
GIFTS IN-KIND FROM INDIVIDUALS

Candy Altorfer
Marty Andreas
Fred Balster
Colin Carney
Richard & Nancy Greer
Kenneth Johnson
Jim & Sylvia Malake
George McClain
Ron & Margaret Nelson
Diana Rae Patten
Marion Patterson
Christine Powers
Steve Schmidt
Marilyn Sippy

*Giving donations to worthwhile
causes in a special someone's
name brightens the day
for the honored person and
the recipient organization alike.*

TESSA COHEN'S BAT MITZVAH PROJECT

For her bat mitzvah project Tessa Cohen decided to ask friends and family to consider donating to the Nature Center in her name. Tessa knew that her mother, Terri, had taken her preschool classes to the Center on field trips for some years. And Tessa likes most everything that creeps or crawls, so asking people to support the Center and its activities was a natural fit. Tessa's family and friends responded by donating more than \$2,500 to the Nature Center. While honoring Tessa at a special time in her life, this group of people also helped the Nature Center host thousands of visitors for environmental education programs and recreational activities on beautiful parcels of land. Congratulations, Tessa! And **thank you** for rallying support for this special place for wildlife, plants and people.






*Tessa Cohen speaks
at her bat mitzvah*

Steve Eckert, Spotlight Images

Restricted gifts and grants allow ICNC to complete projects that it couldn't otherwise fund. In 2009 a restricted \$20,000 gift enabled the Center to enhance educational programming. Thanks to an anonymous donor the Center's visitors now benefit from a new sound system, new and improved exhibits, and more functional program spaces.

MISSION STATEMENT, VOLUNTEERS, RECOGNITION

Indian Creek Nature Center's purpose is to promote a sustainable future by:

-  nurturing individuals through environmental education;
-  providing leadership in land protection and restoration; and,
-  encouraging responsible interaction with nature.

VOLUNTEER TRIBUTE

Hundreds of volunteers donate thousands of hours each year at the Indian Creek Nature Center. The Nature Center staff is most thankful for the support, enthusiasm, dedication and hard work of this wonderful group of ICNC friends. In fact, volunteers are the key ingredient of the Nature Center's success. They build trails, assist with events, lead school programs, build cabinets, restore land, remove non-native plant species, provide clerical support and serve on the Board of Directors, Board of Trustees and organizational committees. Without volunteers the Nature Center would not be the special place for wildlife, plants and people that it is today.



Longtime Nature Center cheerleader, recruiter and supporter **Gladys Bock** received the 2009 Founders' Award. (Pictured above, l-r: Gladys Bock, Mickey Drown, Charlesy Bennett, Izzy Steele. Circa 1980.)



ICNC Director Rich Patterson was nominated by the Cedar Rapids Garden Club and honored by the Garden Club of America with an Aldo Leopold Award in May 2009 in St. Louis. Rich attended the event with his wife, Marion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2009 JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

BETH DIETZ

The Nature Center recognized Beth for her work as a teacher-naturalist and as an Education Committee member. She has contributed her talents to special exhibit projects and the Sense of Wonder Trail. Whenever the Center needs assistance with art projects, Beth provides the necessary expertise.

KRISTA KAMINSKI

A versatile teacher-naturalist, Krista helps with weekend Scout programs, public programs, maple syruping and nature camps. Krista contributes her significant skills as a professional naturalist and shares great ideas and "tricks of the trade" with us.

JENNI SEMELROTH

Another talented teacher-naturalist, Jenni volunteers not only in spring and fall with school groups, but also in summer with the many daycare groups who visit ICNC. Jenni ably presents a wide variety of program topics to a broad range of ages.
