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summer 2012

directions

Journal of the Association of Nature Center Administrators

Sandy Bivens is Awarded the ANCA Nature Center Leadership Award for 2012!

Vera Vollbrecht
Director
Warner Park Nature Center
Nashville, TN

ANCA's board of directors has unanimously approved Sandy Bivens, superintendant of nature centers, Metro Parks in Nashville, TN as recipient of the 2012 ANCA Nature Center Leadership Award. This award recognizes outstanding professionals in the field of nature center administration.

This year marks Sandy's 34th year working with the nature center program in Nashville, TN. During this time, she has made outstanding contributions to the field of environmental education and nature center administration, and has earned the respect of her colleagues and the general public locally, statewide, and across the country. She is most deserving of this award and honor bestowed by our professional association.

photo courtesy of Nashville Metro Parks

Sandy Bivens (with Louisiana waterthrush in hand) is super intendant of nature centers, Metro Parks in Nashville, TN and recipient of the ANCA 2012 Nature Center Leadership Award.

I know from experience that Sandy truly represents the best of what it means to be a nature center administrator.

Beginning as a parks and recreation administration intern to Metro Parks from the University of Missouri in 1976, Sandy has had a distinguished career of increasing administrative responsibilities as a naturalist, assistant manager, and then director of the award-winning Warner Park Nature Center with Nashville's Metro Parks.

In May of 2006, she was promoted to superintendent of nature centers. In this role she provided

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Founded in 1989, the Association of Nature Center Administrators is a private non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting best leadership and management practices for nature and environmental learning centers.

Serving nearly 500 organizations, ANCA is the leader in the profession.

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photo by Wael Abdelgawad

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Director's Notes

the Ever Green Society

Jen Levy
Executive Director
Association of Nature Center Administrators
Logan, UT

In the last issue of *Directions*, you heard about a new initiative for advancing the annual fund of ANCA. The Ever Green Society recognizes gifts of $1,000 or more and we all have the opportunity to become charter members. Charter members will be recognized as charter members forever. Their names will appear on the ANCA website and in other ANCA media and communications. After the initial charter period, annual gifts of $1,000 will qualify a donor as an annual member of the Ever Green Society.

The charter membership in the Ever Green Society is a great way to ask family, friends and other potential donors for a one-time contribution to an organization which you love and does the incredible work of supporting nature centers around the world.

The ANCA development committee has quietly been working on asking people to become charter members of the Ever Green Society. The following questions and answers will clarify some of the issues donors have asked and will give you more information. We hope you will seriously consider a gift to the Ever Green Society and if this Q&A does not provide the details you need, please call!

• What is the Ever Green Society (EGS)?

EGS is a giving society within the ANCA annual fund which recognizes gifts of $1,000 or more.

• What does it mean to become a charter member of EGS?

Charter members are recognized forever as those who established the fund with their gifts of $1,000 or more.

• After the charter year, what does EGS mean?

After the initial charter period, annual tax deductible donations of $1,000 or more made in a single fiscal year either as a single payment or multiple payments will qualify a donor as an annual member of the Ever Green Society.

• How will EGS charter members be recognized?

Charter members will be recognized as charter members forever. Their names will appear on the ANCA website, in annual reports and in other ANCA media and communications dealing with fund development and in a special power point presentation at the annual Summit.

• How will EGS annual gifts be recognized?

Annual gifts will be recognized in ANCA's annual report, on the website, at the annual Summit and in other ANCA media and communications dealing with fund development.

• If I have given $1,000 in a single fiscal year prior to the announcement of EGS, does my gift

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count as a charter member?

A tax deductible donation of $1,000 or more given in a single fiscal year between July, 2010 and December, 2012 qualify as charter membership.

• When does the opportunity to become a charter member end?

The opportunity to make a qualifying gift or to pledge a qualifying gift is December 31, 2012.

• If I make a pledge for my qualifying gift, how long do I have to pay the $1000?

The entire pledge must be paid by the end of June 2013. ANCA staff will work with you to create a payment plan which meets your needs.

• I have made an initial contribution during 2011-2012 which is less that $1,000. May I bundle that gift with an additional gift for a total of $1,000 to qualify for charter membership?

Yes, you may. You can talk to me about exercising this option.

• Must my payment or pledge payments be a cash gift?

No, you may also arrange for a planned gift or donation of stock. If you plan to do this, call me to talk about the details.

• May I donate other items of equal value as my payment such as land, livestock, or yachts?

At this time, ANCA does not accept these forms of donations.

• Why is ANCA creating EGS?

Our organization has evolved from a working board without staff to one with three staff and a growing need to provide increased services and products to you, our members.

A donation to the Ever Green Society is a great vehicle for asking family, friends, and other potential donors for a one-time contribution or multiple year contributions to support the incredible work of nature centers around the world. The charter membership is a wonderful mechanism for making a legacy gift which will be recognized in perpetuity. The Ever Green Society will launch our journey into a more sophisticated annual fund development plan and secure increased revenues to support all the services and products available to our members.

• What if I know someone who might make a contribution but feel uncomfortable asking them? Where can I go for help?

If you find that you are not the most appropriate person to make a particular ask or feel you would like some coaching, the simplest approach would be to contact me. You may also contact board president, Jim Berry or Pat Welch, vp for development. We will look forward to working with you!

• How will ANCA use the EGS contributions?

We all know from operating our own centers that securing revenue for general operating support is very challenging. Unless donor specified, EGS contributions will be used for general operating support.

• How many people are already EGS members?

As of May 31, 2012, there are 22 charter members of the Ever Green Society. Those of us soliciting the gifts are so humbled and gratified by the response. We would love to see your name announced at the Summit!

• Who do I contact to make a gift to the Ever Green Society?

The simplest approach would be to contact me. You may also contact our president, Jim Berry or Pat Welch, vp for development.

A special thank you to ANCA's development committee, chaired by Pat Welch, for all their hard work on this.

We look forward to talking with you!

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Award (continued from page 1)

vision and leadership for the simultaneous design, construction, programming, and hiring of staff for a network of three additional nature centers in the Nashville Metro Park system which are now open and operating. These centers include Shelby Bottoms Nature Center, Bells Bend Outdoor Center, and Beaman Park Nature Center. Each new center was designed with the intention of being used as a model for environmental sustainability, and each is certified EarthCraft construction. These nature centers also tout one showcased sustainable feature each – Shelby has a green roof, Bells Bend photovoltaic panels, and Beaman a geothermal HVAC system.

Because of her outstanding experience and skills in nature center administration, Sandy also now manages the facilities and staff of two additional interpretive facilities, both historic sites, the Fort Negley Visitor Center and Two Rivers Mansion.

photo courtesy of Nashville Metro Parks

Beaman Park Nature Center serve as a jump-off point for exploring more than 1,700 acres of Nashville's Beaman Park.

Most recently, Sandy has moved Nashville's nature centers into the lead of activities embracing the international children and nature movement. In 2008, under Sandy's leadership, the Warner Park Nature Center constructed a designated nature play area on its campus, informed and inspired by the work of Ken Finch of Greenhearts I.N.C. and other ANCA leaders. Sandy first learned of such spaces at an ANCA Summit and brought her inspiration back to Nashville. She is currently involved in developing a nature play area at the

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Award (continued from page 4)

Shelby Bottoms Nature Center.

Sandy's leadership also assisted in providing a free public lecture by Richard Louv in Nashville which subsequently led to the development of the TN Every Child Outdoors Coalition, led by staff at the Warner Park Nature Center.

Sandy has been invited to serve as an advisor for nature centers and staff throughout Tennessee, particularly influencing the programming and staff of facilities in Tennessee State Parks. She was also asked to consult on plans for a new nature center in Germantown, TN. She has strong, ongoing relationships with nature centers across the state, and regularly supports and networks with nature center administrators in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis, Kingsport, and Townsend, just to name a few.

Sandy's membership in ANCA has greatly influenced her growth and development as a nature center administrator. Most recently, her ANCA connections led to her serving as a team member on a Peer Consult, an experience she applies to management of facilities at home. Sandy also contributed to ANCA's Guide to Best Practices: Programs, providing the section on "Drop-In Visitors" (p.61). And she participated this past winter in ANCA's strategic planning meetings.

For the past 33 years, since 1978, Sandy has been a member and leader with the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association. She has served the organization and her professional colleagues in many capacities including chair of

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photo courtesy of Nashville Metro Parks

Warner Park Nature Center offer a wide range of environmental education programs, school field trips, educator training workshops, outdoor recreation programs and other special activities for people of all ages. From the nature center you can explore nearly 2,700 acres of Nashville's Percy Warner and Edwin Warner Parks.

Award (continued from page 5)

the legislative committee, and has twice been appointed as the annual conference program chair. She was elected the chair of the resource management section, and in 1990 was honored as the recipient of the Resource Management Award of Excellence.

Sandy's outstanding organizational and managerial skills contributed to the highly successful National Recreation and Parks Association Annual Congress hosted in Nashville in 1999.

In 2007 Sandy received the "Fellow Award" from the TN Parks and Recreation Association, the highest honor bestowed by this organization for lifetime achievement in the field of parks and recreation. Sandy also received the 2007 "Environmental Education Administrator of the Year" award from the TN Environmental Education Association. Both of these awards honor her achievements of 34 years as a leader and innovator in the field of nature center administration.

Sandy has also been a leader in understanding the value and benefits of partnerships with other organizations. She was directly involved in the formation of the Friends of Warner Parks and the Friends of Beaman Park, both non-profit organizations that support the Nashville Metro Parks to preserve, protect, and program two of Nashville's premiere natural areas. Sandy works very closely with both groups on park advocacy, volunteer opportunities, and capital improvement projects. In the case of the Friends of Warner Parks, this resulted in the privately funded Susanne Warner Bass Learning Center and campus improvements valued at over $2 million, and the purchase of over 420 acres of land including a large stand of old growth forest that will be donated to the Metro Parks system.

photo courtesy of Nashville Metro Parks

Shelby Bottoms Nature Center operates as a Nashville GreenBikes station at which residents and visitors of Nashville can "check-out" a free bike to ride on the Shelby Bottoms and other connected Greenways and bike lanes.

Sandy has been an active leader, board member, and committee member with the Tennessee Environmental Education Association, helping to promote the highest standards and collaboration of nature centers on a statewide basis. In recognition of her accomplishments, the organization selected Sandy as the TEEA Environmental Educator of the year in 1995, and for Special Recognition for Excellence in 2003.

Nature center professionals across the state of Tennessee regularly call upon Sandy for input, advice, and consultation related to the development of new nature centers or the revamping of existing facilities and staff. The Warner Park Nature Center staff regularly visits nature centers across the state/region to exchange ideas with other nature center professionals and facilities.

One of Sandy's most outstanding professional contributions is in the area of research. She obtained her license as a Master Bird Bander in 1982 from the Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and established a bird banding station at Warner Park that same year. She now has six sub-permitees under her master permit. She oversees the annual Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship study at Warner Parks, as well as the annual Breeding Bird Survey.

Sandy is in charge of the Migratory Bird Casualty Project that has been ongoing at the WSM Tower for decades. And in 2001 Sandy trained under renowned hummingbird expert Bob Sargent,

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and expanded her license to include the study and banding of hummingbirds. She also oversees the permitting and management of research projects in Metro Parks natural areas that are conducted by students and faculty from area high schools and universities.

Her philosophy of offering these natural areas as "living laboratories" for study and research results in better knowledge of the natural resources for which the Metro Parks Department is responsible. Those permitted must agree to conditions that protect these natural areas where research is conducted, and must provide a copy of their findings to be kept in the nature center library for future use and reference. Research subjects have included pollination, owls, cerulean warblers, mistletoe, radon, mosquitoes, and many other subjects.

Another of Sandy's greatest strengths is the priority she gives to training and professional development. Setting a good example herself, in recent years she has attended the TRPA Annual Conference, the Association of Nature Center Administrators Summit, and the Annual Meeting of the Inland Bird Banding Association. Former Metro Parks Director Roy Wilson appointed Sandy to his committee that organized professional training at the department's annual Supervisor's Retreat. She has twice been appointed by TRPA presidents to serve as the program chair for annual TRPA conferences. Sandy encourages and provides opportunities for her staff to participate in professional development training provided through Metro Government including the Metropolitan Management Institute and a wide variety of other classes and topics.

Sandy's career includes exemplary contributions to furthering the goals and public image of effective parks and recreation services and professionalism. She has been a frequent contributor to publications such as the *Tennessee Conservationist* and the *Migrant*. Articles in the *Tennessean* and the *City Paper* routinely cover the programs and projects offered through her management. Sandy has created partnerships and hosted forums with numerous organizations and agencies at the Learning Center that she manages, including the Cumberland River Compact, the Harpeth River Watershed Association, the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council, the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the Green Builders Association, and many more.

Vera Vollbrecht is the director of Warner Park Nature Center in Nashville, TN. She is a past-president of the Tennessee Environmental Education Association and past Co-Chair of the Tennessee Every Child Outdoors Coalition. She has served on the board of the Cumberland River Compact, and has presented at ANCA, NAAEE, NAI, and the 2010 Tennessee Every Child Outdoors Governor's Summit. Vera is passionate about connecting children with the outdoors and has been involved with the development and success of two natural play areas in Nashville.

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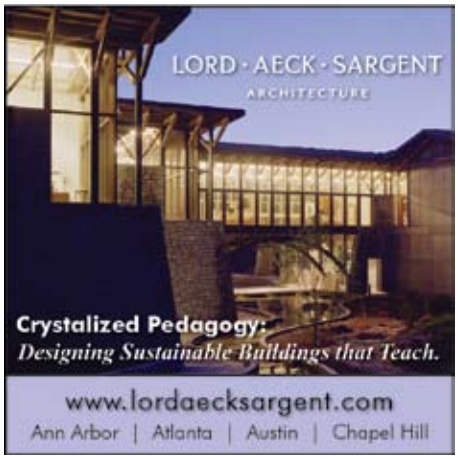

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From The Field:

The Story of a Solar Array

Gordon Maupin
Executive Director
The Wilderness Center
Wilmot, OH

Sometimes it is hard to know when a story begins. This one probably started during the energy crisis of the early 1970s. The Wilderness Center (TWC) was founded by a couple of visionary college professors in 1964. During the 1970's energy crisis, people began thinking of ways to conserve energy or generate renewable energy. When that short-term crisis passed, most people forgot about renewable energy. Ronald Regan famously removed solar panels from the White House. (ANCA members will appreciate the fact that the White House solar panels are in use at Indian Creek Nature Center in Iowa.) Gas-guzzler SUVs became the norm.

In 1981, one of those college professors, Arnold W. Fritz, hired me as the executive director. Soon after I started, Arnold and I were reviewing a particularly ugly electric bill. We had an all-electric building and the cost was gutting our budget. Arnold mentioned that he longed for solar power because it would save money once it was installed and would also serve as a wonderful teaching exhibit.

Of course, it remained a back burner idea. Solar was expensive; fossil fuels were cheap; photovoltaic technology was far from mature. We all grew older over the next 30 years. Arnold's health failed and he passed away. But, Arnold's vision for solar power at TWC survived through me.

Then in about 2009, it began coming together. Science confirmed that human caused global warming is a fact. Energy kept increasing in cost. Environmental damage from fossil fuel extraction seemed to mount a new disaster every day. The technology and economics of photovoltaics became attractive. Today solar panels cost less than a third of their price of just a few years ago.

photo courtesy of The Wilderness Center

The Wilderness Center's Alfred W. Fritz Solar Array is a tribute to the center's founder, creates clean power, and makes a statement to arriving visitors.

Ohio and several other states passed laws requiring public utilities to have a small percentage of renewable energy in their portfolios. Some included a provision that utilities could purchase renewable energy credits from producers of renewable energy if they didn't produce enough on their own. Some states created grant funding to support renewable energy. Federal tax credits also became available.

TWC began doing background work to install photovoltaics. Then Ohio's state grants disappeared; solar slid on the back burner once again.

In late 2010, I received a phone call from a board member. A potential donor asked if The Wilderness Center had a project that needed some funds. A donor wished to honor Arnold Fritz. The donor was a trustee of the Daniel M. & Maureen O. Gunn Foundation, a small private foundation that was closing and disbursing its funds. The donor had known Arnold as a young person and Arnold had a positive influence on his life. So much so, he was seeking a way to honor Arnold's memory. About $65,000 was available.

We pitched the idea of a solar array and both the donor and Arnold's family loved the idea of naming a solar array in his honor. We began reviewing alternatives and discovered that $65,000 didn't go very far. Financial realities and the laws of physics quickly

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banished the idea of an off-grid system with battery storage. It appeared that $65,000 would fund a relatively small array that would serve an educational function and help save a little on electricity.

We began talking about a low-key "donate a solar panel" fund raising effort to boost the funds available. We were confident our members would come through for another $20,000.

A 10kw array project was coming into focus.

Then we learned about a solar project being installed at the nearby College of Wooster. It was a very large solar array being installed on a new building. The College was claiming the bragging rights of having the largest solar array on any college in the nation. However, the funding mechanism really caught our attention. Like TWC, the college was a nonprofit organization. Federal tax credits were useless. But, the college partnered with a for-profit company. Investors in the for-profit company could use the credits.

The college had created a non-profit/for profit partnership to fund the solar array.

There are a number of for-profit companies that can work with nonprofit organizations on solar energy. The agreements are complex. We negotiated with a two different companies before reaching an agreement along these lines.

- TWC would contribute $84,000.
- TWC would provide a location for the solar array. (After reviewing alternatives, we decided to install a carport style array in our overflow parking area. This increased the cost by about $20,000 but would be more efficient and less intrusive. (The cooler a solar panel, the more efficiently it performs thus ground-mounted arrays produce more electricity than roof mounted arrays.) Regardless, our Interpretive Building Roof was too shaded and carport style in our main parking area may have been spectacularly unattractive. We did not wish to sacrifice any of our natural land for a ground mounted array and that would have required mowing and fencing.
- The Wilderness Center would buy electricity from the array at a price competitive with current electric rates. The price will increase 3% each year, a rate similar to what could be expected in utility rate increases. (This turned out to be very complicated guesswork as rate increases have not been consistent and TWC is on a demand meter that can greatly affect rates month by month.)
- Net metering would be installed so that when energy production at The Wilderness Center exceeded consumption our electricity would feed the grid and the meter would run backwards saving electrical costs. There is also the potential that the array would save money by reducing peak demands.
- At the end of eight years, The Wilderness Center could buy the solar array for 10% of the initial value of the system.
- The for-profit partner could sell renewable energy credits.
- The for-profit partner would use tax credits.
- The for-profit partner would finance a solar array costing about $330,000.
- After the buyout, TWC can sell the renewable energy credits and TWC will have about 80% of it total electricity free. The solar panels are warranted to produce 80% of their rated output for 25 years. However, the installer has not seen that rate of decline in any array. The array is expected to last at least 50 years.
- TWC would receive "kiosk" software to create an exhibit explaining the array with real time performance data.

The bottom line: To claim that our solar array is some kind of shrewd financial deal would be a huge stretch. Most likely, it will be revenue neutral for our operating budget over the next ten years. After that, it will generate a huge

This image shows the first full month of production from the solar array. The Wilderness Center installed an exhibit with a screen showing this information and more as an ongoing slide show. Check it out in real time here.

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savings and could potentially be a modest source of income depending on the price of electricity and the market in renewable energy credits. As there are no moving parts, maintenance is not expected to be a burden.

However, there are other benefits. The array certainly honors our founder. As it is adjacent to our entrance, it makes a statement to all who visit. No pollution comes off the array. No mountaintops are mined to make that electricity. No oil is burned transporting fossil fuels to make the electricity coming off the array. No greenhouse gasses are released.

Gordon is half Ozark Hillbilly and half prairie sodbuster with a touch of Cherokee. He has served as executive director of The Wilderness Center located near Wilmot, OH since 1981, but often tells people that he has never had the same job two years in a row.

From 1992 to 2002 he served on the ANCA board of directors including two years as president. In 2006, ANCA honored him with its ANCA Nature Center Leadership Award, the highest recognition in the field of Nature Centers. In the 1990s, he expanded the mission of The Wilderness Center making it a land conservancy in addition to its educational mission. In early 2000s, he again transformed the mission of The Wilderness Center to include a variety of "ecopreneurial" activities including wetland mitigation, Foxfield Preserve (a nature preserve cemetery), consulting forestry, and ecotourism.

He is the host of Wild Ideas... the Podcast, a top-rated science-based podcast, started in 2009.

Summary of Array Features

72 kW PV (Photo Voltaic) Solar Array
312 — 230-watt solar panels
2 PV Powered 35 kW Inverters Grid Tied
2 Schletter Raised Solar Structures – 156 modules - 87 feet long
Estimated production- 80,255 kWh/year
Historical usage- 84,000 kWh/year
Old Monthly Electric Bill $696.00
Estimated New Electric Bill $46.00

Solar Array Campaign

We conducted a modest, low-key campaign to raise funds for our solar array. In 2006, we held a Renewable Energy Festival at TWC and the turnout totally overwhelmed our facilities. So we are aware of strong, local interest in renewables.

Our campaign was basically one mailing to 2,500 addresses, a constant contact e-mail to about 2,000 people, and announcements in our newsletter for three months. We made a few personal requests for donations. We had a small contest among board members, the one who brought in the most donations won a dinner out.

The panels we were using cost about $400 each. We invited people to donate a panel, a half-panel, a quarter panel, or whatever they wished to donate.

We received 137 gifts totaling $23,148. We intend to keep solar panels on our list of giving opportunities for several years. Our campaign and the initial grant raised the full amount of our initial outlay and about 10% of our buyout in eight years.

Profile:

Meet Our Hosts ~ the Marine Science Consortium

Join us for Summit on the Shore August 22-26!

The Marine Science Consortium (MSC) provides outstanding multi-disciplinary, educational and research opportunities that celebrate the rich natural, cultural, economic, and technological resources of the mid-Atlantic Coastal region through field-based and hands-on learning, often in affiliation with multiple public and private partners.

To accomplish this mission, MSC provides a unique set of educational and research experiences; expanded research collaborations among member universities, MSC, NASA Wallops Flight Facility, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and other public and private partners; expanded and enhanced programs for pre-college, university, and adult learners. These interrelated ends are facilitated by means of: committed faculty, motivated and diverse students, stimulating programs and exceptional facilities.

Since 1968 the Marine Science Consortium has educated and inspired thousands of children, youth, and adults about the marine and coastal ecosystems along the Mid-Atlantic Region through place-based, hands-on experiences.

The bays, marshes, beaches, maritime forests, and off-shore waters of Virginia's Eastern Shore are the Marine Science Consortium's classroom. Whether you are

an individual interested in learning more about coastal and marine systems or seeking to pursue a career in marine sciences, the Marine Science Consortium offers a wonderful variety of educational and/or research opportunities.

In 1968, The Marine Science Consortium was founded by a consortium of three Pennsylvania state colleges as "The Marine Science Consortium of Pennsylvania State Colleges and Universities."

First located in Cape May, NJ, and then Lewes, DE, the Consortium expanded to 14 member colleges and universities. In teh spring of 1971, the Consortium became a Corporation, changed its name to "The Marine Science Consortium, Inc." and, moved to its permanent site in the area of Wallops Island, VA. The campus, located next door to NASA's Goddard Flight Facility was named "Wallops Island Marine Science Center."

For the next few decades the Marine Science Consortium quietly taught thousands of school age, college, and adult students the wonders of what lies beneath the waters of the bays, marshes, and ocean surrounding Chincoteague and Assateague islands as well as coastal land communities such as maritime forests

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HOSTS (continued from page 11)

and dunes. The membership has changed over the years and now consists of 13 member universities and colleges. Current members are:

- Bloomsburg University
- East Stroudsburg University
- Kutztown University
- Lock Haven University
- Millersville University
- Saint Francis University
- Shippensburg University
- Slippery Rock University
- West Virginia University
- Wilkes University
- York College

The Marine Science Consortium maintains two campuses. The main campus is located at Wallops Island and is adjacent to NASA's Goddard Flight Facility. This campus consists of several dormitories, laboratory buildings, cafeteria, and classroom buildings that were originally part of a Naval housing complex. Today many of these buildings are being removed to make way for a new campus of energy efficient buildings that will better support The Marine Science Consortiums future endeavors. The second campus, named the Marine Science Consortium Research Center, provides limited lab space and housing for small groups. This small field station and its surrounding 30 acres of salt marsh are located directly on Chincoteague Bay at Greenbackville, VA.

The dedicated staff at MSC is looking forward to the arrival of the Summit participants.

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- John Besecker
  Operations Manager
- Kennie Godwin
  Groundskeeper
- Dallas Fenton
  Office and Finance Manager
- Eunice Handy
  Cook
- Levolia Handy
  Cafeteria Shift Leader
- Felara Hickman
  Cook
- Clifton Johnson
  Dishwasher
- Diane Lynch
  Registrar
- Parker McMullen-Bushman
  Special Programs Coordinator
- Amber Parker
  Executive Director
- Adell Payton
  Housekeeper
- Francine Payton
  Head Housekeeper
- Ali Redman
  College Program Coordinator
- Anne Schlesinger
  Education Programs Manager
- Tony Smith
  Maintenance Assistant
- Robin Townsend
  Cafeteria Shift Leader
- Linda Wallop
  Food Service Manager
- Jimmy Whealton
  Boat Captain
- Alex Vandermeys
  School Program Coordinator

A New Job for an Old Friend ~ the Gator

Mini-Consults at the Summit!!

At the Summit each year, the "Gator" wanders among the participants who become very familiar with the statement "feed the Gator."

The tradition of collecting random sums of money in the Gator and auctioning it off in the Summit Live Auction began at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in Cleveland, OH in 2001. Norma Jeanne Byrd, Ken Finch and Pat Welch were charged with finding a "piggy bank" during the Summit and they returned with our beloved Gator instead. Must have been a run on piggy banks in Cleveland that year!

The Gator has enjoyed 11 years of fundraising for ANCA and is now pursuing a new career path in consulting. The Gator will appear at the Summit this year in its new role in facilitating Mini Peer Consults. Rather than collect money, the Gator will collect business cards. During the Summit, business cards will be drawn and the lucky winners are entitled to a one-hour free "consult" during the Summit. So come with your business cards, some good luck, and an idea of what you would like your consulting team to help you with. And don't hesitate to feed the Gator!

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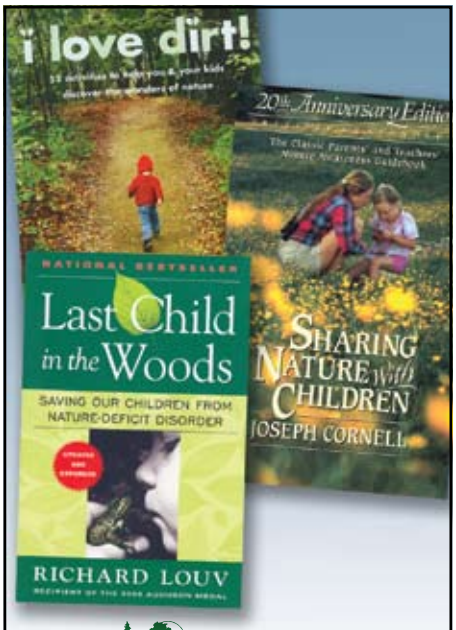

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Peer Consults - We know the business. We're in it too!

ANCA offers consulting assistance to nature centers and other environmental education organizations at very reasonable rates.

The cost includes transportation, lodging, and meals for the team, plus a $3,250 fee that goes toward supporting ANCA's professional services. Our board of directors and members, provide these services with no personal financial gain, while you gain the advantage of advice and guidance from some of the profession's most respected and experienced leaders.

What can be covered? Well, just about anything involved with planning, funding, and operations.

Some topics include:
- Assistance with long range and strategic planning
- Review facilities and trails
- Program evaluation
- Personnel & human resources issues
- Fundraising and fiscal management
- Green building
- Exhibits
- Starting a center
- Organizational structure

Join the Team!

ANCA's Consult Services are a success because of it's members' participation on Consult Teams. Please consider sharing your experiences and lessons learned.

Consult Team members donate their time but all expenses are paid. Participating in a Consult is a great way to see other parts of the country, learn about other nature centers, and take home valuable knowledge for your own center.

So don't delay!!!
PLEASE fill out the skills survey in the Member's Section on ANCA's web site at www.natctr.org.

To find out more about ANCA's Peer Consults contact:

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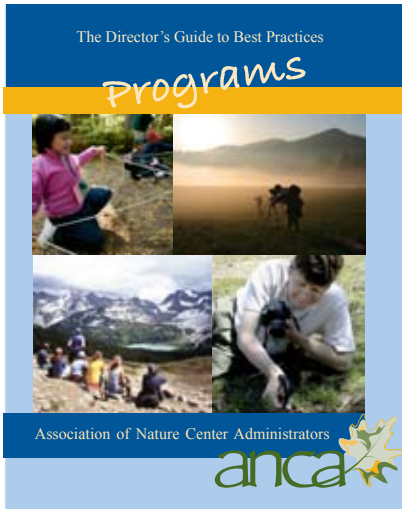

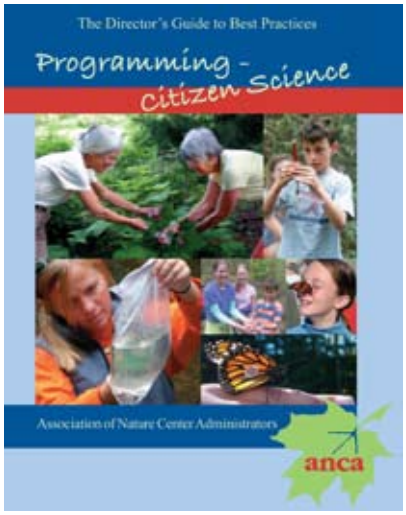

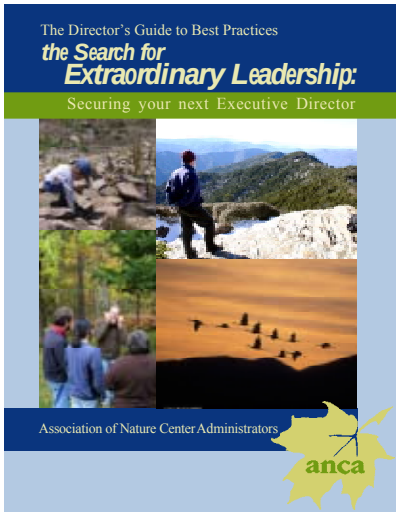

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