

watermark

Published by Laudholm Trust in support of Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Letting it Flow

Restoring Streams and the Pulse of Tides

Three small projects with outsize impact have been focusing the reserve's attention in this latter half of 2015. Completing these minor feats of engineering will improve the ecology of local watersheds for generations to come. Our science and stewardship team planned for months and years to set up these moments of action on Goff Mill Brook, Branch Brook, and the York River.

Welcome to the Machine: Reconnecting Goff Mill Brook to the Kennebunk River

On a sunny mid-September morning in Arundel, a 36-ton excavator lumbered toward Goff Mill Brook at a walker's pace and stationed itself beside a waist-high dam wrapped in brambles. A dozen onlookers stood transfixed as the no-nonsense machine stretched a 36-foot arm over the dam and dug in. A few minutes later, they cheered as the brook's flow accelerated from a trickle to a rush.

Removing the antiquated dam from Goff Mill Brook reconnected seven miles of stream habitat to the Kennebunk River estuary. Now American eels, river herring, and other

migratory fish coming in from the Gulf of Maine can explore rivulets they and their ancestors haven't sensed for more than six decades.

This small dam was built before the environmental consequences of such structures were fully appreciated. Maine has many of these "legacy" dams that wouldn't be permitted today.

Jake Aman managed the project for the reserve. He worked with the Sebago Chapter of Trout Unlimited under TU's Embrace-a-Stream program. The project gained the backing of the Maine Dept. of Marine Resources and the conservation community, and was approved by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Additional funding and support were provided by The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. Caribou Springs of Gilead, as the prime contractor, operated the excavator.

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watermark

A newsletter for members of
Laudholm Trust and supporters of
the Wells National Estuarine
Research Reserve

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- Contains FSC certified 100% post-consumer fiber
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sea**changes**



Tim and Amelie, two dedicated research assistants reaching the end of their contracts with the reserve, are prepped for a farewell flight over Wells and the Kennebunks. One of their birds-eye views is on page 10.

People News

We thank Timothy Dubay and Amelie Jensen for their years of hard work in research, both in the field and in the lab. Tim was involved with science projects since 2011, receiving the George and Eleanor Ford Contribution to Research Award in 2014. Amelie spent two years as an intern and assistant. They were deeply involved in green crab, larval fish, and blue carbon research while at the reserve and their absence will be sharply felt.

Congratulations to Paige and Zack Steele, education and coastal training associates in the not-too-distant past, on the birth of their son, Henri, in August.

Beyond the Fence

Three decades ago, as the Wells Reserve was taking form, Laudholm Trust and its partners reached a life tenancy agreement with the farm owners, the Lord family: While

the Wells Reserve would maintain the entire property, the children of the late George C. Lord II — Charles, Nathaniel, and Mary — could exclusively use a significant portion of the property for the remainder of their lives. Known simply as “the life estate,” it included the auto garages, bull barn, sheep barn, farmer’s cottage, other buildings, and property visible from along the entry walk. This area has remained closed to the public for the past 30 years.

Last December, the last of the three immediate Lord heirs passed away, starting a one-year clock until the transfer of the life estate to complete reserve control. No significant changes are imminent; considerable planning will be necessary and both the grounds and the structures will require work before trails and programs are expanded to the site. We will have more on this development in the next *Watermark*.

st. nick's notebook

By the end of every summer, I need a vacation. Quality control, elf labor relations, reindeer feed bills — I need to get away from the Pole and recharge the old batteries before “slam season” really starts.

“How about Maine this year?” said Mrs. Claus. She’d found the Wells Reserve at Laudholm on TripAdvisor, and the Laudholm Nature Crafts



Festival in September caught her eye in particular. “Ooh, Nick, we could finally get ourselves some gifts.”

Hitch up the sleigh, I said. As long I get some fresh sea air, a long walk unspoilt, some greenery, and a beach, I’ll be fine.

Well, I certainly found all that and more at the Wells Reserve. The

*place’s eager young president, another Nicholas, took me on a tour of its programs, too. I thought *I* was busy, but you should see what this place and its staff do.*

Take it from me, a guy who gives gifts for a living — this Reserve and its work are special. They’re giving new homes to fish, new life to an old farm, new ideas to local leaders, new lessons to our most important natural resource: children. Those are gifts that keep on giving. How jolly to have the Wells Reserve here in Southern Maine.

(See Nik and St. Nick on page 5)

wellsreserve at laudholm

A PLACE TO DISCOVER

Wells Reserve Management Authority

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Professor, Department of Earth Sciences
University of Maine

Richard Clark
Member, Board of Selectmen
Town of Wells

Ward Feurt
Refuge Manager
Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

Ron Hunt
Acting Director of Operations, Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Kathleen Leyden (ex-officio)
Director, Maine Coastal Program
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Erica Seiden (ex-officio)
Program Manager, National Estuarine Research Reserve System
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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What’s happening now at the Wells Reserve at Laudholm?

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The Wrack: wellsreserve.org/blog



The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 28 reserve sites throughout the country. All reserves require local funding to match federal grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Wells Reserve is the only reserve that receives its match from a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Each year, Laudholm Trust contributes private funds and in-kind services to support Wells Reserve operations and capital improvements.

education / teacher training

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of protected areas established for long-term research, education, and stewardship. This partnership program between NOAA and the coastal states protects more than one million acres of estuarine land and water, providing essential habitat for wildlife; offering educational opportunities for students, teachers, and the public; and serving as living laboratories for scientists.

The 28 Sites in the NERR System

ACE Basin, South Carolina

Apalachicola, Florida

Chesapeake Bay, Maryland

Chesapeake Bay, Virginia

Delaware, Delaware

Elkhorn Slough, California

Guana Tolomato Matanzas, Florida

Grand Bay, Mississippi

Great Bay, New Hampshire

Hudson River, New York

Jacques Cousteau, New Jersey

Jobos Bay, Puerto Rico

Kachemak Bay, Alaska

Lake Superior, Wisconsin

Mission–Aransas, Texas

Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island

North Carolina, North Carolina

North Inlet/Winyah Bay, South Carolina

Old Woman Creek, Ohio

Padilla Bay, Washington

Rookery Bay, Florida

San Francisco Bay, California

Sapelo Island, Georgia

South Slough, Oregon

Tijuana River, California

Waquoit Bay, Massachusetts

Weeks Bay, Alabama

Wells, Maine**The National Estuarine Research Reserve Association**

is a nonprofit organization established to promote and advance the NERR System. NERRA works with Congress, NOAA, and public and private partners to increase support for research, monitoring, education, and stewardship within the reserves.

Teaching about Coastal Impacts of Climate Change

The four New England research reserves are putting teachers on the estuary again next summer by offering free workshops that will give educators data-driven climate change activities to bring back to their classes. Each of the four TOTE (Teachers on the Estuary) workshops, one 3- or 4-day session per reserve, will train a dozen educators in reserve-style environmental monitoring, “coastal blue carbon” concepts, and ways to understand and address climate change.

Teachers don’t get much exposure to estuarine and watershed concepts during their own education, so it can be daunting for them to develop a curriculum (and locate suitable data sets) around these topics. TOTE workshops show teachers how to access and employ custom curricula and data that already meet Next Generation Science Standards or state education frameworks.

In the 2016 workshops, teachers will examine the relationship between salt marshes, climate change, nitrogen pollution, and the global carbon trading economy. Waquoit Bay Reserve recently produced a high school STEM curriculum through its Bringing Wetlands to Market (BWM) initiative on Cape Cod, which focused on the economic value of salt marshes as carbon sinks — natural places to store carbon so it won’t be released into the atmosphere to act as a greenhouse gas.

Teachers will also be introduced to information from around the country that focuses on sea level change and



Educators taking part in the 2013 Teachers on the Estuary workshop spent time in the salt marsh and on the beach at the mouth of the Little River.

coastal inundation, and given access to the resources of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s collaborative Sentinel Site program.

When TOTE teachers return to their classrooms, some 2,500 middle and high school students will be connected to estuarine science and about 50 stewardship projects will begin across New England.

To learn more about TOTE workshops and to apply for the 2016 programs, please visit wellsreserve.org/tote.

This work is sponsored by the National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative, which supports collaborative research that addresses coastal management problems important to the reserves. The Science Collaborative is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and managed by the University of Michigan Water Center.

end of the line

After years of service, our floating dock must be replaced. The platform for numerous education programs and our launching point for kayak tours, the dock has seen its last season braving the elements and tides.

Indeed, you can be sure Nik mentioned “floating dock” when St. Nick stopped by over the summer. But that’s not all.

“...and garden hoses and buckets and grass seed and weed whackers...”

“mm-hmmm...?” said Santa.

“...and mops and paint and brushes and nails and drill bits and padlocks and LEDs...”

“mm-hmmm...?” said Santa.

“...and a generator and a Fisher snow plow and a Kubota tractor with a digging bucket...”

“mm-hmmm...?” said Santa.

“...and paving for the parking lot and walkways...”

“mm-hmmm...?” said Santa.

“...and \$20,000 to fix up the water tower and a million to get started on the life estate buildings... and... and...”



stewardship / habitat restoration

The stone-clearing crew tests the free-flowing waters of Branch Brook after completing their work.

Why Remove a Dam?

- Repair and maintenance are costs not easily borne by small landowners; removal is often less expensive.
- Dams increase the risk of catastrophic flooding; most small dams impede flow, but do not have the capacity to store stormwater.
- Dam removals tend to increase property values in their vicinity and typically do not affect shoreline property values.
- Fish passage and stream ecology are improved by dam removal.
- Benefits come at little cost to municipalities and dam owners; funding and technical support frequently derive from public and private sources.

continued from page 1

The Old Heave-Ho: Opening Up Even More Branch Brook Habitat

Another Herculean task undertaken this summer was the removal of a four-foot-long wall of big granite blocks from Branch Brook — this time without the assistance of an excavator.

Erosion had begun crumbling some old bridge abutments, which dropped massive chunks of granite into the brook, blocking fish passage. The de facto dam had to go, but with no way for heavy equipment to reach the site — how?

For this job, Jake contacted Steve Koenig at Project SHARE, who agreed to take on the task and double-bill it as a training exercise. By the time the July work day arrived, more than 20 people from nine conservation organizations had signed on to help and learn about the technique.

They removed one large stone at a time, using a manual winch and high line to hoist the blocks, lifting them just enough that they could slide down a steel cable to the stream bank. The work was slow and steady, but as blocks and debris were removed the upstream impoundment began to drain down. The last step, reopening the channel, signaled the beginning of better days for Branch Brook's aquatic life.

This project was an apt follow-up to fish ladder reconstruction at the KK&W Water District plant in 2013 (wellsreserve.org/branchbrook). Sea lamprey and brook trout now use that fishway, so they're now free to enter many more upstream tributaries for feeding and spawning.

Funding, technical support, and hands-on work for this effort were contributed by The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal

stewardship / habitat restoration

This impoundment will become salt marsh habitat after being reconnected to the York River this fall.

Program, Atlantic Salmon Federation, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Stroke of Genius: Creating Five Acres of Salt Marsh along the York River

Two small ponds along the York River will reconnect to the flow of tides in December after being essentially cut off from the estuary for years.

Ancient culverts at the York Golf and Tennis Club have gradually failed, impeding natural tidal flow and causing poor drainage, stagnant water, and the possible loss of a maintenance road. After consulting with engineers and restoration experts, the club elected to replace the compromised culverts with new and larger conduits.

The restoration will create more than 5 acres of tidal salt marsh by returning ebb and flow to two impoundments. The project is expected to improve water quality, reduce

the risk of flooding, and allow the salt marsh to migrate in response to rising seas. Tidal range will increase by 2 feet in one pond and 3½ feet in the other.

Salt marsh plants should colonize newly exposed areas naturally. The area should maintain itself for at least 75 years, demonstrating a cost-effective climate adaption technique.

Reserve scientists will map and measure vegetation in the spring and fall for the next three years. A tide monitor will verify the estimated tide range.

Partners in this project are the York Golf and Tennis Club, York Country Club, York Rivers Association, and Civil Consultants. The NOAA Restoration Center and Town of York both advised the group. The York Golf and Tennis Club, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Maine Coastal Program, and Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge provided funding.



community / volunteer service

we can't do it
without you!

THANK
YOU.

AWARDS MADE IN 2015

LAUDHOLM

For those whose efforts over the years consistently exceed all expectations.

PRESERVATION

For preserving the historical integrity and cultural value of the buildings and grounds of Laudholm Farm.

COPPER BEECH

For exemplifying the endurance and constancy of volunteerism at the Wells Reserve and Laudholm Trust.

CONSERVATION

For efforts that support the joint mission of the Wells Reserve and Laudholm Trust.

GOOD NEIGHBOR

For generous and gracious hospitality on behalf of the Wells Reserve and Laudholm Trust.

EXTRAORDINAIRE

For those who demonstrate extraordinary effort in a given year.

Volunteers Recognized, 2015

The importance of volunteers cannot be overstated; volunteer labor underlies every success at the Wells Reserve at Laudholm. All volunteers are honestly appreciated, but some merit special attention for their unusual dedication. Each year, our staff nominates certain volunteers for recognition. Here are those singled out in 2015.

Laudholm Award

Betsy Smith's efforts for the Wells Reserve, Laudholm Trust, and local communities exceed all expectations. Betsy organizes parking for our September festivals, brings sophistication and exactitude to Laudholm's financial history, and holds the board and staff accountable to the highest standard.

Bob Ludwig Preservation Award

Allan Amioka, Elizabeth Spahr, and Ginger Laurits are truly masterful gardeners. Allan toils with a smile in the All Seasons Garden, cultivating a harvest for the hungry, experimenting with new techniques, and growing pumpkins and corn for Punkinfiddle. Liz and Ginger and their able assistants maintain and develop the Native Plant Garden to ensure visitors have the earliest possible positive impression of this place.

Copper Beech Award

Gard Thompson has been an integral member of the songbird and saw-whet owl banding team since 1996. Gard sustains and shares his enthusiasm for birds and he is truly committed to one of our most popular science and education programs.

Conservation Award

Bruce Read, for more than a decade, has provided clear advice and a cool head on contract, legal, and other difficult matters. As a property lawyer, Bruce has pushed the paper on conservation projects across southern Maine, including our highest priority parcels within the reserve. He is a champion of protecting land and water in local communities.

Good Neighbor Award

Loretta Hoglund was an active and informed participant in the Sandy Dialogues project and supported the rebuilding of our Barrier Beach trail gateway to Drakes Island. She is documenting the history of Drakes Island (following in her father's footsteps) and underwrites, with husband David, our Ted Exford Climate Stewards Lectures.

Volunteers Extraordinaire

Candy Jarvis assisted with nearly all of the 35 Head Start programs and preschool story hours held over the past year. She always comes in with great enthusiasm and warmth.





Volunteers for Peace

Our 2015 group was especially enthusiastic. They were with us for three weeks and were indispensable assistants during the crafts festival. They all worked hard, bonded with their companions, and went home friends. Thank you, Miki Sato of Japan and Eugenia Borello of Italy (kneeling in front) and Eray Dedeoglu (Turkey), Hendric Keitz (Germany), Javier Lopez Martin (Spain), Heidi Hubbard (USA), and Maria Rocas Font (Catalonia). That's our own Linda Littlefield Grenfell on the right.

Liz Walsh was Queen of the Food Tent for the crafts festival, devoting her summer to bargain hunting and taste testing to be sure our festival is the most delicious annual art show in southern Maine.

Robin and Rick Planco traded in full-time employment with pay for full-time employment without pay. Robin is a tour leader and they both are rangers with great energy and joy.

Don Hamilton is our anything-and-everything volunteer. As soon as he migrates north in the spring, he's ready to mow, trim, paint, repair, and rebuild with a fun spirit.

Mike Bellows has been the foremost greeter on bird-banding Wednesdays over a span of 8 years. Mike's quiet and positive demeanor put visitors at ease.

Dorothy and John Andrews appear early on summer Wednesdays, Dorothy to scribe at the bird-banding station and John to mow the lawn. Their work is half done before most of the staff arrives.

Ed Alberts is car herder for the Crafts Festival and Punkinfiddle. He calms down the drivers. He calms down the volunteers. He gets everyone headed in the right direction.

VOLUNTEER RECEPTION 2015



volunteer needs

Maintenance Volunteers

Shoveling, raking, fixing, making, trimming, painting, good company, and good humor are all in store during the off season. John Speight welcomes anyone willing to work 1 to 3 mornings a week.

Marketing and Communications

Help plan 2016 and 2017. Cultivate new members, connect with event sponsors, even stuff envelopes!

Special Events

The Crafts Festival, Punkinfiddle, and the rest of our events (see back cover) take a lot of advance planning. Get involved behind the scenes or play a key role on event day.

Talk with Nancy

Call 207-646-1555 ext 118

Whatever your talent, we can find a place for you. Let's get started!

New Members — A Record Year!

Sean Ahern	Hannah Driscoll	Shannon Kooser	John Ripton
Wendy Alley	Robert Duchette & Tricia Loranger	Kathleen Kotakis	June & Mike Robb
Gene Andelman	Jon Eagleson	Joyce G. Krahling	Dee Roberts
Mary Andres	Edward & Janet Eberts	Michael & Helene Kramer	Rebecca Rocheleau
Tina Bacci	David Elsmore	Vera-Ellen Lanaro	Rachel Rouillard
Katherine Balakier	Laura Faron-Yowe	Dominique Lanctot	Melissa & Chris Ryan
Susan Barnes	Shirley Ferris & Charles Eaton	Tim Laurion	Pat Santoro
Barretto-Donnelly Family	Kyle Fitzgerald	Sarah Lawhorne	Rachel Sargent
Paul & Carol Bartlett	Virginia Fitzgerald & Alison Howe	Carl Leinonen	Jill Saucier
Jennifer Becker	Joe Forbes	Mary Lindsey	Jennifer Sayward
Bill Beckham	Mary Fortune	D.J. MacPherson	Elizabeth Schock
Karen Benezra	Nicholas Furman	Melissa Mahlen	Gioia Schultz
Melina Bergkamp	Timothy Furman	Maine Coast Explorers	Scott & Wendy Scott
Leon Berneche	Andrew Furman	Vincent Mariano	Jennifer Seidman
Louise Bernier	Amanda Furman	Stephen Martin	Norman Senechal
Berry Family	Maria & Jack Furman-Duffy	Louis Matis & Tony Calamersa	Dale Shaw
Robin Bettencourt	Loretta & Bill Gaidys	Susan McIntyre	Cathy Shriver
David Bianchi	Gwynne Gallagher	Jim & Barbara McKinley	Jerry Sleeper
Kathleen & Theron Bickford	Lora Gelbort	Carly S. & John McKinney	Roland & Karen Smith
Linda Blanch	Sarah R. Gorham	McTigue Family	James Smith Family
Jennifer Bourque	Jim & Nancy Griffith	Patricia McVicker	Kathryn Smith
Kellie Brazier	Ava Gurekian	Benjamin & Sarah Meggs	Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler
Lorraine Bregoli	Cynthia & Peter Gutermann	Michael & Yvette Meunier	David Squillante
Gail Browning	Lynn Haber	Peter Minor & Tina Zorger	Carol Steingart
Douglas & Mary Burnham	Chris & Marti Hafner	Paul Mondor	Scott Stevens & Family
Colleen & Pierce Campbell	Chelsea & Shawn Hall	Nataniel Montoya	Scott & Nancy Stevens
Cecily Cannon	Betty Hamilton	Lou & David Morgan	Heidi & Dennis Stokes
Brent & Kelly Capener	Joel Hammer	Emily Morris	Marilyn Strong-Townsend
Capobianco Family	Ron & Kathie Hansen	Kristen Murphy	Patrice Szabo
Megan Carney	Lori Harach & Family	John Nadolski	Julia Tebbets
Diane Carr	Barbara Thompson	Erika J. Naigle	Gerald Tedeschi
Mary & Ben Cavagnaro	Bob & Carolyn Hardison	Mark & Sara Oliver	Brendan Thatcher
Eileen F. Chabot	Susan Hayes	Christopher Olsen	Ann Thompson
John & Sally Chadam	Alicia Heinricher	Patricia & Jessica Page	Tracy Thompson
Catherine Chen	Chrystie Perry	Wesley & Lucy Palmer	Marsha Tredwell
Richard Chiango	Jean Howard	Samuel & Gaier Palmisano	Arthur & Deborah Troy
Marilyn G. Clark	Robert & Melissa Hussey	Maureen Paul	Bonnie & Tim Valade
Heidi Clark & Marj Masse	Carol Iverson	Glen & Jayne Perkins	Evelina & Terrence Vaughan
Janet Clarke	Andrew J. Janiak	Craig & Sara Perry	Nancy & Bob Vecchio
Linda Clower	Ashley Jeffers	David Peters	Jeff Veness
Cindy Connelley	Laura K. Johnson	Erin Peterson	Raymond & Lynn Voelker
Peter & Linda Cooper	Sharon Jones	May Petrov	Janet Vrettos
Richard & Betty Coots	D. Michael & Jill Jones	Jay Plamondon	Douglas Walsh
Katherine M. Crawford	Garry & Janet Kasten	Mathew Polletto	John Watson & Family
Kathleen Christo	Scott Kern & Lesley Andersen	Frederick Price	Jacqueline Welsh
Jenny & Dan Cumpelik	Jennifer Kerr	Jason Prybylo	Kathleen White & Jim Schoenstadt
Carl & Margot Dengel	Cynthia Keus	Bernie Quinn	Ellen Dempsey Willard
David Deziel	Rebecca Kibler	Eugenie A. Reed	Alicia Zoeller & Rosemary Morin
James Donahue	Joyce Knappe	Jack Reis	
Alyssa Doyle	Stephen Knittweis	Faith Reney	

Memorial Gifts

Donald L. Tebbets
Mary Hale Furman
Ralph C. Keef
Richard Hogue

Celebratory Gifts

Bill & Linda Lucas, in honor of their
50th anniversary
Jane Frances Lynch, from her family
Liz Walsh, in her honor

In-kind Contributions

Marshall Rental Center, Inc.
for a discount on Crafts Festival tents
Maine Magazine
for an ad in the September issue
Kitchen Chicks Catering
for hors d'oeuvres and wine for Volunteer
Recognition
Funky Bow Beer Company
for a selection of beers

Business Members

The Cider Donut Company
Funky Bow Beer Company

thankyou

Gifts received July through October 2015

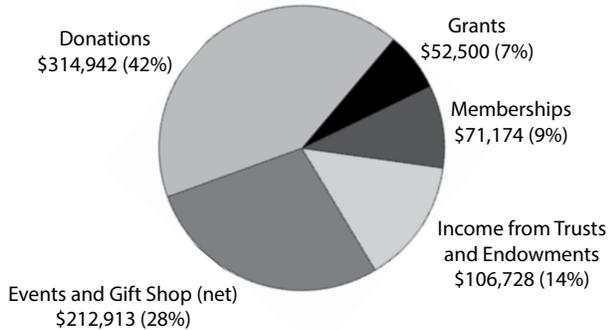
(DRAFT) FY 2015 Financial Report

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

This condensed information has been derived from draft financial statements. Upon completion, reviewed financial statements for the Wells Reserve and Laudholm Trust will be available online and in our offices.

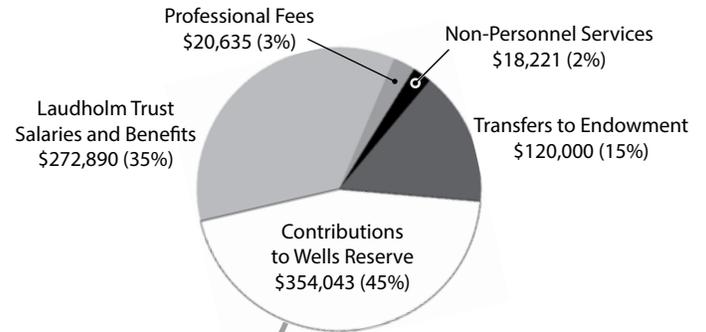
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Revenues*



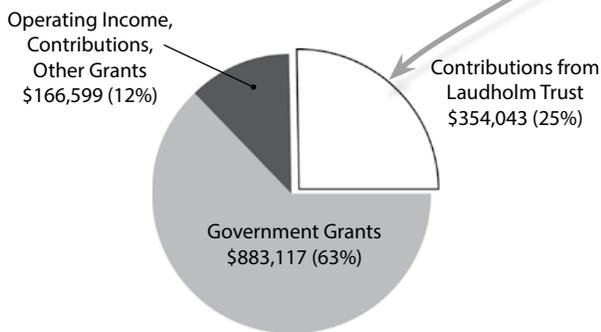
* excludes gains on investments and trusts

Expenses

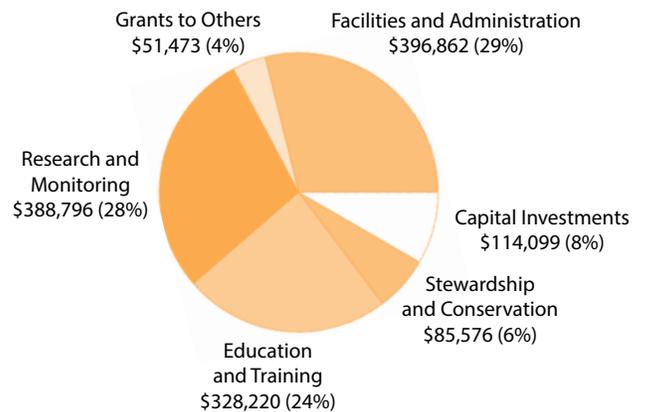


wellsreserve

Revenues



Expenses*



*excludes depreciation

The public-private partnership between Wells Reserve and Laudholm Trust makes this place and its programs possible. Essential local support provided by the nonprofit Trust matches federal and other competitive grants to fund the operations of the Reserve. Neither organization is possible without the other; though we perform different activities, we inseparably work toward one vision.

The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve works to expand knowledge about coasts and estuaries, engage people in environmental learning, and involve communities in conserving natural resources, all with a goal of protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems around the Gulf of Maine.

Coming at You

2016



Winter Wildlife Day & Snow Day – February 18

Earth Day Celebration – April 22

The Science of Great Beer – May 7

International Migratory Bird Day – May 14

Climate Stewards Lecture Series – To be announced

Laudholm Live Concerts – To be announced

29th Laudholm Nature Crafts Festival – September 10-11

14th Punkinfiddle Family Festival – September 24

Bird Seed Sale – October/November

Receive a monthly email with program reminders. Go to wellsreserve.org/signup