

A 🌰 Place 🌰 For 🌰 All 🌰 Seasons

FRED L WATERMAN CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



FRED L. WATERMAN CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

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AGENDA FOR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday January 21 2024

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Opening / Welcome	Board President Matthew Kisloski
Introduction of Full Board	Board President Matthew Kisloski
Center Finances	
1. 2023 Financial Summary followed by brief Q & A	Board Treasurer Rex Decker
2. Presentation of 2024 Budget followed by brief Q&A	& Executive Director Christopher Audette
Introduction of Ex Dir.	Board President Matthew Kisloski
Director's Statement on the Center	Executive Director Christopher Audette
Election Committee presents slate of directors	Nominating Committee Chair Steve Majka
Call for vote by members in good standing in attendance	Board President Matthew Kisloski
Introduction of guest speaker: Jeff Smith – Understanding and Impeding Hemlock Wooley Adelgid at Waterman Properties	Executive Director Christopher Audette
Closing remarks	Board President Matthew Kisloski

2024 SLATE OF DIRECTORS

* Voted on by members in good standing during the annual meeting.

Existing Directors Running to Renew Their Term

Dylan Horvath

Stephen A Majka

Jerry Michael

Jim Shuler

Jeff Smith

2024 SLATE OF BOARD OFFICERS

***For your information only. These officers are voted on by the board of directors after being approved by members in good standing.**

Matthew Kisloski – Board

President Rex Decker – Board

Treasurer Sally Guydosh – Board

Secretary

Vice President – Vacant

THE CENTER'S GOALS

- Make quality environmental education resources and services readily available to all
- Collaborate with and support other environmental education providers throughout New York
- Enhance, promote, and complement the effectiveness of existing environmental education programs
- Identify needs and trends to help inform environmental policy and educational program development

OUR MISSION

Waterman Conservation Education Center's Mission is to promote conservation education, outdoor recreation activities, and environmental literacy.

OUR VISION

Our vision and our members are united in the belief that we need to prepare the next generation with the knowledge and skills to seek sound, balanced decisions that maintain public health and the environmental quality of our community and the world.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Executive Board*

Matthew Kisloski	President
Rex Decker	Treasurer
Sally Guydosh	Secretary

*Vice President position vacant

Board Members at Large

Dylan Horvath	Emily Lovelass Lantrip
Stephen Majka	Jerry Michael
Robert Rodgers	Jim Shuler
Jeff Smith	Diane Wiener

Staff

Christopher Audette	Executive Director
Cheryl Utter	Director of Administration
Michelle Knuepfer	Programs Specialist
Karen Ritter	Receptionist

Camp Administration

Courtney Fitzgerald	Camp Director
Maria Gorman	Medical Director (volunteer)

Camp Counselors

Meaghan Hebdon	Michelle Knuepfer	Bethany Miller
Debbie Miller	Emily Musselwhite	Nora Penhollow

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Picture this:

Exquisitely delicate and minuscule, a solitary, downy, and gravity-defying cattail seed drifts along the crisp autumn breeze. Swirling on invisible air currents, it scampers across hillsides, soars over dwellings, and, for a moment, is hung-up precariously in a sycamore branch. Our two-for-one embryonic cattail plus conveyance system finally comes to rest in a deer hoof-plowed furrow for its winter slumber.

Fast forward two years, and our now-mature cattail plant—having painstakingly fruited and dutifully created seed—is savagely thrashed in the hand of a delighted child, their eyes animated with an impish gleam! Floofy masses of seeds spew from the cattail and are instantly airborne. And so, the cycle repeats anew. Beautiful design from chaos.

Students of science learn early in their schooling that our universe is propelled ever-forward by the frenetic energy of disorder.

Entropy happens.

It's a lesson that reminds us of the importance of fundamentals. Atoms and molecules vibrating and crashing into one another led gradually to the world as we know it, so why not get back to basics every once in a while? Thermodynamics also teaches us how in this chaotic system we call life, energy must be spent to maintain order and organization.

The past few years have been all about innovation and survival during uncertain times, and we've accomplished remarkable things! We've reimagined our youth day camp program, adding quality and increasing marketability. Efforts such as the WISE Project have made great strides in making our center and other properties more accessible, attractive, and engaging. Progress continued in 2023 as we obtained grants and other funding to renovate our bathrooms, expand parking at the Pettus Hill Preserve, and nearly double our parking capacity at the IBM Glen by adding pervious parking. We very recently completed a long-desired interpretive center improvement by replacing the exterior doors and all of the windows. We look forward to reaping savings both in terms of fuel cost and CO₂ emissions! One glorious day, hopefully in the relatively-near future, the center will enjoy sustainable climate control via an air-to-air or geothermal heat exchange system.

Some of these activities will continue into 2024 with planned improvements at Brick Pond and Hoyt Foundation-funded trail improvements at the IBM Glen. We will also continue to interface with the planning consortium for the Southern Tier Water Trail to encourage more water-based outdoor recreation and tourism in our region.

While we've had good fun and many an adventure smashing proverbial molecules together and discovering what happens, 2024 will be about doing the basics well in order

to build upon and preserve all that we've innovated. It will take attention and energy to hold it all together—with the necessary and welcome impact and influence of volunteer labor, member and donor funding, and engaging programs to keep people coming through our brand-new doors.

Programming, fundraising, and giving will be what propel Waterman into 2024 and beyond. Your support as members through your contributions, service, and goodwill is critical to our success! Please continue to embrace your role as a "Waterman Ambassador" and spread the good word about what we do. Encourage those in your life to visit us and please help us to recruit new members and donors when you can.

Understanding well the significance of additional program revenue to Waterman's ongoing and long-term success, we've re-instated the position of a part-time naturalist. A key goal as 2024 unfolds is to have this position become self-sustaining, first. Further along in 2024, we aim for the role to become income-generating—through hosting birthday parties, Saturday drop-in programs, guided hikes, school programs, home-school groups, and more.

As one among many testaments to the myriad efforts required to thwart entropy's destructive side, volunteers have logged copious hours over the past few years, replenishing and revising our collection of "discovery boxes"—self-contained nature activities and lessons to be rented out to families and classrooms. We are lucky to have so many resources both within the center and on the trails. This year's project will be disseminating the knowledge that these resources are available, much in the same way as our little cattail seed does its own work.

In the following pages, we're proud to highlight the prior year's achievements, acknowledge some challenges, and chart Waterman's passage into the future. We are honored by your continued choice to come along for the ride!

Yours in nature, hope, and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audette", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher Audette
Executive Director

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

Achieve
Ahwaga Paint and Floor Covering
Allstate, Landers Agency
Apalachin Fire Department
Apalachin Garden Club
Apalachin Lions Club
Audio Classics
BAE Electronic Systems
Barney & Dickenson
Binghamton Garden Club
Binghamton University Outdoors Club
Broome County Planning Department
Broome County Department of Public Works
Broome County Legislature
Broome-Tioga BOCES
Bud's Place
CASA Trinity
Chat-A-Whyle Restaurant
Chemung Canal
Cook's Tree Service
Community Foundation of South Central New York
Community Options
Delta Engineers
DRS Construction
Endicott Precision
The Family Reading Partnership & Book Bus
Farmer Brown's Marketplace
Franziska Racker Center
Fuddy Duddy's
George A and Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation
Garden Club of Endwell
Hillside Garden Landscaping
Kiwanis Club of Owego
Lockheed Martin Day of Caring
Matthew's Auto
Mildred Truman Faulkner Foundation
New York State DEC
Owego Kitchen
Robinson Hill Landscape Supply
Scott Smith and Son, Inc
Sierra Club, Susquehanna Chapter
Southern Tier Tuesdays
SRW Products
Stiletto's Fine Arts Studio
Susquehanna Printers
Sweeney's Market
Taylor Garbage
The Homesteads
Tioga Arts Council
Tioga County Soil and Water
Tioga State Bank
Town of Owego
Town of Union
Triple Cities Hiking Club
Tri Town Insurance
Two River's Photography Club
United Way of Tioga County
Upstate Shredding
Vestal Recreation Department
Vision's Federal Credit Union
Boy Scouts of America
Girl Scouts
Zuke's Excavating, LLC

WATERMAN CENTER VOLUNTEERS 2023

(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

Rita Nossal	Joe Italiano	Rick Chrisler
Jerry Michael	Loretta Brady	Eric Phelps
Joan Hunt	Jeff Smith	BSA Troops (various)
Linda Frisbee	Rick Chrisler	Girl Scout Troops (various)
Nina Smith	Robert Dannecker	Jon Manning
Beth Burton	Kevin Millar	Fred Trost
Kathy Eddy	Tom Babcock	The Orzel Family
Robert Rodgers	Vitus Haggemiller	Albert Fiato
Fran Berry	Dylan Horvath	Emily Lovelass Lantrip
Chris Rounds	Rex Decker	Josh Yeager
Sally Guydosh	Stephen Majka	Jean Rodgers
Mary Ann Cascarino	Matt Kisloski	Elizabeth Pimpinella
Gary Diehl	Triple Cities Hiking Club Members	Jeanette Wertz
Scott Clarke	Wonderful Winter Wildlife Walk Cast and Crew	Bill Bitner
Achieve Residents	Gale Thomas	Gary Malyszek
Family & Children's Residents	Joyce Neira	Frank Adomshik
Community Options Residents	Lorraine Bleiler	Joyce Knuepfer
Cin Carlin	Ellen Pasto	Michael Haas
Dave Martin	Bunny Begeal	Dominick Curley
Diane Wiener	The Farr Family	Rick Marsi
Gary King	David Grindell	Bill Baburchak
Maria Gorman	Tom Kelly	Gail Morrison
Andy Gorman		Luke Saunders

2023 IMPACT AND ACTIVITIES

45 EVENTS AND PROGRAMS IN 2024!

JANUARY

- 2023 ANNUAL MEETING
- TRACKING HIKE
- VESTAL RECREATION - WINTER WOODS 1
- BROOME AREA READING COUNCIL RICK MARSJ JOURNALING WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY

- VESTAL RECREATION - WINTER WOODS 2
- WHO'S OUT THERE HIKE
- "ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS" HOMESCHOOL SESSION

MARCH

- LYCEUM STREAM ECOLOGY LECTURE

APRIL

- LYCEUM STREAM ECOLOGY INVERTEBRATE LAB
- ROSS PARK ZOO EARTH FEST
- FOREST PLAY DAYS
- ENVIROTHON
- SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY - MOREL HUNTING
- SPRING INTO BIRDING

MAY

- FOREST PLAY DAYS
- WILD ABOUT WELLNESS HIKES
- APALACHIN MARSH HARRIET'S CROSSING DEDICATON WITH RICK MARSJ
- WISE PROJECT GRAND OPENING

JUNE

- WHITNEY POINT 4TH GRADE FIELD TRIP
- NEWARK VALLEY 4TH GRADE FIELD TRIP
- NATIVE PLANT SALE
- WILD ABOUT WELLNESS HIKES
- STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
- PRIDE MONTH BIRD DIVERSITY HIKE

JULY

- OWEGO FOREST RECREATION CAMP
- VESTAL LIBRARY - BACKYARD BIRDING
- OXFORD CSD STEAM SUMMER SESSION

AUGUST

- WATERMAN EXPLORE CAMP
- SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY - FORAGING EXCURSION
- RISE-NY STAFF RETREAT

SEPTEMBER

- IBM GLEN FEATURED STATEWIDE ON "DESTINATION NEW YORK" TELEVISION PROGRAM

OCTOBER

- MIGRATION HIKE
- HALLOWEEN NIGHT HIKE
- VESTAL RECREATION - MIGRATION MOVERS 1
- WANDERING NY'S WATERWAYS WATERSHED CONFERENCE
- LOCKHEED MARTIN NONPROFIT FAIR

NOVEMBER

- SQUIRREL & CHIPMUNK HIKE
- VESTAL RECREATION - MIGRATION MOVERS 2
- FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS LUNCHEON - INVASIVE LANDSCAPING
- PACK 43 "INTO THE WILD"
- TROOP 43 DEER EXCLOSURE BUILD

DECEMBER

- RICK MARSJ - FOR THE LOVE OF FORESTS
- WONDERFUL WINTER WILDLIFE WALK



VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS



■ Board ■ Events ■ Trails & Maintenance

8,272

VISITORS, HIKERS
& VOLUNTEERS

TIME WELL SPENT!

1,540 HOURS!

We don't do it for glory. We do it for the magic of the forest and the benefit of our neighbors.

Not every hour gets reported, yet volunteers still spent nearly 2,000 hours in service!

THANK YOU!!!



VISITOR BREAKDOWN



HILTON ROAD

1,972 ADULTS
859 CHILDREN

IBM GLEN
3,170 VISITS
BY MAP COUNT

PETTUS HILL
153 ORGANIZED
HIKE ATTENDEES



CENTER PROGRAMS

785 ADULTS
328 CHILDREN

SUMMER DAY CAMPS

596 CAMPER
VISITS



VOLUNTEERS
409 VOLUNTEER
DAYS

NOTABLE GRANTS, SPECIAL PROJECTS, AND FORESEEABLE CHALLENGES

Interpretive Center Restroom ADA Renovations - \$30,980.00 Project Total

\$5,000 grant award from Community Foundation of South-Central New York

Building on the momentum from installing the WISE Project, which made our parking lot accessible, we decided to use proceeds from 2022's riparian conservation easement project to renovate our bathrooms to be brighter, easier to clean, accessible to modern ADA standards, and offer amenities such as changing tables, hand driers, automatic soap dispensers, and automatic sinks. We were proud to complete these improvements with support from the Community Foundation of South-Central New York and look forward to future accessibility projects at the interpretive center and beyond!

IBM Glen Parking Lot Expansion and Trail Enhancement Project - \$203,750.00 Project Total

\$150,000 grant award from the Hoyt Foundation

\$53,750 in awards from the Broome County Small Community Fund

Based on the number of trail maps distributed, the IBM Glen is hands-down our most popular nature preserve. Even if we were to decide on an average party size of 2.5 people per map, the resulting nearly 8,000 hikers in 2023 fails to account for regular hikers who don't need maps, and those who use digital maps!

Despite having been private property for as long as people of European descent have asserted their presence in the region, the IBM Glen is an important historic, cultural, and natural resource which plays a critical role in our regional recreation and tourism sectors. It is perhaps among the longest-running examples of privately held, public access land.

The Waterman Center committed to keeping the IBM Glen forever free and open in 2004 when it accepted the land donation. In 2023, we began a multi-year project

to increase our capacity to accommodate visitors to the IBM Glen as well as make it easier to reach what is arguably the Glen's most iconic feature – the historic stone arch bridge near the Gray's Creek waterfall.

The parking lot has nearly been doubled in size with a brand-new expanded area downhill from the existing lot. It is surfaced with a pervious, stabilized gravel grid product with some associated drainage and green stormwater features – like a small rain garden – to capture runoff from both sections of the lot, preventing erosion damage to the forest floor and sedimentation in Gray's Creek. The gravel grid expansion was completed during Fall 2023 and the existing lot will be resurfaced in Spring 2024.

The trail enhancements will be planned and designed during Winter and Spring 2024 with the goal of installation this Autumn. Budget and materials costs will dictate the extent of the project, but the goal is to use securely anchored sections of walkway with associated steps and boulders set into the steep hillside, to provide easier access to the bridge and falls overlook. Fewer footfalls directly contacting the fragile soil dressing the slope will reduce and eventually reverse the erosion which has begun to rapidly degrade the bank.

We're proud to be charged with the stewardship of a space as grand as the IBM Glen and grateful for the partnerships and awards that make the current round of improvements possible!

Growing Pains and the 2024 Operational Shortfall

In the financial statements and budget contained within the following section of this report, you will notice that both the grants and maintenance categories are quite large. This is both to account for and predict the revenue and associated expenses for these grant-funded projects.

A challenge that we must address over the upcoming months is finding additional support should materials and/or labor costs increase to the point that our existing budget for the remaining parking improvements and the trail enhancements becomes inadequate.

An additional and broader challenge stems from what will ultimately be a strength – a larger staff, higher capacity to deliver programs, and improved facilities. The problem, unfortunately common fare in the non-profit sector, is declining donor and fundraising revenue.

In the subsequent reports, you will notice a substantial deficit in our projected budget for 2024. The board of directors has spent the past months brainstorming and planning ways to reduce the deficit to a more manageable level. We of course plan to control expenses to the fullest extent possible, and we will fundraise more frequently. We have reserve funds whose purpose is to buoy us when this type of shortfall happens, from time to time. Of course, we must strive to avoid deploying these funds as they are exceptionally difficult to regenerate.

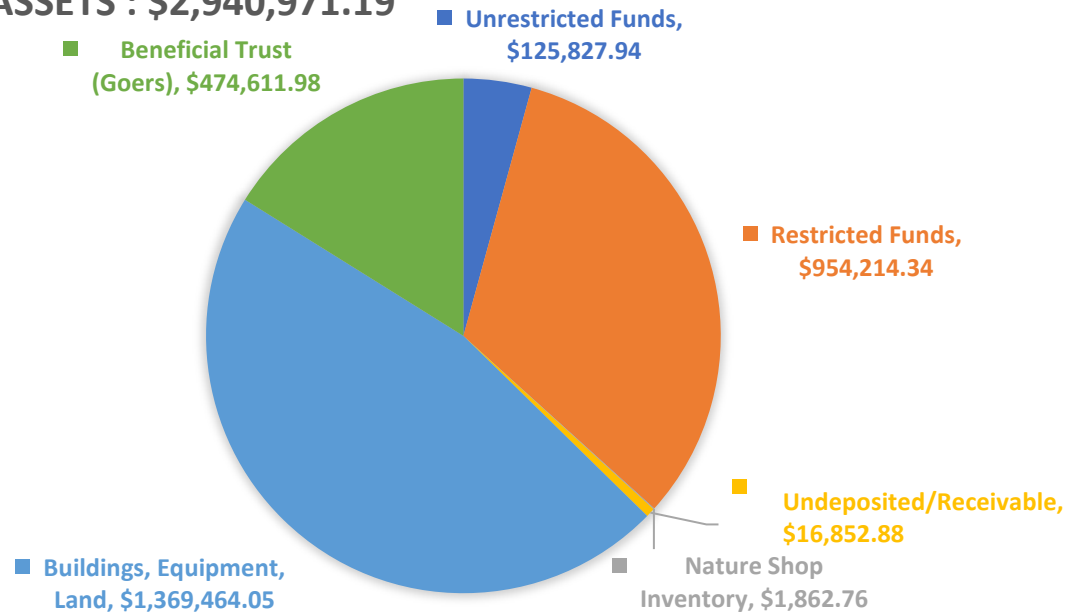
Our point here is that we are working to manage the 2024 shortfall. It is also that the source of the problem can be characterized as “growing pains”. Operating costs tend to increase. We have more staff, working increased hours, and paid at rates that the market demands. This staff – which has been exceptional in recent years – is one of our greatest resources to generate additional revenue. We intend to accomplish that this year. Our membership, our volunteers, and our donors are another resource. We need your help, your contributions, your ideas, and your networking to expand our support base. The Waterman Center is strong as an organization, expanding our reach and improving our facilities and programs alike. In the face of other nature centers closing their doors, we implore you – help us remain strong, an asset to our communities, long into the future.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

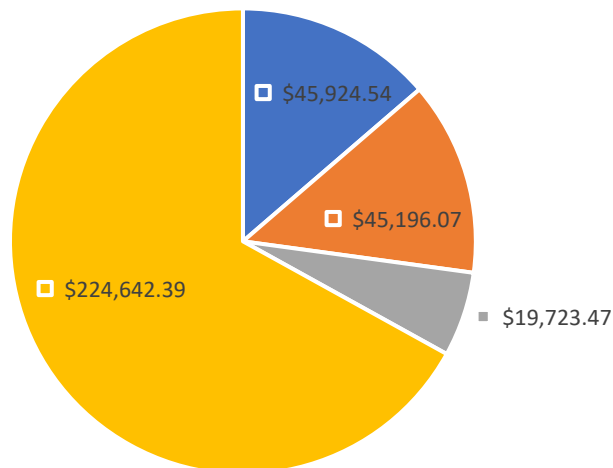
Summary Charts of Financial Position and Cash Flow

2023 WATERMAN CENTER ASSETS

TOTAL ASSETS : \$2,940,971.19

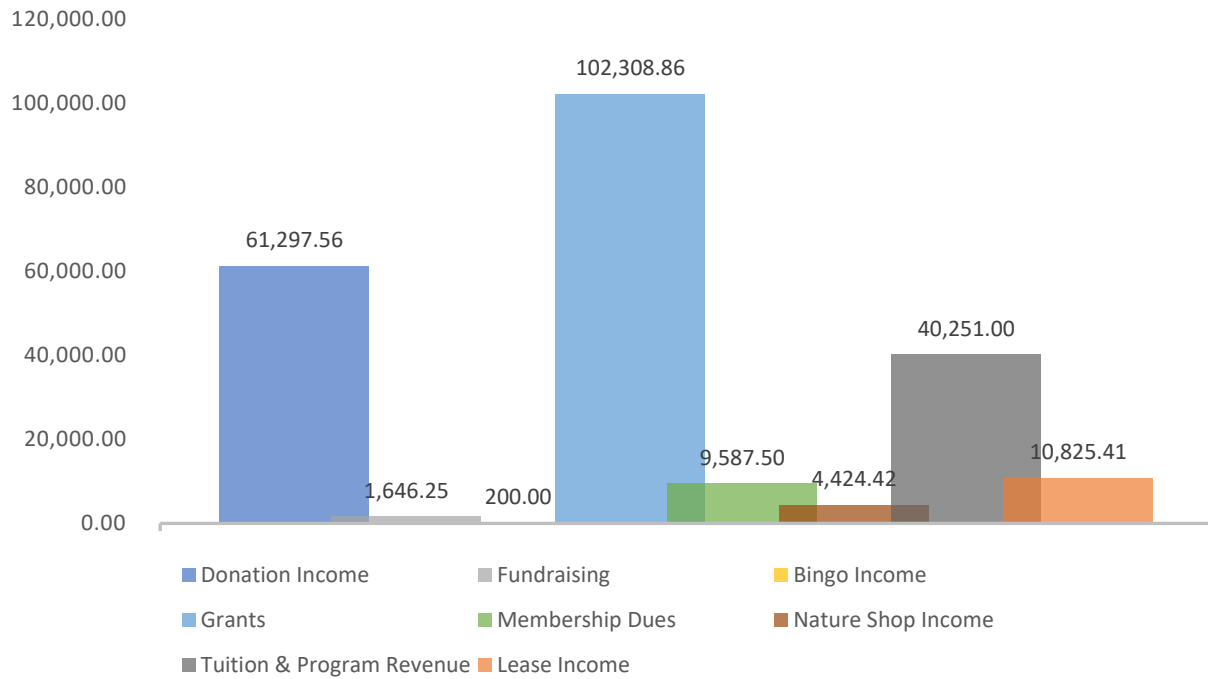


2023 Unrestricted and Discretionary Funds

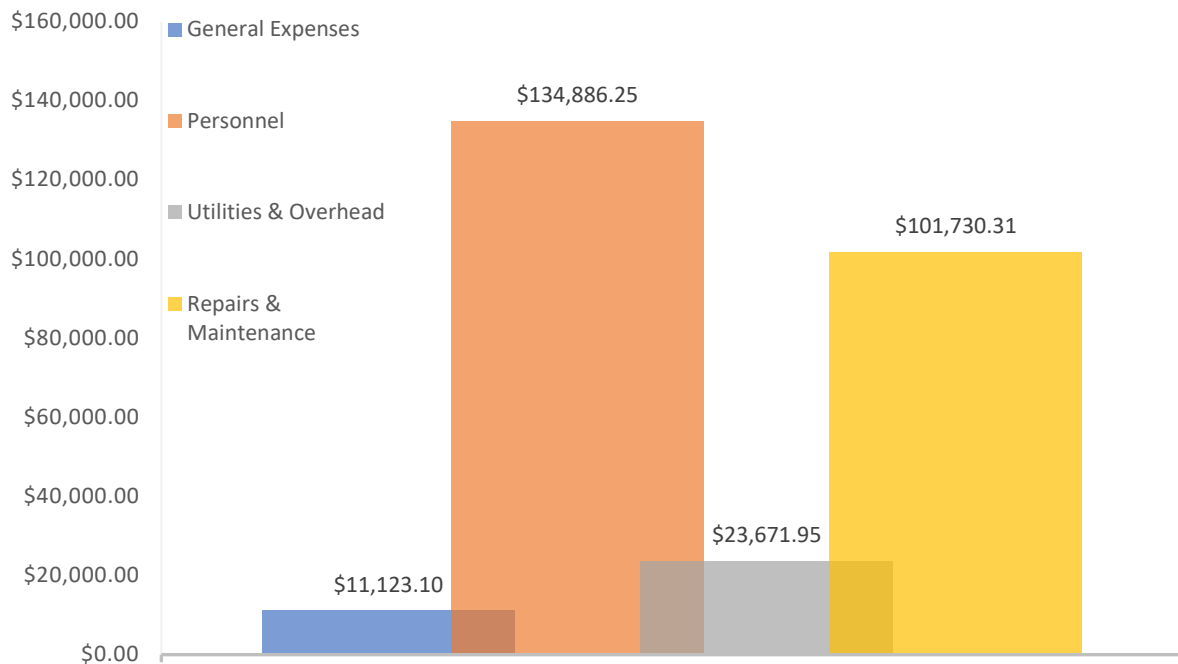


Operational Checking Budget Reserve Fox Road Royalties Barton Discretionary Investment

2023 Revenue - \$230,541.00



2023 Expenses - \$268,191.70



*Please refer to the detailed financial statements for a line-item breakdown of “other income” and “other expenses”.



Fred L Waterman Conservation Center

2023 Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
0001 JOURNAL	0.00
1000 UNRESTRICTED	
1070 PayPal	6,337.07
1075 Square Clearing	0.00
1090 TSB Bingo Checking	8,646.79
1100 TSB Checking (General)	45,924.54
1105 TSB Savings	0.00
1105-0 Discretionary Savings	10,196.07
1105-1 Designated-Abrams	15,000.00
1105-2 Designated-Forest School	20,000.00
Total 1105 TSB Savings	45,196.07
1115 TSB Fox Road Savings (Gas Lease)	19,723.47
1190 Petty Cash/Cash On Hand	0.00
Total 1000 UNRESTRICTED	125,827.94
1200 RESTRICTED	
1205 CCTC Brick Pond (Foundation)	203,952.10
1210 CCTC Barton Estate	224,642.39
1215 CCTC Pettus Estate	525,599.85
1220 CCTC GIGP Checking	20.00
Total 1200 RESTRICTED	954,214.34
Total Bank Accounts	\$1,080,042.28
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	
1300 Inventory-Nature Shop	1,862.76
1400 Undeposited Funds	7,953.07
1500 Contributions Receivable	7,037.05
Total Other Current Assets	\$16,852.88
Total Current Assets	\$1,096,895.16
Fixed Assets	
2100 Equipment & Furniture	132,780.93
2105 Buildings & Improvements	924,180.98
2110 Intangibles	4,909.70
2150 Accumulated Depreciation	-520,031.56



Fred L Waterman Conservation Center

2023 Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
2180 Land	827,624.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,369,464.05
Other Assets	
1600 Beneficial Interest in Trust	474,611.98
Construction in Progress - GIGP	0.00
Total Other Assets	\$474,611.98
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,940,971.19
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 Accounts Payable	2,997.92
Total Accounts Payable	\$2,997.92
Other Current Liabilities	
2010 Payroll Clearing	2,028.27
2015 Payroll Tax Payable	0.00
2020 FWH / FICA	0.00
2035 SWH (State W/H)	0.00
2040 SUTA	0.00
Total 2015 Payroll Tax Payable	0.00
2050 Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
2300 CCTC Line of Credit (GIGP)	0.00
2400 PPP Loan Payable	0.00
2450 Accrued Payroll	1,006.03
2500 Accrued Expenses	0.00
2800 Deferred Revenue	0.00
2901 New York Department of Taxation and Finance Payable	249.41
Out Of Scope Agency Payable	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$3,283.71
Total Current Liabilities	\$6,281.63
Total Liabilities	\$6,281.63
Equity	
3200 Opening Balance Equity	0.00
3999 Retained Earnings	2,872,671.52
Net Revenue	62,018.04
Total Equity	\$2,934,689.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$2,940,971.19



Fred L Waterman Conservation Center

Revenue and Expenses

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Revenue	
4025 Donation Income	61,297.56
4059 Fundraising	1,612.02
4070 Bingo Income	200.00
4100 Grants	102,308.86
4200 Membership Dues	9,587.50
4240 Nature Shop Income	4,424.42
4249 Tuition & Program Revenue	40,251.00
4450 Lease Income	10,825.41
4999 Uncategorized Income	-2.14
Discounts given	16.37
Sales	20.00
Total Revenue	\$230,541.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
5004 COGS-Fundraisers	642.29
5005 COGS-Nature Shop	2,224.88
5006 COGS-Program/Event	352.74
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$3,219.91
GROSS PROFIT	\$227,321.09
Expenditures	
6000 Miscellaneous Expenses	1,833.92
6100 Insurance	7,566.67
6200 Personnel	134,886.25
6300 General & Administrative	6,069.27
6400 Professional Services	3,390.00
6500 Utilities	11,746.96
6700 Taxes Paid	968.32
6800 Repairs & Maintenance	99,175.31
6899 GIGP	2,555.00
Total Expenditures	\$268,191.70
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -40,870.61
Other Revenue	
4400 Interest Earned	77.24
4440 Investment Income-Trust	30,052.77
Total Other Revenue	\$30,130.01
Other Expenditures	
6900 Investment Expenses	7,353.41
9977 Unrealized Gain/Loss on Trust	-20,210.62



Fred L Waterman Conservation Center

Revenue and Expenses

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
9987 Unrealized Gains (Losses) from Investments	-59,901.43
Total Other Expenditures	\$ -72,758.64
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$102,888.65
NET REVENUE	\$62,018.04

2024 BUDGET

Income

Category	Amount
Donations	\$66,000.00
Events, Fundraising, & Sales	\$7,000.00
Membership Dues	\$13,000.00
Program Revenue	\$40,600.00
Grant Income	\$147,625.00
Fox Rd Royalty Income	\$7,200.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$25,186.00
Total Income	\$306,611.00

Expenses

Category	Amount
Cost of Goods Sold	\$5,950.00
Insurance	\$9,020.00
Professional Services	\$10,350.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,825.00
Bank Fees	\$8,000.00
General Administrative Expenses	\$7,650.00
Utilities and Telephone	\$14,500.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$172,424.00
Personnel Expenses	\$145,450.00
Taxes	\$1,050.00
Total Expenses	\$362,269.00
Net Operating Income	(\$ 55,658.00)

Other Income

Endowment Fund Distribution	\$27,683.00
*Projected	
Final Cash Flow	(\$27,975.00)

Notice Of Annual Meeting

January 10th, 2024

Dear Valued Member,

The Waterman Conservation Education Center Board of Directors is pleased to invite you to the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting, which will take place at the Waterman Center Interpretive Building Auditorium at 1:30 PM on Sunday, January 21st, 2024. In order to participate in certifying the 2024 slate of directors, Waterman members must be in good standing as of Friday, January 19th, 2024. Beverages and light refreshments will be served.

Please contact us via phone at (607) 625-2221 or e-mail at info@watermancenter.org if you wish to verify your membership status.

Immediately following the business portion of the meeting, board member Jeff Smith will deliver a presentation on the status of hemlock woolly adelgid infestation at Waterman properties and the various efforts we've employed to impede its progression.

The annual meeting agenda and slate of directors are enclosed with this letter. As a member of the center in good standing, you may vote to accept the 2024 slate of directors. Having been approved by our membership, the 2024 Waterman Board of Directors will then vote on the slate of officers in executive session. The slate of officers has been provided solely for your information.

We are very excited to spend the afternoon with you talking about all things Waterman!

Sincerely,

The Waterman Conservation Education Center Board of Directors

Waterman Conservation Education Center Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2023, 1:00 pm
Hilton Road, Apalachin, NY and Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Chris Rounds.
2. Present:
 - 2.1. **Board Members:** Rex Decker, Gary Diehl, Sally Guydosh, Dylan Horvath, Matt Kisloski, Emily Loveless, Jerry Michael, Robert Rodgers, Chris Rounds, Jim Shuler, Jeff Smith and Diane Wiener. (Mary Ann Cascarino and Steve Majka were excused.)
 - 2.2. **Waterman Staff:** Executive Dir. Christopher Audette, Karen Harvey and Michelle Knuepfer
 - 2.3. **Waterman Members and Guests:** About 15 members and guests were in attendance, some of which were on Zoom.
3. **Introduction of Board Members**
 - 3.1. Board members introduced themselves.
4. **Treasurer's Report – Rex Decker, Treasurer & Chris Audette, Executive Director**
 - 4.1. Rex discussed the financial position and revenue and expenses for 2022 as shown on charts. Grant income was high in 2022 as many grants came in to fund the Water Infiltration Systems Exhibit (WISE) project.
The Tuition and Program Revenue is high due to the income from the E.L. Rose Conservancy. Waterman was compensated by the Conservancy for the value of three land easements done to protect stream side habitats. Waterman retains ownership.
 - 4.2. Rex explained the 2023 budget which showed a negative cash flow. This will be covered with donations and other income and will be adjusted through the year. Grant income is shown as \$5,600 but will likely increase.
5. **Statement on the Center – Chris Audette, Executive Director.** Chris welcomed everyone and encouraged all to take the new WCEC sticker labels.
 - 5.1. Chris highlighted the Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) Project, the new plantings and noted the Center raised \$415,000 to complete the WISE Project.
 - 5.2. He cited the Mee Foundation that supplied the funds for the new outdoor classroom and green roof. Also, he referenced the E.L. Rose Conservancy and the money received from the riparian easement of three Waterman properties.
 - 5.3. Bathroom renovations will be done and a viewing platform is planned for Brick Pond.
 - 5.4. Waterman program specialist, Michelle Knuepfer, has been asked to increase our educational programming to schools and the community. Funds were received from the Tioga Downs Regional Community Foundation to develop a Forest School for preschoolers at the Center.
 - 5.5. Chris went over the statistics for the programming at the Center, numbers of visitors at Hilton Road and IBM Glen, and the volunteer investment of time.
6. **Nominating Committee Report – Chris Rounds**
 - 6.1. New Board Members, Emily Lovelass and Robert Rodgers, need to be elected for 3-year terms. The 3-year terms of Matt Kisloski and Sally Guydosh are up and in need of reelection.
 - 6.2. A request was made for nominations from the floor. There being none, a vote was called for, and the slate was elected as presented.

7. Award Presentation to Out-going Board Members – Chris Audette

7.1. Gary Diehl, steward at the IBM Glen, and Chris Rounds, president, were recognized for their service on the board. They both went beyond their roles. Each was presented a card and jacket from Waterman Center. Mary Ann Cascarino is also leaving the board. She has served as a volunteer for 37 years, including three times as a board president. A photo was shown of Mary Ann at the mortgage burning occasion in 1993.

8. Program – Southern Tier Land Conservancy – Jason Shaw (Broome County Legislator and Carl Lipo (BU Faculty Member and Dean for Research and Programs)

8.1. The Southern Tier Land Conservancy is a new community-based nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the permanent protection and stewardship of natural and working lands for the public good. They explained the need for a land trust in our area, as the area is biologically important, aesthetically rich, and worthy of protection and preservation.

8.2. The Conservancy operates with land donations, land acquisitions and conservation easements. They are playing a role in the NYS 30X30 plan to conserve at least 30 percent of land and water by 2030.

8.3. Questions and Comments were received from the audience. The program was well received.

9. Adjournment for the Annual Meeting occurred at 2:50.

Respectfully submitted.

Sally Gydosh, Secretary