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NATHAN
SMALLWOOD
PRESIDENT & CEO

It's time to look back and celebrate another successful year at KNC, including record attendance and participation, increased program quality, and increasingly valuable experiences for our greater Kalamazoo and southwest Michigan communities.

This year, we celebrated a special milestone with the retirement of Bill Rose, KNC's President & CEO for most of the last three decades. Under Bill's stewardship, KNC thrived and grew by many measures: number and size of programs, acreage acquired for preservation, endowed funds, and more.

As just the third President & CEO in our 58 years, I have the honor of following in the footsteps of Bill Rose and Dr. H. Lewis Batts, Jr., KNC's founder and first president. Theirs are big shoes to fill for sure, as they built an organization that stands as a national model in nature-based education and conservation.

But they didn't do it alone. A key to their success was the committed support of the community we serve. Accomplished institutions always reflect the values of their community. In greater Kalamazoo, this includes recognizing the importance of vital cultural and environmental assets like those stewarded at KNC.

In the pages that follow, please reflect with us on our - and your - accomplishments at KNC. We have a very bright future, and I am eager to build upon the legacy of Bill, Lew, the countless staff, board, volunteers, members, and donors who continue to make KNC a community treasure and national leader.

On the Cover: Checking Catch by Matthew Garten - photo taken at KNC's River Deck.

FOR NEARLY 60 YEARS, KNC has impacted peoples lives. Whether through a school field trip, successive years at summer camp, or a moment's realization leading to a career path, the stories we hear inspire us.



Jacob Potts graduated from high school in 2018. Having grown up in the Kalamazoo area, he was a regular at KNC camps for many years. During a recent visit to KNC, Jacob's parents came across a banner featuring their son at KNC Camp. They asked to borrow the banner and surprised Jacob with it at his high school graduation party.

66

I want to thank you for the banner of my son. This is a picture of him, now 18, with the poster from 12 years ago at age 6. Thank you for the many years of learning and appreciation of nature.

- Kristi Potts, Ph.D., W.E. Upjohn Institute/Michigan Works Southwest

"

Over 25 years ago, Dave Smith attended a college field trip to KNC. He was reminded of how much he enjoyed the outdoors. This piqued an interest in preserving our natural environments. He credits KNC with helping him rediscover his connection to the natural world, which led him into the environmental field. Today, he works on waste management issues as the Recycling Coordinator at Michigan State University.





Teachers continue to stress the benefits of getting their students outside during the school day.



Once we come out to the Nature Center, they (my students) really open up and have more to share. They feel more comfortable and confident.

- Elliot Gonzales, El Sol Elementary School 2nd grade teacher



This year at DeLano Farms, the historic Homestead received exterior repairs and a fresh coat of paint - just in time for the beautiful fall color! More than 500 visitors enjoyed



programs like Farmyard Wednesdays. The popular KNC Farm Camp sessions filled up fast. Campers and school groups alike were thoroughly engaged with farm animal friends and tasting produce straight from the Learning Garden.

KNC's new Flower & Herb U-pick shares were a big hit in this program's inaugural year. Families came to the farm once a week to spend time outside while making selections from the bountiful U-pick Garden.

Visiting Chef Demonstrations developed a large core following of fresh food enthusiasts. Together, we enjoyed cooking tips using DeLano Farms ingredients, including tasty samples from our talented local chefs.

Above: Shawn Hagen, chef/owner at BRAVO!, prepares a dish at a DeLano Farms Cooking Demo.

Below: KNC Campers stop for an afternoon snack in the Learning Garden.



TOTAL PUBLIC
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

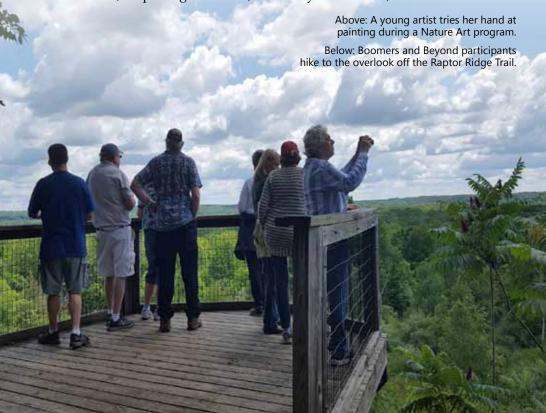
10,203
TOTAL PROGRAMS
PRESENTED

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Every year KNC offers hundreds of programs for visitors of all ages. This year



we had record-breaking attendance with over 10,000 visitors enjoying our diverse, year-round programs! We launched a brand new, early-childhood program, took a "Raptor Road Trip" to Lake Erie Metropark for some of the state's hottest hawk-viewing, and started a new series of Adventure Programs. Our annual festivals included Fall Fest, Creatures of the Night, Holidays at the Homestead, Buy Local Art & Gift Fair, Maple Sugar Festival, Earth Day Celebration, and Mudfest.







For 57 years, our camp program has fostered relationships between children and nature through play and exploration. Children ages 3-17 venture out onto our property and into our community, learning new things and gaining social-emotional skills.

Through the generosity of our donors, we raised over \$30,000 for KNC Camp scholarships. This enabled us to offer scholarship support to over 100 campers!



Heronwood Field Station's year-round Conservation Biology course is available to all Kalamazoo County high schools. The course prepares students for environmental studies at the college level. This Education for Employment-supported class allows students to find their own place in this work and carry

their interests to the next level. This year, 40 students had space to explore and time to apply critical thought to our world's most pressing environmental questions. Our favorite feedback is the many students that return regularly after graduation because

they just don't want to be done with their explorations.

Heronwood also offers a capstone experience which expands local learning through international study. This year, we traveled to the Peruvian Amazon where 8 students lived on a river boat for 17 days. We studied the impacts of climate change on the diversity of the region's rainforest ecosystems.

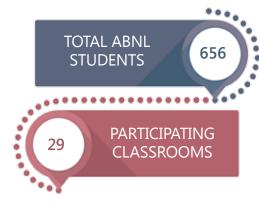


EDUCATION PROGRAMS

KNC's Group Programs provide a wide variety of activities for toddlers to adults. Our educators bring nature into local schools and help instill lifelong memories for students who visit KNC during school field trips. KNC's school programs compliment multiple education curricula, and help inspire children to explore, investigate, understand, and care for the natural world. In addition to these traditional group experiences, KNC also offers nature-based



home school programs and provides nature-themed library programs to Southwest Michigan. Each program utilizes hands-on activities and animal ambassadors to help participants connect with nature.





Through Annie's BIG Nature Lesson, local teachers and students use KNC as their classroom for a week. This all-day, all-week interdisciplinary study trip encourages investigations, provides behind-the-scenes tours, and offers

presentations by community experts. Each class works cooperatively on research, service learning projects, and community action plans.





Nature's Way Preschool fosters a caring and positive learning atmosphere. Over 30 acres serve as our extended classroom. We guide children in their connection with nature while preparing them for kindergarten and beyond.





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Our child loved attending Nature's Way Preschool and looked forward to going every day, rain or shine.

- Nature's Way Preschool Parent



VOLUNTEER

around the DeLano U-pick Garden.

2018 was a year of great transition for KNC, and our volunteers supported us every step of the way. Our citizen science program grew, along with our land management efforts. Animal care, education programs and special events engaged volunteers all year long. In addition, we enjoyed working with several volunteers who come back week after week to help us behind the scenes: recording research data, tracking volunteer information, assisting with employee performance evaluations, and much more. At right: Pfizer volunteers built a perimeter fence



GREEN TEAM INITIATIVES

Here at KNC, we strive to lead in everything we do, and our facilities are no exception. This passion drove us, in 1995, to have the first commercial geothermal, climate-controlled system in a northern climate. At that time, KNC's 33,000 square foot Visitor Center was a one-of-a-kind model for energy-efficiency.



Today, the system's heat pumps and controls as being upgraded as part of Consumers Energy's Zero Net Energy (ZNE) program. This program helps commercial properties reduce or eliminate the need for off-site power generation. We currently have a 150 kilowatt solar array that generates around 33% of our power. This, when combined with our current geothermal system, makes the Visitor's Center energy use intensity (EUI) around 50. When compared to the current national average for a single-family home at 43.8, and a commercial building at 114.12, we are pleased with our progress toward zero EUI. But there is more work to do!

Through the ZNE Program we will increase our energy-efficiency by updating our HVAC system, replacing all lighting with LED retrofits, installing a computer-controlled building automation system, replacing inefficient windows and doors, and installing a more efficient roof system. Combined, these updates will yield a projected 25 EUI. The next step of expanding our solar array will bring us to zero EUI, or Net Zero Energy! By the end of 2018 we will have completed the planning and design phases of this project and in 2019 we'll begin moving into the construction and monitoring phases.



The Michigan Butterfly Network seeks to assess the changing population status of our state's butterfly species, evaluate

the quality of Michigan ecosystems, and engage the Michigan public in significant citizen science research.







The KVBO was pleased to host the fall 2017 Inland Bird Banding Association (IBBA) annual conference. Over 100 people from around the midwest attended. Organized in 1922 in Chicago, IL, the IBBA now to includes members in 34 states and 4 Canadian provinces. Amateur and professional banders and ornithologists meet to discuss current research and other topics

related to bird studies. This was the fourth time in the IBBA's 96-year history that the conference was held in Michigan.

During the spring of 2018, KVBO bird biologists installed three Motus Wildlife Tracking Towers. These towers are located at Fort Custer Training Center, Pitsfield bird



banding station, and at KNC. The towers enable researchers to study the movements of birds, bats, dragonflies, and butterflies, supplementing our bird banding research.

5,500



Kalamazoo River Guardian volunteers look through their samples during a monitoring event.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP

The Kalamazoo River Guardians (KRG) completed the 7th annual water sampling events with many new faces and returning volunteers. The KRG samples aquatic macroinvertebrates (water bugs) to monitor water quality within the Kalamazoo River Watershed; by counting the numbers and types of bugs that we collect, insects can be grouped by their

tolerance for pollution. Each water body is monitored in spring and fall to determine if insect populations - thus water quality - are changing over time. We enter our results into a database that is used by the Department of Environmental Quality to monitor streams and rivers that would normally only be sampled occasionally. Volunteers power this effort and we thank them for making this project possible.

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

KNC's Ecological Services Team seeded 15 acres of native plants on properties in Barry, Kalamazoo and Kent Counties. We source our seed from our local supplier and partner, Native Connections. We planted both short and tallgrass prairie species that will support pollinator insects and provide beauty and interest for land owners. Plants like butterfly milkweed, wild bergamot, little bluestem, and side-oats grama will require little maintenance once established and will thrive for many years into the future.



The Ecological Management Crew works on a number of projects, including prescribed burns (above) and invasive species management.

ACRES OF LAND TREATED FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

152

3,360

GLEM CREW HOURS



The mission of the SWMSBF is to promote business practices that demonstrate environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social responsibility.

This year,

SWMSBF launched a Net Zero Energy initiative focused on energy efficiency. This culminated in a day-long conference featuring a number of guest presenters, including keynote speaker



Matt Grocoff of THRIVE Collaborative. Together we learned that energy efficient buildings, homes, and communities are good for the planet and the bottom line.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CULTURAL MEMBERSHIP EXCHANGE

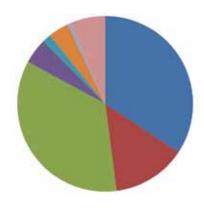




The Air Zoo, Binder Park Zoo, Gilmore Car Museum, Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts partnered for a fifth year for the Southwest Michigan Cultural Membership Exchange. New this year, the Kellogg Biological Station Bird Sanctuary and Manor House joined the Exchange. Through our partnership, each organization becomes more accessible to a broader segment of our community.

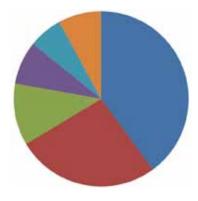
Visitors presenting a membership card from any partner organization enjoy free admission at all participating locations during the month of May. Participating families who visit all six attractions are entered to win a set of annual memberships all six organizations. Since the beginning of the Cultural Membership Exchange in 2014, there has been a 338% increase in overall visitor participation!

THE NUMBERS



REVENUES \$3,176,532

■ Endowment Income	34.3%
■ Contributions and Grants	13.6%
■ Tuition and Program Fees	35.0%
Memberships	4.7%
■ Rental Income	1.6%
Admissions and Special Events	3.8%
■ Retail Operations	0.6%
■ Miscellaneous	6.4%



Note: These charts represent unaudited financial information for fiscal year ended August 31, 2018

EXPENDITURES \$3,179,744

Education	39.9%
■ Research	26.4%
■ Stewardship	11.4%
■ Member/Guest Services	8.0%
Administration	6.3%
Development	8.0%



MANY THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The names listed below represent gifts of both general support and special areas of donor interest. All gifts are important, but space dictates we limit publication to contributions of \$100 or more. As always, we have made every attempt at accuracy. If you see an error or omission, please contact Rayline Manni, Vice President of Development, at (269) 381-1574 ext. 35.

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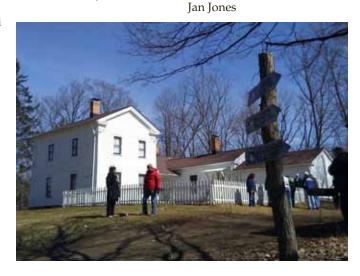
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WMU Office for Sustainability



Corporation



COOPER'S GLEN LEGACY

Cooper's Glen Legacy members support KNC's future through planned gifts that honor their connection to the natural world. Planned gifts to KNC ensure access to preserved lands and wonderful programs for generations to come.

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The fall Cooper's Glen Legacy event took place at the DeLano Homestead in October.



KNC STAFF

Nathan Smallwood, President & CEO
Tina Adams, Vice President Finance
Jenny Doezema, Vice President Learning & Engagement
James Hensley, Vice President Facilities & Project Management
Rayline Manni, Vice President Development
Jessica Simons, Vice President Conservation Stewardship

Executive Leadership Team as of November 8, 2018

Jennifer Barck Olivia Blanchard **John Brenneman** Ben Chee Kirsten Clemente Ashley Colewick **Jennifer Cox** Rebecca DeLong Karen Douglas Sara Ensing John Fulgoni (Past Vice President Finance) Heather Goetzinger Mirae Guenther Gregory Hale-Sandifer Tasia Heintzelman Zak Hemsteger Lindsey Homan Larry Jenkins Gary Jones Brenda Keith Rich Keith Britnee King Benjamin Koetje Rachel Koetje Anna Kornoelje Ryan Koziatek Angelia Lane Kim Lippke **Iennifer Loews** Lauren Lott

Heather Martin Kyle Martin Kai McDonald Shannon McLeese Brenda Mohill Holly Morris Meredith Morrow Rose Norwood Lisa Panich Betsy Paulson Sarah Reding (Past Vice President Conservation Stewardship) Dr. Willard M. Rose, Ph.D. (Past President & CEO) Sara Rutgers Courtney Schofield Sara Shlaffer Sabrina Stempek Amy Stockman Jennifer Tagett Jay Tatara Beth Turner Michele Van Allen Emma Vasicek Lorri Walch Coleman Wilson Kevin Wordelman Jenn Wright (Past Chief Operating Officer)

Lisa Zolen