

watermark

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

new energy
pp. 12-13

new research
pp. 4, 8-9

new friends
pp. 14-15

new lessons
pp. 6-7

new numbers
pp. 10-11



watermark

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

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tidbits

Reserve Activities Set through 2018

The reserve's management plan for 2013–2018 awaits only a formal announcement in the *Federal Register* to become official, but we are already pushing ahead on actions specified in the guiding document. The plan can be downloaded at wellsreserve.org/nerr.

Rounding Up for Conservation



Kelli Gardner, vice chairman of the Laudholm board of trustees, gratefully accepted a check from the Kittery Trading Post in November, thanks to the store's customers who "Round Up for Conservation" when making their purchases. That extra change really adds up and we appreciate the unexpected gift!

The Reserve, Televised

Maine Public Television turned its attention to the Saco River estuary this summer and reserve scientists found themselves in front of the lens. Ecological and social sciences are featured in the resulting episode of *Sustainable Maine*, "The Return of a River," now available for viewing online. Find it via wellsreserve.org/saco.

Reserve staff members have also been spotted on Biddeford public access television — research explains estuarine fish studies and Suzanne describes her Arctic expedition.

Mailing Targets Local Watersheds

More than 14,000 households in the Merriland River and Branch Brook

watersheds— including parts of Wells, Sanford, and Kennebunk — are being mailed a substantial survey meant to capture public knowledge and attitude toward climate change issues. This survey is one aspect of a regional collaboration among four National Estuarine Research Reserves, the Consensus Building Institute, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Another element of the New England Climate Adaptation Project (NECAP) is a series of 2-hour **Climate Games** role-play workshops held throughout the past year (the final game is December 10). To reach more people, Coastal Training Associate Annie Cox designed a condensed, 1-minute version of the Climate Game and gave it a test run at a Sustain Southern Maine event in Biddeford. Learn more about NECAP at wellsreserve.org/climate.



Wells Science Heads to San Diego

The big conference for salt marsh research is sponsored every other year by the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation. Thousands of people flocked to San Diego in November for this year's theme: Toward Resilient Coasts & Estuaries, Science for Sustainable Solutions.

Research director Kristin Wilson presented work done at her last outpost, while past research scientist Jennifer Dijkstra spoke on the importance of seaweed to salt marsh communities.

nik'snotebook: Feet on the Ground

Who among us has not wished to fly?

Scott recently went up in our friend David Trucksess's biplane to get the 900-foot perspective on this place.

I just went to a national conference of our 28 research reserves.

We both got the blessing of "the bigger picture."

In these biannual printed newsletters, we give you snapshots of our activities here at the Reserve. Our goal is to intrigue you and inform you and entice you to want to learn more. Giving you the bigger picture is harder; there's so much happening here that these pages aren't enough.

You can learn more. Those who graciously share their email addresses with us get a monthly email newsletter. I write a biweekly column for the Biddeford-Saco *Journal Tribune*, which we "reprint" at wellsreserve.org/blog.

Some days I have my head in the clouds. Some days I'm in the trenches. Most of the time, I want to be in the middle — between the river and the sea, out on our trails, feet on the ground with eyes wide open. Consider that my New Year's resolution — to get out more into the Wells Reserve and all these great lands of the Northeast.

(That's a calendar new year, not fiscal. For more information on our recently completed fiscal year, turn to page 10).

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Partners in research, education, stewardship, and preservation.



The Wells Reserve is one of 28 National Estuarine Research 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.

What's happening at the Wells Reserve at Laudholm? Sign up for Monthly Updates sent by email, Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and subscribe to our blog. Laudholm members can expect Watermark twice a year, in spring and fall, and other occasional "snail" mailings.



Kristin Wilson displays an early affinity for estuaries as she wades in a Cape Cod salt marsh

Some Research Techniques Proposed for Upcoming Projects

use carbon and nitrogen isotopes to learn how prevalent "salters" are among brook trout living in coastal streams

use passive integrated transponders (PIT tags) to track movements of migratory fish at the rebuilt Branch Brook fishway

use computed tomography (CT scans) to analyze soil cores taken from the salt marsh, obtaining results in a matter of hours instead of a week

research / coastal science

Kristin Wilson Settles in as Research Director

This summer Dr. Kristin Wilson left a university in the tropics to become the reserve's new research director. Here she talks about why — and what's next for Wells Reserve science.

Why leave the Virgin Islands to spend your winters in Maine?

I was excited to come back to Maine. From 2003 to 2010 I worked in salt marshes all along the coast, so now I can re-establish connections and hit the ground running. Coming to Wells also lets me jump start some research ideas that I was thinking about while in school.

The reserve is a cool place to work. From a scientist's perspective it's neat that there's both the education program and the coastal training program; I get to interface with different disciplines.



When you were a graduate student working on nearby salt marshes, you visited the reserve's research lab regularly. What are your memories of those years?

Michele Dionne was one of those larger than life characters. She was a great mentor, especially to me as a young woman in science. I was a Graduate Research Fellow here while at UMaine and Michele was on both my master's and doctorate committees. When I was done, I wanted to stay in Maine and work with Michele, but the timing didn't work out.

A year ago last spring I found out Michele was not doing well, so I wrote to let her know what a profound influence she had on me as a scientist and a person. Michele wrote back all bright and sunny, basically saying "let's talk science." A few months later she was gone.

You're building upon an impressive foundation of estuarine science here. Where do you expect to focus the research program in the next five years?

We'll continue doing the things the reserve is known for — salt marsh and fish passage restoration — and start looking further into our large invertebrate and larval fish data sets. We'll plan both short-term experiments and longer-horizon investigations to address issues surrounding climate change and its effects on ecology, human interactions, and land use change. I'm very interested in linking ecology to geology over long time scales.

What inspired you to pursue science?

My high school biology teacher took us out into the field. I remember coming up with questions, being out there with a net, taking measurements... I really got into it.

Where is your favorite spot at the reserve?

The salt marsh. I love being out there.

community / volunteerism**“Here’s to all volunteers, those dedicated people who believe in all work and no pay.” – Robert Orben**

Many, many thanks to our hundreds of volunteers who helped to make 2013 at the Wells Reserve at Laudholm such a success! You have led tours, greeted visitors in the farmhouse and from the Welcome Hut, identified marine invasive species, collected water samples, profiled Maine’s beaches, walked the trails as rangers, operated lawn mowers, landscaped magnificently, cleared trails, fixed things, played piano, advised staff, helped in the offices, and the list goes on. You have come from our local communities, from across the country through Ameri-Corps, and from around the world with the Volunteers for Peace international work camp.

You were responsible for the success of the largest craft festival in years and for a rip-roaring Punkinfiddle. These events simply could not happen without your leadership!

Our volunteer gathering, celebrated on the porch and lawn in August, honored you all, whether you give us two hours or two hundred each year. Nevertheless, we continued our tradition of highlighting a few select volunteers for special recognition (sidebar). Departing trustee Hans Warner, a Portland architect, received the Laudholm Award for his many contributions to the design and function of this wonderful campus, including the Coastal Ecology Center, welcome kiosk, and solar arrays.



Copper Beech Award recipient Lottie Fortune (left) sits with her husband John as her commendation is read.

**Laudholm Award**

Hans Warner

Lily Rice Kendall Volunteer Spirit Award

Mary Anne Hawkins and Vivian Howe

Charles & Rebecca Richardson Education Award

Jeannie Meggison

George & Eleanor Ford Contribution to Research Award

Barb Wood and George Dugovic (Healthy Beaches)

Copper Beech Award

Lottie Fortune

Volunteers Extraordinaire

Brian Fox, Tonyia Gibbons, Scott Negley, Donna Perkins, Jim Slocombe, Betsey Van Gundy

Find Your Volunteer Fit. Call Nancy Viehmann at 646-1555 ext 118.

In 2013,
1,240 students and 160 adults
 from **22 schools** were reached
 through Wells Reserve
 education programs

Acton Elementary, Acton
 White Mountain School, Bethlehem
 St. James School, Biddeford
 Merriconeag Waldorf School, Freeport
 Cocoons Day School, Kennebunk
 Sea Road School, Kennebunk
 The New School, Kennebunk
 Longfellow Elementary, Portland
 Ocean Avenue School, Portland
 Rollinsford Grade School, Rollinsford
 Thornton Academy, Saco
 Young School, Saco
 Sanford High School, Sanford
 St. Thomas School, Sanford
 Willard School, Sanford
 Berwick Academy, South Berwick
 Central Elementary, South Berwick
 Wells Elementary, Wells
 Wells Junior High School, Wells
 Congin Elementary, Westbrook
 Coastal Ridge Elementary, York
 York Middle School, York

Is your local school on the list?

Our education team has worked with teachers for more than 20 years to offer unique classroom and field trip opportunities for all levels K–12, like:

- Exploring Estuaries
- Microscopic Marvels
- Wild Friends in Wild Places
- Custom Guided Programs
- Classroom Kits

Call 646-1555 for a brochure to **share with a teacher** or visit wellsreserve.org for details.



Looking for Hands-On Learning?

Look no further than the Wells Reserve at Laudholm. Summers here are wicked fun, with Junior Researchers and Just for Kids and oodles of family-friendly offerings. We'll have next summer's camp schedule up by February and most other summer programs by April. In the meantime, remember we're not idle in winter. Check out these programs for February vacation...

Moonlit Snowshoe Walk, Feb 13, 5pm — Lunar folklore and gravity science. Snowshoes available.

Winter Trekkers, Feb 18, 9-3 (ages 7 to 12) — Detective skills, scat, endangered wildlife.

Snow Survivors, Feb 19, 9-3 (ages 7 to 12) — Practical strategies, scavenger hunt, orienteering.

Winter Wildlife Day, Feb 20, 10-2 (snow date Feb 21) — Live animals, tracking walks, kid crafts, cocoa. Bring skis, sleds, snowshoes! *With Center for Wildlife and York County Audubon.*

How can kids not have fun at summer camp with a crew like this? Meet chief tree hugger Suzanne Kahn, 2013 summer camp coordinator Ellen Gawarkiewicz, education associate Kate Reichert, and summer intern (and Hollings Scholar) Benjamin Sevey.



All-Star Panel Addresses Food Security in a Changing Climate

The auditorium filled on August 27 for our most popular Climate Stewards Lecture of the summer. Farmer Mort Mather, Maine Farmland Trust president John Piotti, and Representative Chellie Pingree joined moderator Nik Charov to speak about the future of farming in Maine, how upstream farms can affect downstream environmental quality, and how sustainable agriculture is within reach.

We don't farm here anymore, but that doesn't mean we can't sow the seeds of understanding.



All-Seasons Garden Grows in Importance as Education Outlet

Hoop houses are hot! Master Gardeners from the UMaine Cooperative Extension, York County, led two sold-out workshops in hoop-house construction this summer. The hoop houses are alongside the newly expanded All-Season Garden, made possible this year with the generous support of Anchor Fence and Bonanza Steakhouse.

Master Gardeners are planning to use the hoop houses to demonstrate how simple, portable structures can help Mainers extend the growing season and continue harvesting hardy vegetables throughout the winter.



Garden Workshops 2013

The following topics were covered during talks and workshops presented this year by York County Master Gardeners affiliated with the UMaine Cooperative Extension.

- Sheet Mulching and Home Composting
- Drip Irrigation
- Yardscaping
- Four-Season Gardening
- Three Sisters Gardening and Companion Planting

Planning is under way for the 2014 series. Please let us know what subjects you're interested in exploring.

wells harbor dredge



Heavy equipment operators manage dredge spoils on Drakes Island beach.

A pipeline laid out along the beach carries a slurry of sand and sea water about a mile along the shore, where it is deposited in pools and piles. As water drains away, the sand is leveled.

A short section of dune at the south end of Laudholm Beach will also be elevated a few feet using dredged material.

Maintenance dredging of Wells Harbor's federal navigation channels began in October and is expected to take 2 to 3 months. About 150,000 cubic yards of mostly sandy sediment will be removed from channels and town mooring areas. It is being pumped about a mile south to Wells Beach and a mile north to Drakes Island to build up those beaches.

This is the seventh dredge of Wells Harbor in the past 20 years. The last operation was in late spring 2012. This year's dredge, overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is slated to cost just over \$2.68 million, most of which is coming from Hurricane Sandy relief funds.

As part of an agreement to allow an earlier dredge to proceed, a Scientific Review Committee was established in 1998 to judge whether dredging was having an impact on the adjacent salt marsh. The committee, which included the

Rebuilding the Branch Brook Fishway

Just upstream from the K/K/W Water District facility along Route 1 is a small dam across Branch Brook, one of two main tributaries to the Little River estuary. A structure for fish passage was installed along one side of the dam in 1954 and revitalized in 1995, but has been in disrepair for many years. Most migratory fish can no longer pass the dam; they are prevented from reaching 95 percent of Branch Brook's stream habitat.

In a partnership with the water district and Maine Rivers, the reserve has attracted \$40,000 from funders including The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Maine Coastal Program to rebuild the fishway. The work should be complete before the end of 2013.

In pre-restoration fish surveys, reserve scientists documented 13 fish species in the estuarine and freshwater portions of Branch Brook, including a strong population of brook trout. The team also assessed stream habitat and riparian conditions, finding spawning substrates and riffle habitat favored by both brook trout and sea lamprey.

The research program is planning post-restoration fish monitoring in the spring. We'll have an update online and in the next *Watermark*.



A 2008 photograph of the ineffective fish ladder at the Branch Brook dam. Reconstructing the fishway will allow migratory fish to pass upstream for the first time in years.

In this detail of the Webhannet River estuary from the Wells Reserve boundary map, dark shading represents water and light shading represents management responsibility. The federal navigation project is excluded from the reserve's management area.

reserve's research director, reviewed extensive monitoring data and, in January 2007, determined there was no significant degradation of the marsh or wetlands as a result of the dredging.

The reserve's research program continues its routine monitoring in the Webhannet estuary. Water quality has been measured using automated dataloggers at the harbor docks since 1995 as part of the System-Wide Monitoring Program. Frequent sampling of fish larvae is now in its sixth year and marine invasive species have been monitored since 2005. These efforts have been intensified before and during the dredge and will continue after the job is done.

By comparing information across years, our science team will have a more complete understanding of short- and long-term impacts of dredging.



FY 2013 Financial Report

(July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)



The crafts festival, Punkinfiddle, live concerts, hosted events, and weddings contribute up to half of the Trust's income every year. More than \$100,000 in revenue comes through wedding rentals alone.

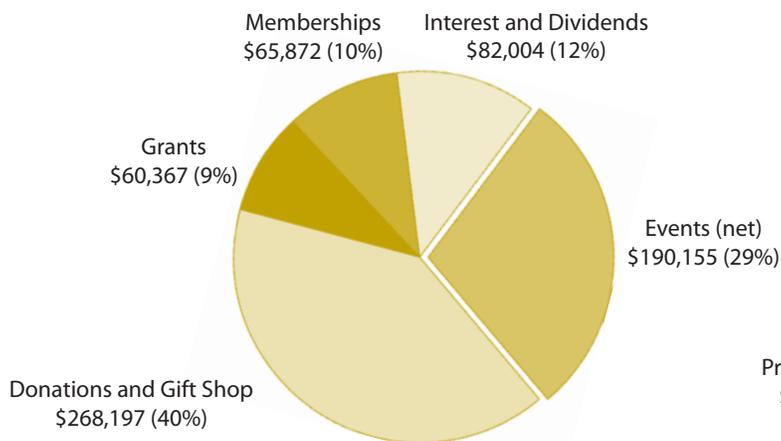
Let me not to the marriage of true minds
admit impediments.

W. Shakespeare, Sonnet 116

laudholmtrust

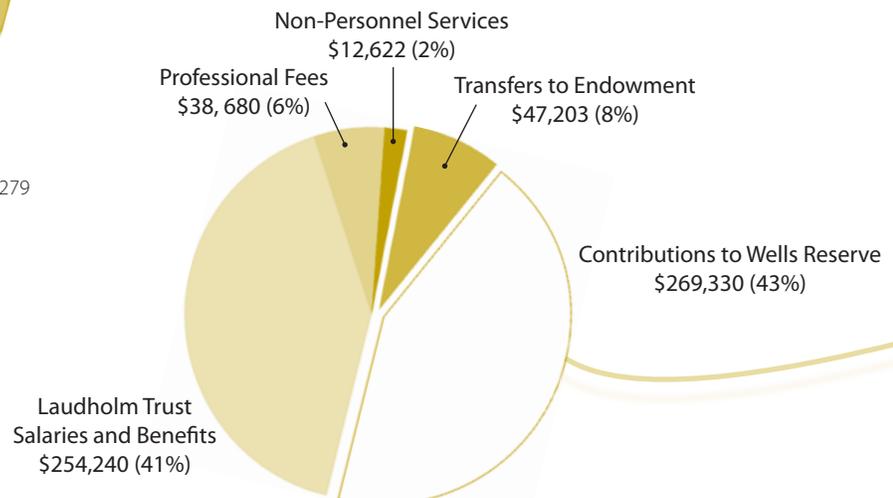
The public-private partnership between the Laudholm Trust and the Wells Reserve makes this place and its programs possible. Essential local support raised by the nonprofit Trust matches federal and other competitive grants to fund the operations of the Reserve. Neither organization is possible without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

Revenues*

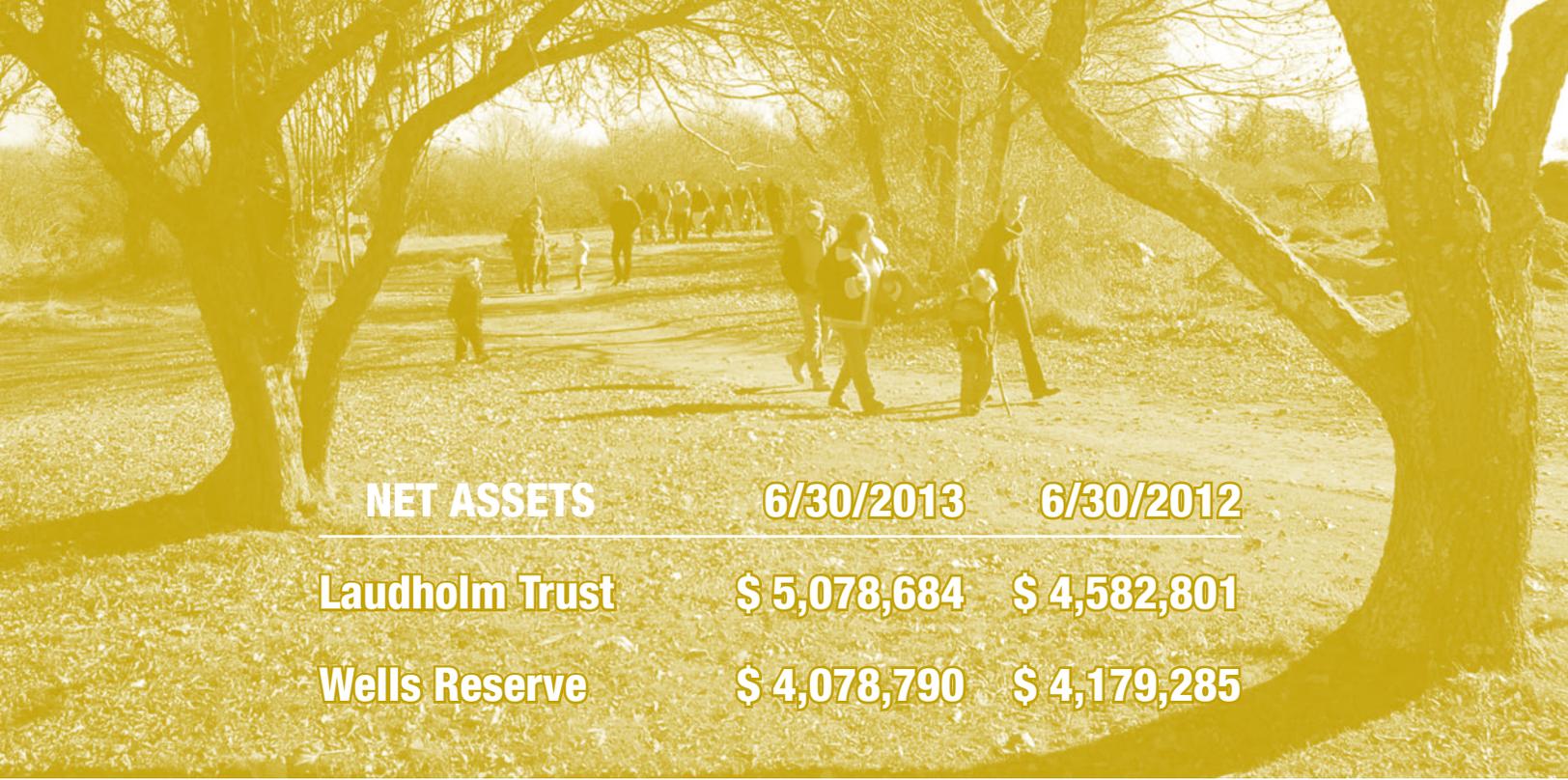


* Laudholm Trust revenues do not include \$480,279 in gains on investments and trusts.

Expenses



Audited financial statements for the Wells Reserve and reviewed financial statements for the Laudholm Trust are available online and at our offices. The above condensed information has been derived from those statements.

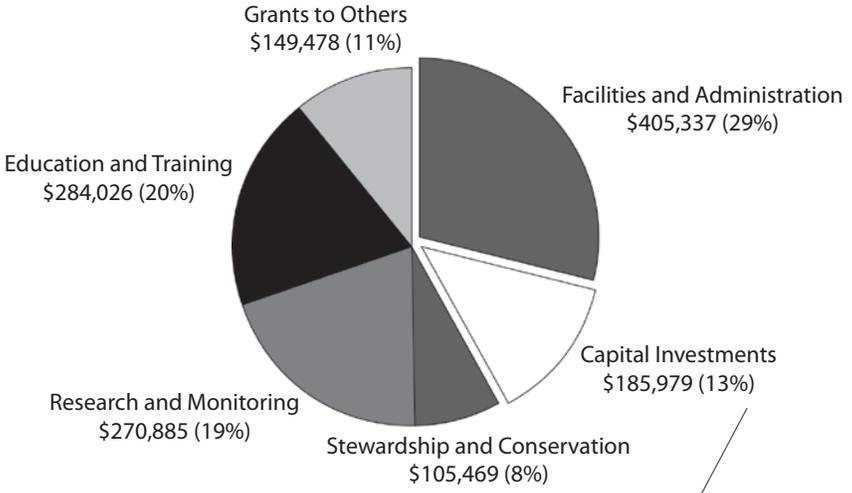


NET ASSETS	6/30/2013	6/30/2012
Laudholm Trust	\$ 5,078,684	\$ 4,582,801
Wells Reserve	\$ 4,078,790	\$ 4,179,285

wellsreserve

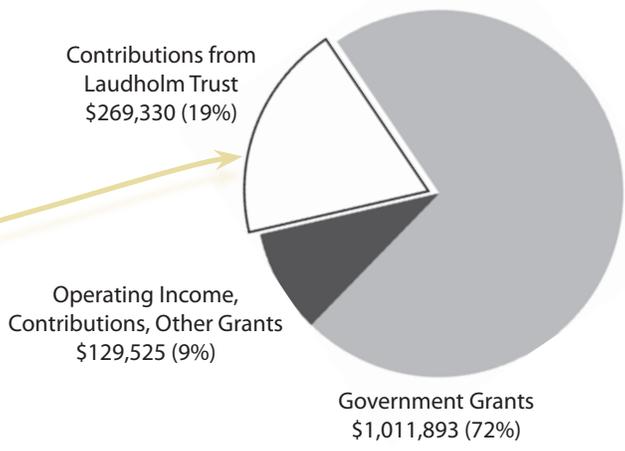
The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve works to expand knowledge about coasts and estuaries, engage people in environmental learning, and involve communities in conserving natural resources, all with a goal of protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems around the Gulf of Maine.

Expenses*



* This Wells Reserve expense chart excludes \$296,048 in depreciation.

Revenues



This year, capital investments started paying back immediately — we make hay (watts) whenever the sun shines.

*conservation / environmental stewardship***Energy Initiative: Conversion and Conservation**

At the start of 2012, we embarked on an ambitious energy conservation and conversion initiative with three goals:

1. Begin the conversion to renewable energy for electricity
2. Conserve the energy we use for lighting and heating our buildings
3. Make our operational practices more sustainable

In less than 2 years, we have taken a great leap forward in both conversion and conservation.

Energy Initiative Part 1: Conversion

As shown in the last *Watermark*, we have focused our renewable energy efforts on solar, which now supplies more than half of our electricity. To supplement our on-site

generation, we also purchase electricity through a producer that provides wind power, so all of our electricity now comes from renewable sources.

Our next goal is to produce 100% of our electricity through on-site solar generation.

Energy Initiative Part 2: Conservation

Even before we launched this aggressive energy initiative, we realized we could cut our consumption of both electricity and fossil fuels. Over the past 18 months, we reduced our annual use of propane and heating oil by 20 percent and electrical energy by 22 percent. How did we achieve such dramatic cuts?

- Smarter Operations: We limited the use of public spaces between late



The access ramp and north wall of the farmhouse are receiving some needed attention before the snow flies. Volunteers removed the old ramp and rail just before Thanksgiving. Rebuilding and replacing clapboards should take a few weeks. Next year, it's on to the water tower, itself seriously wanting repair.



In June, the dormitory at Alheim Commons was equipped with a solar panel array capable of producing 16,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year.

December and the end of March, closing buildings — and turning down the heat and keeping the lights off — when not in use. Staff also moved to a 4-day work week or worked from home on Fridays.

- **Energy Efficiency:** We replaced two fossil-fuel water heaters and four old refrigerators with new Energy Star models. We replaced inefficient light fixtures with efficient ones. And the staff was more mindful of shutting off lights and computers when not in use.
- **Heating System Alterations:** We installed new thermostat controls in all buildings, allowing us to better regulate heat. We also replaced an old, inefficient oil-fired boiler in one of our buildings with an efficient propane unit.

What's Ahead for the Energy Initiative?

Now that we generate electricity on site, we plan to use solar energy instead of fossil fuel when heating our buildings during the spring and fall “shoulder” months. If we are able to install additional solar panels, we

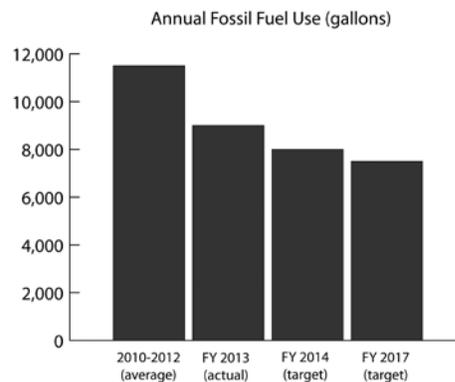
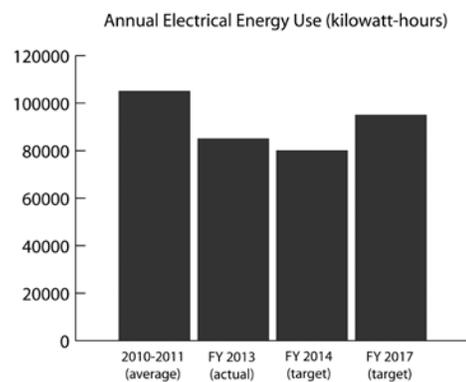


The Maine Coastal Ecology Center supports 142 250-watt solar panels capable of generating about 37,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year.

anticipate completely eliminating the use of fossil fuels except during winter.

While we have accomplished a great deal in a short time, we will continue our quest to conserve and convert, searching for efficiencies and expanding our capacity so we can stretch dollars and shrink our carbon footprint.

Reserve Director Paul Dest welcomes inquiries about the energy initiative at 646-1555 ext 124 or dest@wellsnerr.org.



Conservation measures have reduced electricity and fossil fuel use by 20 percent compared to levels used prior to launching our energy initiative. Fossil fuel use should continue to decline in coming years, while electrical energy use is expected to rise together with our expanded reliance upon the renewable source.

A ReVision Energy electrician wires the solar array and power inverters at the Coastal Ecology Center.



Welcome to Our New Members!

Madeline Akel
Miss Sibel Alpaslan
Kathy Anderson
Lisa Aubin
Bill & Cassie Barnar
Sharon Barrett
Wayne & Mary Bateman
Ellen Beals
Richard Becklund & Emily Stratis
Richard & Marsha Bellsey
Jim & Leeli Bonney
Betsy Borling
Linda Bors
Henry Bourgeois
Diana Boyle
William Breen
Carol Brennan
Karen Caprio
Jean M Carey
Laura Cleminson
Ms. Jamie Cohen
Diane & Fred Conley
Patricia Coulson
Annie Cox
Carol Crawford
Margherita Cunningham
Dorothy & John Curley
Lynne Currier
Bill Darrin
Shirley Deschenes
Frank Dobai
Meaghan Donaghy & Bradford Parrish
Susan Downing
Kat Dumais
Jane Dwyer
Deborah Erickson-Irons
Julie & Paul Feingold
Marcie C. Ferris
Donald Fields
William Flood
Nicholas Foster
Ruthann Fox & Family
Jane Fraser
Ruth Furman
Stacy Gallagher & Jay Anderson
Christian Ganem
Charlie & Jenny Gaylord

Memorial Gifts

Alice F. Muchnic
Beverly Whitman Loller
Georgie Fisher
Mary Reardon Gaffney
Tanya Elizabeth Sindeband
Theodore Exford

Celebratory Gifts

Cormac Mallett in honor of his birthday
June Ficker for speaking about bird
banding to the Seacoast Garden Club
Lyman Page for his service to York County
Audubon
Paul Wells for his service to York County
Audubon

Susan George
George & Nancy Geyerhahn
Eric Graffam
Carol Greene
Rev. Constance C. Greenhalge
Linda Littlefield Grenfell
Michael Guy
Rob Hanson
David & Lucy Hardy
Donald Harty
Shirley K. Hazen
Dorothy J. Healy
Carolyn Hemstedt
Maury Hepner
Bob & Jen Hicks
Christaine Hilbrig-Tauroney
Pamela Holmes
Stephen & Joelyn Huebner
Ken Hughes
Kathy Hurley
Robert & Emily Hurstak
Norma J. Jackson
Valerie Jackson & Michael Turrisi
Pat Jacobellis
Candace Jaffe
Claudia Jarvis
Charlie Jenkins
Edith Jenkins
Denise P. Johnson
Lisa Jones
Richard C Kemp
Richard & Irene Knight
Anthony Lacertosa
Christopher & Denise LaRoche
Becky & Scott Lehmann
Keith & Stacey Lemmer
Rhona Lishinsky
Thelma Maling
Cormac & Denise Mallett
Frank & Martha McDougald
Julie & Steve McLeod
Karen McNabb-Noon
Mary Ellen Megg
Jeffrey W. Meyer
Lesley Meyer
Beth Millian & Jonathan Hawkins
Thomas Milligan

In-kind Contributions

Maine Magazine
for a full page advertisement
Xanthe Charov
for graphic design services
Kitchen Chicks Catering
for food for Volunteer Recognition
Captain Lord Mansion
for a gift certificate for a fundraising raffle
Gray Farms
for flowers for Punkinfiddle
Chase Farms
for pumpkins for Punkinfiddle
Jo-Ann's Gardens
for flowers for Punkinfiddle

Jeff Morin
Arthur & Diane Nawrocki
Mary Jean Nelson
Mary Jo Nezelek-Feroleta
Stephen Norris & Susan Keefer
Jim & Cindy Nothe
Robert M. Parker
Richard & Maryanne Perrin
Donald & Charlotte Peters
Sarah Pinkerton
Gregory Pratt
Sarah Proach
Jane & Larry Reed
Robert & Norma Rhodes
Brandy Rogers
Regina Ryan & Michael Rattigan
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Michele Tourangeau
Kim Vallas
Will Ward
John & Carol Wassler
Dawn J. Werner
Kate Hanley & Cliff White
Bruce Whittier
Stephanie & George Williams
Kristin Wilson
Hannah Winer & Nathaniel Brewster
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Wolfe

Businesses

Kennebunkport Resort Collection
Peoples Choice Credit Union
Seacoast Biplane Tours

Herb's Seafood
for pumpkins for Punkinfiddle
Marshall Rental Center, Inc.
for a 30x60 tent rental
Seacoast Biplane Tours
for a flight for taking aerial photos
Joyce Shea
for a television
Susan Downing
for a lovely photo of Laudholm in
winter

thankyou

Gifts received June 26 through November 26, 2013



laudholm **live**

Bringing Back Laudholm Live

Music returned to the Wells Reserve at Laudholm this summer as we welcomed both Venti Cordi and the DaPonte String Quartet to the big barn. Both concerts were well received by enthusiastic audiences and the performers enjoyed the intimate space and excellent acoustics. We intend to expand our musical offerings in 2014, so a committee will soon begin planning a concert calendar of nature-themed performances.

'Twas a superlative 26th Laudholm Nature Crafts Festival!

- 2nd largest attendance this century (~3,500)
- Most crafters ever (109)
- Largest gross profit ever
- Oodles of new and returning members, some rejoining after many years
- 219 high-fiving volunteers
- 30 businesses donating goods
- 104 raffle items donated, valued at \$8,324

About that raffle: We tried something new this year, by awarding three People's Choice awards based on item popularity. We thank all artisans who donated while congratulating these inaugural winners:

- Festival Favorite — Garden Guardians (Valerie McCaffrey, pictured)
- Best New Artist — Scrapwood Renaissance (Eric Graffam)
- Specialty Vendor — Sugar Hill Maple Products (Ashley & Leah Gerry)



crafts fest



punkin **fiddle**

Outstanding Weather Brings Punkinfiddle to Its Peak

Sunny, high 70s, blue skies. It was a stunning day. About 1,200 adults paid at the gate, so figuring an average carload of four we estimate more than 2,000 people attended. That would make it the largest Punkinfiddle since the first... and it sure felt like it!

Thanks to such a wonderful turnout, we believe the 11th Punkinfiddle brought the greatest gross profit in a decade. That's fantastic, but seeing smiles everywhere is its own reward.

Dear Santa,

We have been very good this year. You are very nice.

If it is not too much trouble, we would really like these things.

Electric Candles for the House Windows

Pickup Truck

Ride-on Lawnmower

Money in Year-End Appeal Envelopes

Red Rider Air Rifle with a Compass in the Stock

If all that is too much, you can skip the air rifle.

Thank You!

All of Us



happy holidays!

Trails are open for skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking from 7 am to sunset every day.

To conserve energy, the Visitor Center will be closed from mid December until the end of March, except during February school vacation.

Questions? Check wellsreserve.org, ask on Facebook, or call 207-646-1555.