

## ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER

### 2014 Annual Report

# ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER

Engage • Educate • Empower

Founded in 1994 by committed community leaders, the Aldo Leopold Nature Center (ALNC) seeks to provide **innovative, hands-on programs** and exhibits for children and their families to “teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees, and enjoy what he understands” in the spirit of **famed Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold**.

Today, ALNC has become a regional model of excellence for environmental education, serving **more than 50,000 visitors annually** at two campuses, in Monona and Black Earth, Wisconsin.



Dear Friends,

The Aldo Leopold Nature Center celebrated a major milestone in 2014: our 20th anniversary connecting the children in our community to nature. In 1994, a thoughtful, committed group of supporters helped foster a new environmental initiative that would come to impact tens of thousands of people each year: a mission to educate students through hands-on, interactive nature programs, based in Aldo Leopold’s philosophy to “... teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees, and enjoy what he understands.”



Twenty years later, the Aldo Leopold Nature Center continues to lead the way to engage, educate, and empower the next generation of environmental stewards. In 2014, our innovative environmental programming reached over 50,000 individuals – a success which is a powerful testament to our staff, friends, and supporters who made this year a milestone in so many ways.

We know that children are healthier and happier when they are given opportunities to explore and connect with the natural world. Our programs seek to make nature accessible to all, providing students and visitors with the formative nature experiences which can help spark a life-long sense of stewardship and appreciation of our natural world.

Our success is due to the incredible support from our community and its many individuals, corporations and foundations who make connecting children with nature a priority. As key supporters of our work, please share in our achievements with pride. With your help, we continue to honor the efforts and vision of those dedicated volunteers two decades ago by connecting our community to nature and promoting sustainable stewardship of our environment. For your enthusiastic support of our mission, I thank you.

Terry Kelly  
CEO and Chairman of the Board  
Aldo Leopold Nature Center

## 2014 Highlights

In addition to continuing our ongoing **restoration efforts in the oak savanna, woodland and wetland** environments, we broke ground on new **learning gardens** and developed curricula designed to teach children the joys and rewards of gardening and of being good stewards of the land.



We installed a paved **handicapped accessible trail** and constructed raised native plant and garden beds so that everyone could have the opportunity to experience nature first-hand. Now we can provide superior outdoor educational and recreational experiences for mobility-challenged visitors and improve the ecological balance of native flora and fauna.

While continuing to serve economically disadvantaged youth through our afterschool programs, **Nature Nuts** and **Academy A.L.D.O.** (Adventures in Learning & Discovery Outdoors), we were also able to provide nine homeless children with the opportunity to attend our summer camps at no cost. One mother wrote:

*“Thank you for the wonderful opportunity you have given my children. Without the generosity of the scholarships provided for my kids, they might never have had the chance to explore nature and meet so many wonderful people (staff and fellow campers).”*



Following on the success of our **Run Wild in the Woods** at the Black Earth campus and our wacky—and educational—**Brainiac Bowl** trivia contest, we collaborated with the cities of Monona and Madison to launch a new free family event, **Candlelight Snowshoe Hike**.

This event drew nearly 900 kids and adults to our snow covered trails and to the campfire for a cup of hot chocolate to warm up. By providing opportunities for visitors to enjoy nature while participating in active outdoor pursuits, we strive to encourage a sustainable and healthy lifestyle.

Our tried and true initiatives—**school field trips, summer camps, preschool, homeschool and scout programs, teacher training workshops, adult lectures, and Climate Change Science exhibits**—continued to successfully engage, educate and empower visitors.



From a Waunakee Prairie Elementary teacher:

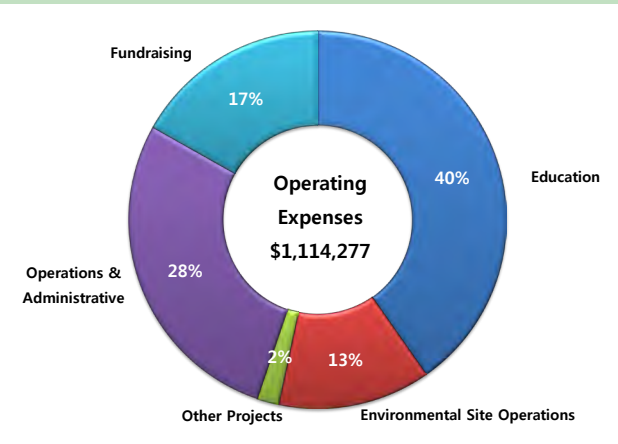
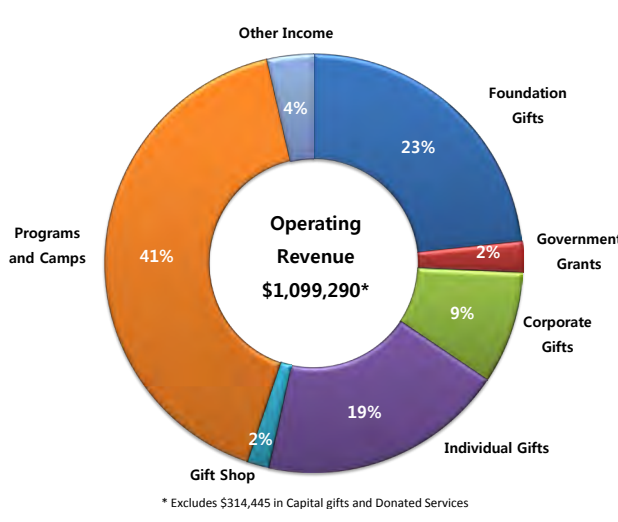
*“Thank you again for your help and for the wonderful naturalists. As always, the kids had a great time and learned a lot. It is always one of our favorite field trips!”*



In addition to thank-yous like these from students and teachers, our programs have received excellent press this year; most recently, we received **InBusiness magazine’s Sustainable Small Business of the Year award** for our energy conservation efforts and for using our green facility as a teaching tool—just a few of the ways we know we are making an impact and carrying on Leopold’s philosophy of living lightly on the land.

## Statement of Financial Position

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents:	\$344,695
Promises to give (short term)	\$72,484
Grants receivable	\$30,863
Prepaid expenses	\$5,282
Property & Equip, Net	\$4,403,931
Promises to give (long term)	\$62,400
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$4,919,655</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Line of credit	\$198,000
Accounts payable	\$31,897
Accrued payroll & related liabilities	\$28,603
Unearned rental revenue	\$13,920
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>\$272,420</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	\$1,461,911
Temporarily restricted	\$3,170,324
Permanently restricted	\$15,000
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$4,647,235</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS:</b>	
	\$4,919,655
<b>IN-KIND &amp; CONTRIBUTED SERVICES:</b>	
	\$109,546



## Board & Staff

### Board of Directors

- Terence Kelly, *Chairman of the Board*  
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- Bob Miller, *President & Executive Director*  
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## Our Donors

The Aldo Leopold Nature Center extends its most heart-felt gratitude to the many donors who made our work possible in 2014. If your name was inadvertently left off the list, we apologize! Please call us at 608-221-0404 to let us know. Thank you!

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