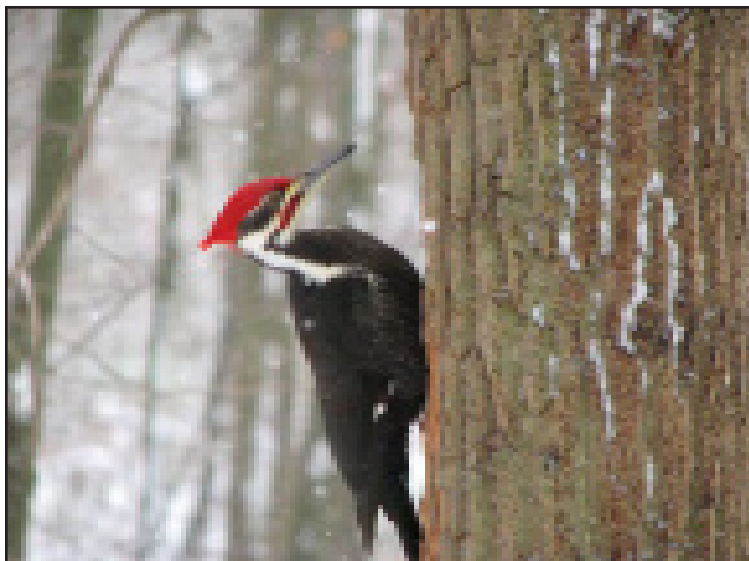




Branching Out

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes Annual Report 2006

To conserve paper, this annual report is being made available in electronic format at www.shakerlakes.org. Printed copies are available upon request.



by Lara Roketenetz

Letter from the Director

Dear Friend of the Nature Center,

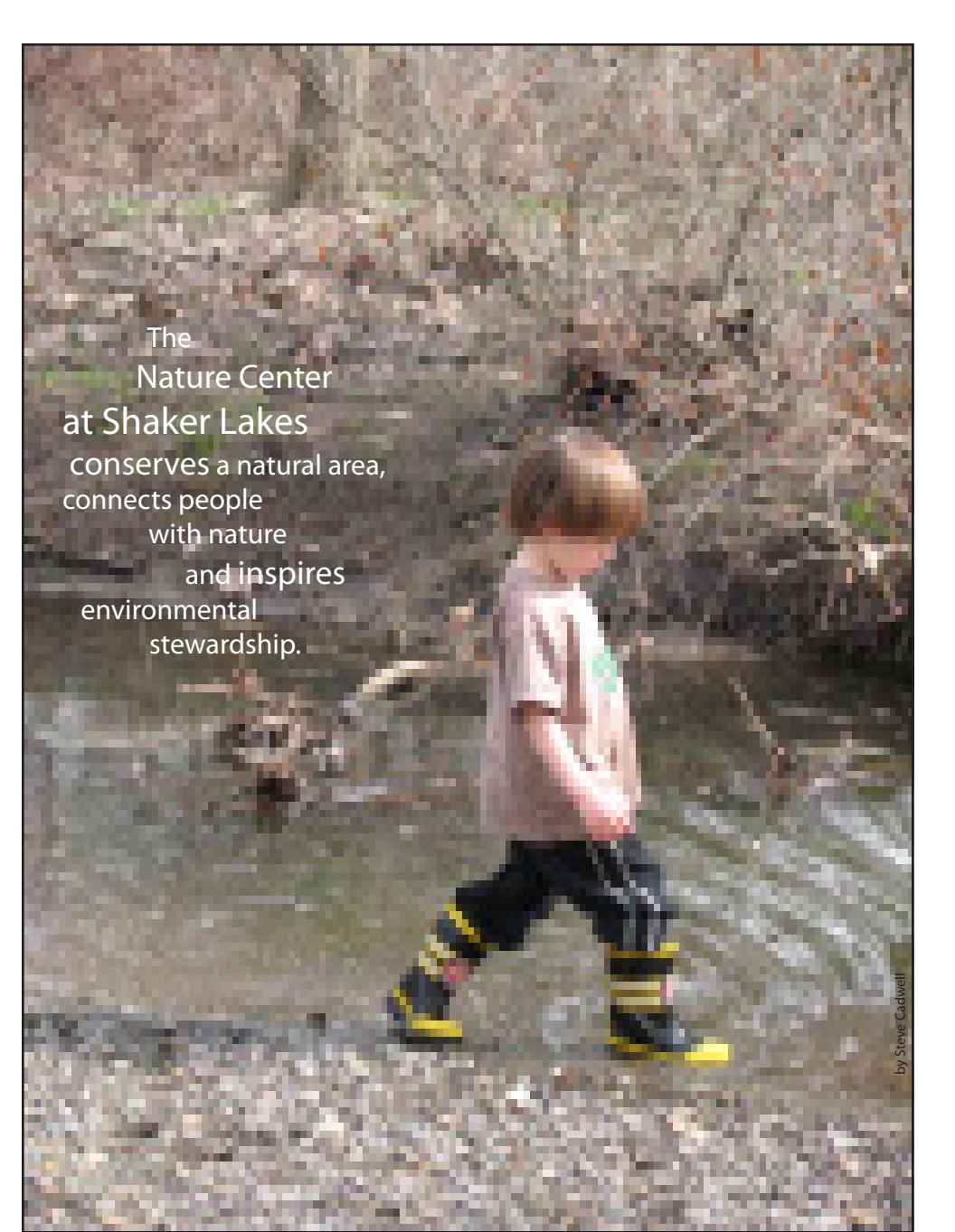
In fiscal year 2006, the Nature Center began its 40th year of providing adult and child education, environmental outreach, and stewardship over the Shaker parklands.

While we have much to celebrate about the past 40 years, we look forward to our next 40 with the knowledge that our work is more important than ever. Our staff and volunteers are charging forward, focused and more committed than ever to the Center's mission. We are determined to continue our vital efforts to foster stewards of the environment.

I encourage you to continue and expand your support if at all possible. Enjoy family events and adult programs throughout the year. Enroll your kids in seasonal classes and summer camp. Get down and dirty with hands-on conservation opportunities. Venture out on our accessible trails and connect with nature in every season.

See you on the trails!

Steve Cadwell
Executive Director

A young child with brown hair, wearing a light-colored t-shirt, dark pants, and yellow and black boots, is walking across a gravel path. The background is a blurred natural area with trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

The
Nature Center
at Shaker Lakes
conserves a natural area,
connects people
with nature
and inspires
environmental
stewardship.

by Steve Cadwell

Omissions and errors:

While every effort is made to include every donor who contributes to the Center's Nature Fund or to specific programs as listed, we apologize for any mistakes caused by omission or misspellings. Please notify the Nature Center's office of development with any mistakes so we may correct them in future publications.

Photo Credits:

All photographs are taken by Nature Center staff and friends, unless otherwise noted.

Conserve. Connect. Inspire.

Consistent with our mission, the Nature Center worked to conserve a natural area by implementing our land management plan to preserve and restore the diverse habitats within the Shaker Parklands. We continued to connect people with nature by offering outstanding environmental education classes for 15,000 children, both on-site and through urban outreach, as well as adult and family programming. And we inspired environmental stewardship by engaging volunteers of all ages to become guardians of the environment through hands-on stewardship programs. Some of the year's highlights:

Garlic Mustard Festival

The invasive garlic mustard plant may have met its match at the Center in the dedicated efforts of the Nature Center's volunteers and gourmet aficionados. Our land management team and volunteers continually battle this pest that competes with and chokes out the native plants on which animals and insects depend for food and reproduction.

This year, the Nature Center staff used the harvested

garlic mustard to create a delicious pesto and served it up with pasta at our first ever Garlic Mustard Festival. The benefit dinner provided a fun opportunity to educate our guests about the threat of invasive species. If you can't beat it, eat it!



garlic mustard to create a delicious pesto and served it up with pasta at our first ever Garlic Mustard Festival. The benefit dinner provided a fun opportunity to educate our guests about the threat of invasive species. If you can't beat it, eat it!

Bug Bash 2006

Bug Bash, our wildly popular biennial family benefit, was held in June. The event attracted 620 guests and raised \$28,000 for the

Center. To help celebrate the Nature Center's founding in 1966, the committee went retro on a few children's activities: tie-dyeing bandanas and painting pet rocks. Other activities included science shows, a "bug bouncer," face painting, a storyteller, a small animal exhibit from the zoo, a children's scavenger hunt, and a concert by national children's performer Justin Roberts.

Energy Star Award

The Nature Center was one of nine small businesses nationally to be given the Energy Star Award in October, 2005 for programs put into place the previous year. This award honors the Nature Center's effort to be a steward of



the environment by preventing pollution and using energy efficiently. Thanks to the energy-efficient features of the renovated building, the Center has drastically reduced the amount of natural gas it uses and the amount of carbon dioxide it releases into the atmosphere each year.

Outreach

With the support of the Jenny Goldman Memorial Nature Outreach Fund, we worked with Michael R. White and Caledonia Elementary Schools to provide nature experiences and education to under-served youth. The Jenny Goldman Fund is dedicated to introducing



application to the Nature Center mission and to our constituents.

'We LOVE Our Volunteers'

Volunteers devoted 10,460 hours of service to the Nature Center in fiscal year 2006. The first-ever 'We LOVE Our Volunteers' Pancake Breakfast in February allowed Nature Center staff members to recognize the hard work and dedication of volunteers who spend countless hours of service to help the Center live out its mission every day. Staff members served pancakes to volunteers, followed by the unveiling of the 2006 inductees to the Volunteer Hall of Fame who were honored for their commitment to the Nature Center.

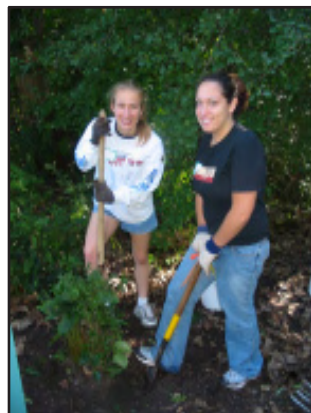
environmental sciences to urban youth ages 8-16 who do not have easy access to "open-air" experiences, reinforcing what is learned in the classroom while cultivating an appreciation for nature in those who otherwise have little opportunity to hike trails, hunt for salamanders or even watch common everyday birds. The Fund established in Jenny's memory will continue to benefit those children in perpetuity.

Circle of 10 Finalist

The Nature Center was also selected as one of the finalists for the BrownFlynn Circle of Ten, an initiative to honor organizations in Cleveland who believe in "doing good and doing well." With this initiative, the Center created several new programs and updated existing programs with the goal of engaging the next generation of supporters. From March through October of 2006, the Nature Center will compete for a \$10,000 cash prize and \$10,000 in pro bono services from BrownFlynn, a community relationship management firm in Cleveland.

Stewardship Center

The Nature Center has received funding to proceed with construction of a Stewardship Center using natural materials. In 2007, a call for volunteers will engage people in hands-on learning about sustainable building materials. Through the target build date of September '07, we will focus on educating the public on what natural construction is, its history, the options it offers, its use today and its



Stewardship

The Nature Center continued to engage families, adults and community groups in their local environments by inviting them to participate in hands-on stewardship projects. Our cadre of volunteers enjoyed the outdoors while pulling invasive plant species, preparing mailings, distributing flyers and stenciling storm drains, heightening awareness of the local environment and encouraging them to put their convictions to work. We employed a number of initiatives to further cultivate our volunteer base while fostering a sense of stewardship:

- Stewardship Saturdays - Volunteers invested in the earth by helping to dig out invasive plants and plant native species. Groups ranged from 2 to 30 people each Saturday, including Alpha Phi Omega, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Case Serves from Case Western Reserve University, the John Carroll Biology Club, the Rotary Club of Cleveland, and the Boy Scouts of America.
- Mother/Son and Dad/Daughter volunteer days - Coinciding with Mother's Day and Father's Day, respectively, these special Stewardship Saturdays provided an opportunity for parents to spend quality time with their children while inspiring environmental stewardship.
- Laudable Lawn & Home



Habitat handbook - We created a visually appealing new handbook to make "green" lawn care more accessible for homeowners.

- Workshops on rain barrel construction, stream monitoring, and backyard composting gave our supporters even more opportunities to practice hands-on stewardship. We also offered a class on "Principles of Land Stewardship for Beginners."
- Generous donations from Pheasants Forever and Ann Lawrence Herbruck funded the creation of a prairie habitat along West Park Boulevard.
- We developed a relationship with University School for assistance with floral and faunal database creation and a mapping project.

• To raise our profile, the

Nature Center had booths at the Burning River Fest, the Shaker Square Fall Fest, the "Global Warming: What's a Few Degrees?" program at Cuyahoga Community College, and we co-sponsored

the "Educating Ourselves about Global Climate Change" symposium at John Carroll University.

- Service-learning programs with Ruffing Montessori, Hathaway Brown, and Case Western Reserve University enabled us to foster a sense of stewardship in our younger constituents.



Contributions

From September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006

Foundation Support

The George W. Codrington
Charitable Foundation
Cohen Community
Foundation
Dominion Foundation
The George Gund
Foundation
Martha Holden Jennings
Foundation
The Murch Foundation
John P. Murphy
Foundation
David and Inez Myers
Foundation
The Wolpert Fund of
The Cleveland
Foundation

Benefit 2006

Sponsors

Baker & Hostetler
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan
& Aronoff
Capstone Realty Advisors,
Inc.
Children's Orchard
Edgepark Surgical
Forest City Enterprises
Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue
Key Foundation
Lamson & Sessions
Foundation
The Little Gym
Reminger & Reminger Co.,
L.P.A.
Studio J Academy of Dance
Todd Associates Inc.
Tucker, Ellis & West LLP
Zeisler Morgan

Corporate Support

Anonymous

Bedford Historical
Society
BP Matching Fund
Program
Cleveland Hiking Club
Earth Share of Ohio
Eaton Charitable Fund
Key Foundation
Lamson & Sessions
Foundation
Legacy Village - Change
for Charity
Lubrizol Foundation
Mellon
NACCO Industries, Inc
One Hour Moto Photo
Progressive Insurance
Foundation
Sherwin Williams
Foundation
Siemens
Solon Women's Club
UBS Foundation
Wild Birds Unlimited

In-Kind

Bruegger's Bagels
Heinen's Inc.

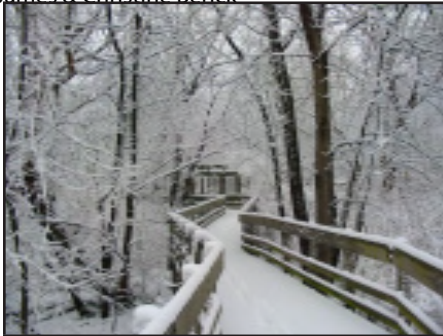
Garden Clubs

Fork & Hoe Garden Club
Garden Club of Cleveland
Shaker Lakes Garden Club
Sundial Garden Club

Nature Fund

Gifts to the annual Nature Fund help sustain programming for nature lovers of all ages and vital efforts to increase the biodiversity and environmental health of the Shaker Parklands.

Anonymous (7)
 Wallace & Deborah B. Adler
 Reuben Ahmed
 David S. Barnes MD & Elizabeth S. Babcox MD
 Geoffrey & Maryann Barnes
 Doug & Carolyn Barr
 Kim Barton & Doug Orr
 Eli & Barbara Becker
 Ms. Lois Becker
 Robert Beck
 Mrs. William H. Bemis
 Nadine & Richard Bendycki
 Dr. Janet J. Bennett
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bercu
 Nathan & Sosamma Berger
 James & Christine Berick



Rick Geye & Maura Berkelhamer
 James & McKey Berkman
 Mrs. Roger L. Black
 Suzanne & Jim Blaser
 Dana Blocker
 Elizabeth Boles
 Bette Bonder & Patrick Bray
 Paul & Marilyn Brentlinger
 The Brinkley Family
 Ellen Brown & Jeff Erdie

Dr. & Mrs. William E. Bruner, II
 Mary & Gerrit Buchheim
 Neil & Sandra Burditt
 Mrs. Robert S. Burton
 Jane Busch
 Becky Bynum & Phil Calabrese
 Steve Cadwell & Sophie Murad
 Tom & Annette Cadwell
 Beth & Steve Cagan
 Mary & Al Cahen
 Arnold & Bonnie Caplan
 Amy Hanauer & Mark Cassell
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee A. Chilcote, Jr.
 Pat & Jeff

Chokel Julie & Drew
 Clemens Elizabeth & John Click
 Gena & Ethan Cohen
 Kim Conklin & Damir Janigro

Jon Adams &

Pam Conover
 Andrea Corbett & David Smith
 Judy Cortese
 Susan & Richard Coyne
 The Crosby Family
 Rob & Robin Crowl
 Charles & Mary Ann Davis
 Leo A. Deininger & Ruth Skuly
 Peter & Clare Ditchman
 Ms. Diane DuFalla
 Ms. Carol Edwards
 Marian L. Eichar



Cindy & Ric Eickhoff
 Heather & Jeff Ettinger
 Mr. & Mrs. Yarden Faden
 John & Betsy Feighan
 Mrs. Robert Fort
 Dr. Mark Freeman
 David Fresco & Kate Offutt
 Shalmoli & Joe Frese
 Dr. & Mrs. Avrum Froimson
 Claudia & David Fulton
 Robert & Jean Gaede
 Mr. William Gaskill & Ms. Kathy Burke
 Anne Unverzagt & Richard Goddard
 Dr. & Mrs. Victor M. Goldberg
 Eileen & Ronald Gold
 George Goulder
 Mrs. John A. Greene
 Peter & Joanne Griesinger
 Burt W. Griffin
 Tom & Nancy Griffith
 Ms. Miriam Grossman
 Judith & Russell Hall
 Gary Hanson & Barbara Klante
 Scott & Mary Lynn Harper
 Robert & Suzanne Hartford
 Adelle & Philmore Hart
 John Hemann
 David & Dozie Herbruck
 Mr. & Mrs. John F. Herrick
 Mrs. Charles Hickox

Mrs. Roland S. Hill
Drs. Suber & Cynthia Huang
Tracey Lind & Emily Ingalls
Jim & Gale Jacobsohn



Keith Johnson
Geoff Wilson &
Carolyn
Kaczala
Sister Bernadette
Kamin
Bernie & Nancy
Karr
Joseph F. Kelley,
M.D.
Nancy & Dennis
Kelly
Mr. & Mrs.
Douglas Kerr
Michael J. King

Bob & Jean Kloos
Hersch & Maxine Koblenz
Mr. & Mrs. William Koehler
Jean Koznarek
Evelyn Krent
Mr. & Mrs. S. Ernest Kulp
Ms. Mindy Kuth
Carolyn C. Lampl
Marilyn & Chris Langmack
John & Janet Larson
Earl & Ellen Leiken
Ralph Levy
Mr. William S. Lipscomb
Isabelle Lobe
Carol & Gil Lowenthal
Bruce & Lia Lowrie
Saralee & Randall Luke
Mike & Barbara Luton
Ms. Aixin Ma
Linda Macklin
Leatrice & Robert Madison
Jeremie & Christina Maehr
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A.
Manuel
Shelley & Greg Marcus
Carol A. Marshall
Mrs. Janet H. Marshall
Ralph & Nancy Marti
Kay Martin & Dennis
Keating
Ms. Eleanor McCoy
Lucy Meacham
Patricia & Edward Mearns

Diana & Dan Medalie
Cecil & Gretchen Mellin
Guy & Katy Mercer
Nadine Meyer
Ms. Genevieve Miller
Edith D. Miller
Ms. Victoria Mills
Inta Mitterbach
Ms. Lori Molesky
Michael & Carol Montlack
Nancy R. Moore
Barb & Bill Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Milton J. Moss
Mrs. Max Muller
Katie Murphy
The Myers/Ortman Family
Mrs. Janet R. Nash
Francis W. Neville
Evelyn B. Newell
Joseph H. Newman
Sam & Sue Nigro
Iris & Mort November
Carlos & Carol Nunez
Bill & Barbara Oberdick
Carolyn Charles & Dick
Obermanns
Ray & Traci Onders
Kevin Ortner
Jane & Jon Outcalt
Mrs. Emily C. Parkman
Jane Peterson & Phil Star
Thomas Pienkowski
John & Jean Piety
William T. Plesec & Susan
M. Stechschulte



Dale & Kim Preston
Quentin & Gay Quereau
Gloria N. Reske
Sarah & Bill Robertson
Dr. & Mrs. David A. Rodgers
Dr. Robert & Lauryn Ronis
Marjorie Rott
Louise Acheson and Liz & Emily
Ruff
Gretchen S. Russell
Judith & James A. Saks
David & Mary Schatzman
Ms. Laurel Schauer
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Schaut
John & Barbara Schubert
Theresa Schwarz & Peter
Bohan
Ms. Miriam G. Smead
Barbara & Howard Smith
Becky & Jeff Smythe
Kevin Snape & Lauren
Bowen
Kimberly St. John-Stevenson
Carolyn Steiner
William & Jennifer Stilson
David & Karen Sunderhaft
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph H.
Thomas
George & Janice Thompson
Martha & Ed Towns
Mr. & Mrs. Lyman Treadway
Mr. Ken Vinciguerra
Kenneth C. Waldo, Jr.
Carole Walters
Chris & Jim Wamsley
Harriet Warm
William Watterson &
Melissa Richmond
Roberta Waxman-Lenz
Jeff & Sue Weiler
Margaret & Samuel Weingart
Dr. & Mrs. Israel Weisberg
Brad & Laura Wheeler
Mrs. Thomas R.
Wigglesworth
Mrs. Juanita N. Williams
Diana & Ted Woodbridge
Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Young
Mrs. Sally K. Young