

COVER STORY: page 1  
nature centers in  
communities

PROFILE: page 6  
Kay Carlson  
success story

FROM THE page 8  
FIELD:  
design for birds

FEET ON THE page 12  
GROUND:  
ANCA happenings

# directions

winter 2019

Journal of the Association of Nature Center Administrators

## The Role of Nature Centers in Local Communities

Matthew H.E.M. Browning, PhD  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[brownin@illinois.edu](mailto:brownin@illinois.edu)

Introduction by Jen Levy, Executive Director, ANCA



Photo Courtesy of Ilya Ilford on Unsplash

In 2018, we identified a series of questions we wanted to address in *Directions* including:

- What impact should nature centers have in the communities they serve? How should this impact be measured?

Our questions came in part from an IMLS funded study done in 2016 that ANCA participated in found [here](#). This study examined the relationship between nature centers and the people living around them – including both people who visit and people who don't visit but still perceive value in a nature center existing in their community. Thank you to all who shared their answers to these questions this year including Glenna Holstein in *Cultivating Community* in the Winter 2018 Issue (if you are an ANCA Member, remember you can find archived issues of *Directions* in the Member Portal online).

To wrap-up our 2018 focus on this question, one of the researchers from the 2016 project, Matt Browning, PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has provided a summary of the original findings. In addition, he wanted to share that there have been two peer-reviewed journal articles published since the original report available [here](#) and [here](#). This topic will remain relevant to the field so, if you find you have more to add, please share your thoughts with the ANCA community and us by submitting them in the [Google Group](#) or by [email](#).

(continued on page 4)

ANCA Headquarters:

mail • P.O. Box 464  
Logan, Utah 84323  
email • [info@natctr.org](mailto:info@natctr.org)  
phone • 435-787-8209

[www.natctr.org](http://www.natctr.org)

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 more than 630 members, ANCA is the leader in the profession.



Rooted in Experience. Reaching for Excellence.

*Directions* is a quarterly publication of the Association of Nature Center Administrators, distributed to members of ANCA as a membership benefit.

© 2019 Association of Nature Center Administrators

# Contents

Directions • Winter 2019

- 1 The Role of Nature Centers in Local Communities
- 2 Director's Notes
- 6 Service Review  
Kay Carlson's ANCA Success Story
- 8 From The Field:  
Designing for Birds is not just for the Birds
- 12 Feet On The Ground:  
Recent & Upcoming ANCA Activities Around the World



Photo courtesy of Andreea Chidu on Unsplash.

## FOLLOW US

Follow us on  
**facebook**

**twitter**



**Linked in**

# Director's Notes

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

The New Year is almost here - I am writing this on New Year's Eve - and I know most of us are looking forward to a new and better year. I have mixed feelings about 2018, it was a great year for ANCA, but it was also completely overwhelming with natural disasters, gun violence, political discourse and dysfunction, and an all-out attack on the environment from our government leaders. I found myself needing to take a break from the news often and work hard to focus on the good. Which meant putting my head down, staying focused, and working.



I know others did the same, especially my friends and colleagues in the ANCA Network. The work we are doing is important, and as leaders we need to stay focused, even during challenging times! The best leaders can see past their lifetimes and stay focused on mission – and ANCA is made up of extraordinary leaders who do this every day! Thank you for the work you do, and thank you for everything you have done for ANCA.

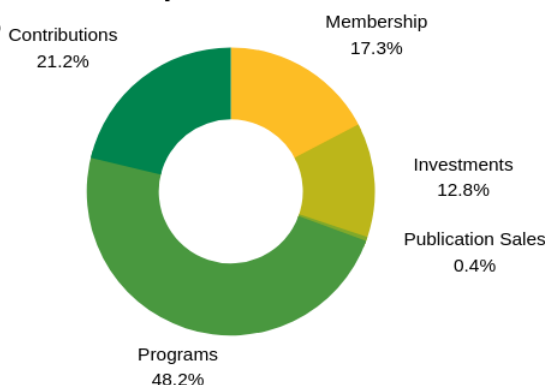
In 2018 –

- 170 members, including 77 first-time attendees, joined us at the 2018 Dream Big Summit hosted by the Quinta Mazatlán World Birding Center in McAllen, TX.
- Over 300 nature education leaders attended seven Region Meetings throughout the United States.
- Twenty-seven ANCA Members donated their time and expertise to conduct seven Peer Consults – including our first multi-site, county-wide assessment.
- The ANCA Board approved ANCA 2025, a new Strategic Plan setting direction and action for the next seven years.
- We welcomed 186 new ANCA Members, including members of a nature center network in Shenzhen, China. See all of our new members [here](#) in our 2018 Snapshot.
- With the help of a private donor, we launched the first phase of our new website. We received additional funding from The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation in late 2018 and will start work on the next phase in 2019.
- We connected dozens of members with ANCA Mentors.

- The ANCA endowment grew from a \$10,000 lead gift in 1997 to \$248,637 in 2018.
- The ANCA Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in 2006 with \$25,000 donated by ANCA members, has grown to \$64,464 in 2018.
- At the 2018 Summit, we raised over \$4,000 from our members to invest in the ANCA Operational Reserve.

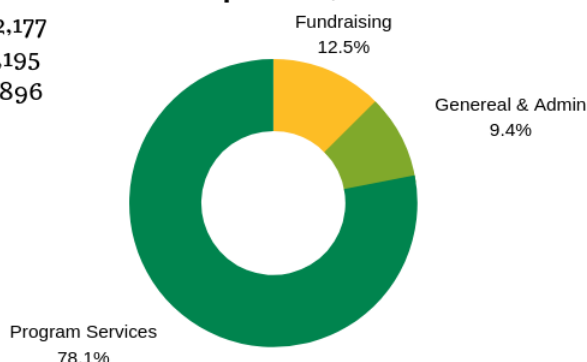
## Revenue FY 2018 | \$269,706

Programs	\$129,976
Contributions	\$57,267
Membership	\$46,635
Investments	\$34,654
Publication Sales	\$1,174



## Expenses FY 2018 | \$233,268

Program Services	\$182,177
Fundraising	\$29,195
General & Admin	\$21,896



So tonight, I will toast all of you – the ANCA Network – and thank you for the many successes we shared. Cheers ANCA Friends and Happy New Year! 🌿



The Acorn Group  
Interpretive Planning and Design

180 S. Prospect · Suite 230  
Tustin, California 92780  
(800) 422-8886  
www.acorngroup.com

 **LeadTeam**

**Build Capacity  
Create Direction  
Take Action**

Corky McReynolds, PhD, CPF  
corky@leadteamconsulting.com  
www.leadteamconsulting.com



Rooted in Experience. Reaching for Excellence.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

Iain MacLeod  
Squam Lakes Natural Science Center  
iain.macleod@nhnature.org / 603-968-7194

#### V.P. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Amber Parker  
Ijams Nature Center  
aparker@ijams.org / 865-577-4717

#### V.P. DEVELOPMENT

John DeFillipo  
John Bunker Sands Wetland Center  
jdefillipo@wetlandcenter.com  
972-474-9100

#### SECRETARY

Jason Meyer  
Blandford Nature Center  
jason@blandfordnaturecenter.org  
616-735-6240

#### TREASURER

Mary McKinley  
Ogden Nature Center  
director@ogdennaturecenter.org  
801-621-7595

Kay Carlson  
Nature Center at Shaker Lakes  
carlson@shakerlakes.org / 216-321-5935

Glenna Holstein  
Urban Ecology Center  
gholstein@urbanecologycenter.org  
414-431-2940 x 401

Pam Musk  
muskpam@gmail.com

Brooks Paternotte  
Irvine Nature Center  
paternotteb@explorenature.org  
443-738-9229

Kitty Pochman  
Linda Loring Nature Foundation  
kpochman@llnf.org / 508-325-0873

Vera Roberts  
Warner Park Nature Center  
vera.vollbrecht@nashville.gov  
615-352-6299

Jenn Wright  
Grass River Natural Area  
Jenn@grassriver.org

### STAFF

Jen Levy – Executive Director  
Caitlin Fader – Marketing & Development Assistant  
Taylia Sunderland – Office & Membership Assistant  
ANCA Office – 435-787-8209



Nearly 2,000 nature centers exist in communities across the United States providing tremendous potential for community members to regularly connect with each other and the surrounding natural environment. Ongoing firsthand relationships between nature, centers, and communities have the potential to be powerful motivators for connecting people to nature in ways few other institutions can. Yet, nature centers are often asked by stakeholders to substantiate their ‘value’ by measuring their success and quantifying their progress.

We studied 16 diverse nature centers and neighboring communities across the United States to explore the ways in which community members value local centers (Table 1). Random samples of members living around each center were invited to participate in web-based surveys that asked about the perceived importance and performance of 14 items reflecting services that nature centers might provide. These items were developed off a proof-of-concept study that entailed interviewing directors and community members at six U.S. nature centers.

**Table 1.** Nature centers included in study

Audubon Center at Debs Park	Los Angeles	CA
Audubon Greenwich Kimberlin Nature Education Center and Sanctuary	Greenwich	CT
Audubon Society of Portland Nature Sanctuary and Facilities	Portland	OR
Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and Blair Audubon Center	Naples	FL
Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Scioto Audubon Metro Park	Columbus	OH
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center	San Antonio	TX
Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary	Tiburon	CA
Seward Park Audubon Center	Seattle	WA
Elachee Nature Science Center	Gainesville	GA
Environmental Learning Center	Vero Beach	FL
Hitchcock Nature Center	Honey Creek	IA
Plains Conservation Center	Aurora	CO
Seven Ponds Nature Center	Dryden	MI
Silver Lake Nature Center	Bristol	PA
Urban Ecology Center	Milwaukee	WI
Wilderness Center	Wilmot	OH

In the current study with 16 nature centers, we hired a marketing firm (DirectMail, Frederick, MD) to develop the sampling frame and deliver the online survey invitations to community members. Two waves of survey invitations were

sent to 12,000 randomly selected people per center (192,000 in total across the U.S.) through postal letters or email invitations plus two email reminders between July and November 2014. Half of the invitees received a \$2 bill with their letter as a pre-paid incentive to take the survey. These incentives were included to boost response rate and to test non-response bias by splitting sample into respondents who were more likely to complete survey primarily because nature centers were salient to them and incentives elicited reciprocity and feelings to give back after receiving a \$2 gift.

The community members invited to the study were geographically limited to a circular area surrounding each center (urban = 3 miles, suburban = 6 miles, and rural = 20 miles). These radii were determined by averaging community directors’ estimations of what geographic areas encompassed their center’s “local community” and by calculating the smallest radii that included adequate numbers of people from the marketing firm’s mailing list. The marketing firm provided some socio-demographic data about respondents (sex, age, level of education, and presence/absence of children in home), and we asked additional data (racial/ethnic self-identification) in the survey.

We received 2,402 completed responses with an overall response rate of 1.7%. Of these respondents, 62% reported being aware of their local nature center; of these, 60% had visited that center. Respondents’ ages ranged from 19 to 97, with a mean age of 54. The majority of the sample was non-Hispanic White (79%) and male (71%). Twenty-six percent had children 18 years or younger living with them in their home. Five percent had less than a high school diploma while 19% had earned their diploma, 23% had attended some college, 25% had completed a bachelor’s degree, and 21% had completed a graduate degree. In comparison to U.S. Census data, our sample over-represented males, non-Hispanic Whites, people without children in their home, older people, and people with higher levels of education.

Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) between the 14 survey items suggested four underlying values held by community respondents toward nature centers: environmental connection, leisure provision, community resilience, and civic engagement (Table 2). EFA is a statistical technique that is used to reduce data to a smaller set of summary variables and to explore the underlying theoretical structure of the phenomena. The majority of respondents believed it was important for nature centers to provide all 14 specific nature center services and associated value sets in the survey battery. However, environmental connection was rated the most important; leisure provision and community resilience were slightly less important; and civic engagement was the least important factor, although it was still rated near ‘somewhat important’ on average.

**Table 2.** Survey items associated with value sets held by communities toward nature centers

**Civic engagement<sup>a</sup>**

- Links people to political action
- Helps bring together people from different races/ethnicities
- Provides a place for people in the local community to gather

**Community resilience**

- Contributes to the local economy
- Develops a sense of pride in the local community
- Makes the community a more beautiful place

**Leisure provision**

- Provides a place for physical exercise
- Provides a place for retreat, restoration, or relaxation
- Provides a safe place for outdoor recreation

**Environmental connection**

- Encourages environmental behavior
- Provides wildlife habitat or ecosystem services
- Increases environmental awareness
- Provides a place for children to learn
- Provides access to nature

<sup>a</sup>perceived importance of each of the 14 non-bolded items could be elicited with the statement, “*how important is it to you that the [nature center name] do each of the following?*” with not at all important, slightly important, somewhat important, very important, and extremely important as potential responses; perceived performance could be measured with the statement, “*to the best of your knowledge, how well does the [nature center name] actually accomplish each of the following?*” and not well, slightly well, somewhat well, extremely well, and I don’t know as potential responses; we do not recommend including the factor titles (i.e., civic engagement, community resilience) in the questionnaire.

Average levels of importance for each factor differed along several socio-demographic lines. Leisure provision was less important for graduate degree holders than for those with lower levels of education. Civic engagement and community resilience were less important for respondents 60 years and older than for respondents 18–35 years old. Civic engagement and community resilience were rated more important by respondents living in urban areas than respondents living in rural and suburban areas. Civic engagement and community resilience were more important for non-Whites than Whites. Leisure provision was more


important for visitors than non-visitors. Females indicated all four factors were more important than did males.

In regard to how well nature centers performed each value set, the environmental connection factor was rated the highest, while leisure provision, community resilience, and civic engagement factors were rated somewhat lower. The environmental connection factor was perceived as being performed better in rural and suburban areas than in urban areas. Visitors believed leisure provision was performed better than non-visitors. Females believed civic engagement and community resilience were performed better than did males.



*Matt Browning*

In summary, we discovered that the importance assigned to different underlying values varied by community subgroup. Some of these differences may exist in other nature center populations and may be important for centers to consider as they try to build relevancy among diverse communities. We recommend the proposed nature center value framework (Table 2) be used in future research by other nature centers to further understand how their local communities value them, and to what extent their communities believe they are performing these values well. Such investigations could use online survey invitations with past visitors and membership lists for non-representative samples. If centers are wanting to expand their reach to underserved populations, we recommend different methods, such as door-to-door sampling of representative addresses, to capture more representative samples of local populations and to bolster response rate.

We greatly appreciate all the nature center directors, staff, and community members who gave generously of their time to participate in the interviews and surveys required for this study. We are also grateful to our National Audubon Society and Association of Nature Center Administrators colleagues who assisted with this work. This work was supported by an Institute of Museum and Library Services award. 



# Service Review

## Kay Carlson's ANCA Success Story

Keanna Leonard, Grand Island, NE

“ANCA saved my life!” That is how

Kay Carlson, the President and CEO of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes in Cleveland, Ohio, feels. When she was hired ten years ago to run Shaker Lakes, there was no leadership transition training. She was overwhelmed with many issues that needed to be addressed, but her predecessor did give her two pieces of advice she is thankful she followed: join ANCA and go to the Summits.

She did join and attended her first Summit in 2008 at Teton Science Schools in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. “I could not believe all the knowledgeable people who were willing to take time to listen to me and give advice. It was a huge relief to find people who understood what I was going through.”

Ten years later she still raves about ANCA. “Because I took advantage of ANCA’s professional development and management resources, I know I am a better leader and Shaker Lakes is a thriving nature center that is working towards the future with a large capital campaign.”

Kay can’t say enough about ANCA’s Mentor Program. “Before my first summit, I was paired with a mentor whose knowledge and skills helped me through some difficult situations. It was good to know that he was just a call away. He also made a point of connecting with me that first day of the Summit. He made sure I felt at ease and that I met others who could help answer questions and concerns I had.”

Kay believes it is essential to attend Summits and region meetings. “These conferences are not only good for professional development, they are places to rejuvenate and reconnect



*Kay Carlson, President and CEO of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes in Cleveland, Ohio.*

with other nature center professionals. The people that I’ve met over the years of attending conferences have become some of my best friends.”

At her first Summit, Kay pur-

chased the [\*Director’s Guide to Best Practices\*](#) and liked it so much that she bought all of ANCA’s books and monographs for the center’s library. “These publications are wonderful





*Visitors to Shaker Lakes in Cleveland, Ohio.*

resources not only for me, but for my staff.”


ANCA's [listserv](#) is another of Kay's go-to resources. “Sometimes you just need to pick people's brains for some idea starters or confirm your thoughts. The online community is always quick to respond.”

Kay thinks so highly of ANCA that when she was asked to join the Board of Directors several years back,

she couldn't say no. “It is one way I can give back to an organization that has done so much for me. I have the opportunity to serve alongside intelligent, caring people who are working to ensure ANCA stays relevant for today's directors as well as for future leaders. I want to make sure they have the opportunities I have been afforded by being a part of the ANCA family.”




**studioOutside**




The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Landscape Architecture and Master Planning  
214 954 7160  
[www.studiooutside.us](http://www.studiooutside.us)

 **doubleknot**

*Empower your team.  
Support your mission.*



[Hello.doubleknot.com/ANCA](http://Hello.doubleknot.com/ANCA)

Shine Bright Nature Center  
Insurance Program

**Marshall  
& Sterling**  
INSURANCE

800-782-2926, x-2603  
[www.naturecenterinsure.com](http://www.naturecenterinsure.com)

Helping Nature Centers Succeed  
in a 21st Century World



**DAVID CATLIN**  
CONSULTING LLC

[davidcatlin.com](http://davidcatlin.com)  



# From The Field:

## Designing for Birds is not just for the Birds

Kate Scurlock, AIA, Associate, GWWO, Inc./Architects



We've all seen it. A dead bird laying on the sidewalk next to a building. Or, maybe we've heard it. The loud bang of a bird flying into your window. Between 100 million to 1 billion birds are estimated to die each year in the United States due to collision with glass according to the American Bird Conservatory. One third of all the bird species found in the United States have been documented as victims of these collisions.

Why do we care? Aside from the obvious—our ongoing struggle to live in harmony with nature—birds provide critical ecological functions. By consuming insects and controlling rodent populations, they reduce damage to crops and forests and help limit the transmission of diseases such as West Nile and Malaria. Birds also play an important role in regenerating habitats by pollinating plants and dispersing seeds as discussed in the American Bird Conservancy's publication, *Bird Friendly Building Design*.

In the construction industry today, large expanses of glass have become commonplace. There's a push for more natural daylight for occupants of buildings. The corporate sector has seen a shift to naturally lit, open workspaces with low partitions and large expanses of glass are no longer reserved for the prestigious corner office. The education sector has also acknowledged the benefits of natural daylight on our abil-

ity to learn. Even large retail environments are incorporating skylights to allow natural light into their deep dark spaces to encourage spending. The benefits of natural daylight are obvious and undisputed.

This presents an interesting architectural design challenge. How do we protect birds and limit collisions while also providing well-lit spaces and outdoor views to building occupants?

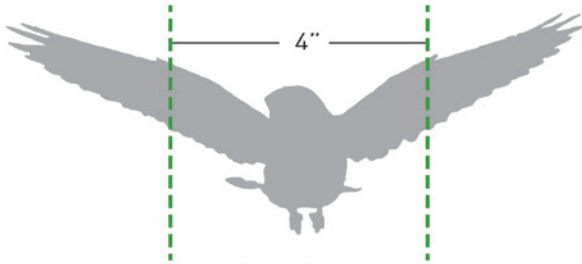
Glass can be invisible to both birds and humans; however, humans learn to see glass through experiences and visual cues (mullions, doors) but birds do not pick up on these experiences. Birds do not perceive right angles or other architectural signals as indicators of obstacles or artificial environments. According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, birds collide with windows because they see reflections of the landscape in the glass or they see through glass to a perceived habitat beyond.

The Acopian Center for Ornithology at Muhlenberg College and The American Bird Conservatory are leading the research and testing of bird friendly glazing. Their testing has shown that most birds will not attempt to fly through horizontal spaces less than 2" high nor through vertical spaces 4" wide or less. This is widely referred to as the '2x4 rule.' Research has found that patterns covering as little as 5% of





Horizontal



Vertical

*Patterning conforming to the '2x4' rule helps to defer bird strikes. Credit: GWWO Architects.*

the total glass surface can deter 90% of bird strikes. Stripe patterns are most common, however other patterns can be utilized if spacing is analyzed. There are several commercially available glazing products on the market that attempt to create a visible barrier to birds utilizing acid etching, ceramic

frit, or UV. Patterns can be applied to glass surfaces to satisfy the 2x4 rule and create a visible barrier to birds. Research has shown that locating the pattern on the outer most surface of glass is most effective as documented by Daniel Klem in *Landscape, Legal, and Biodiversity Threats that Windows Pose to Birds*. This also allows for the inclusion of energy-efficient coatings to be incorporated on other glass surfaces.

In addition to specialty glass, netting, screens, grilles, louvers, or exterior shades can also be used to make glass more visible and reduce bird mortality. These solutions may offer the additional benefit of minimizing solar heat gain in a building. Overhangs, balconies, and angled glass have also been shown to minimize collisions as noted by the American Bird Conservancy.

Beyond glazing, artificial light escaping from building interiors and exterior light fixtures can attract birds. Likewise, light pollution has been known to confuse and disorient migratory birds. Using automatic lighting controls to dim or turn off lights at night can help limit light pollution, as well as save energy. Selecting exterior luminaries with low up-light ratings can minimize the amount of light pollution while also protecting migratory birds.

In particular, nature center projects often present a high risk for collisions due to building locations—typically nature preserves or parks which are home to bird populations—and the desire for glazing to connect visitors with the unique landscape and views. Responsible design of glazing can limit bird collisions and support each center's mission.

# Nominate a Leader for the 2019 ANCA Leadership Awards

Application Deadline,  
April 1st, 2019!

The advertisement features a photograph of a modern building with a mix of wood, stone, and glass, situated on a hillside. A person is walking across a wooden bridge in the foreground. The GWWO Architects logo is in the top left, and the text 'THE NATURE PLACE Reading, PA' is in the top right. A dark blue banner at the bottom contains white text about their design philosophy and contact information.

G|W  
W|O  
ARCHITECTS

THE NATURE PLACE  
Reading, PA

GWGO STRIVES TO ENRICH THE HUMAN  
EXPERIENCE THROUGH RESPONSIBLE DESIGN  
THAT IS INSPIRATIONAL, EVOCATIVE, AND  
PROGRESSIVE.

410.332.1009 | [www.gwwoinc.com](http://www.gwwoinc.com)

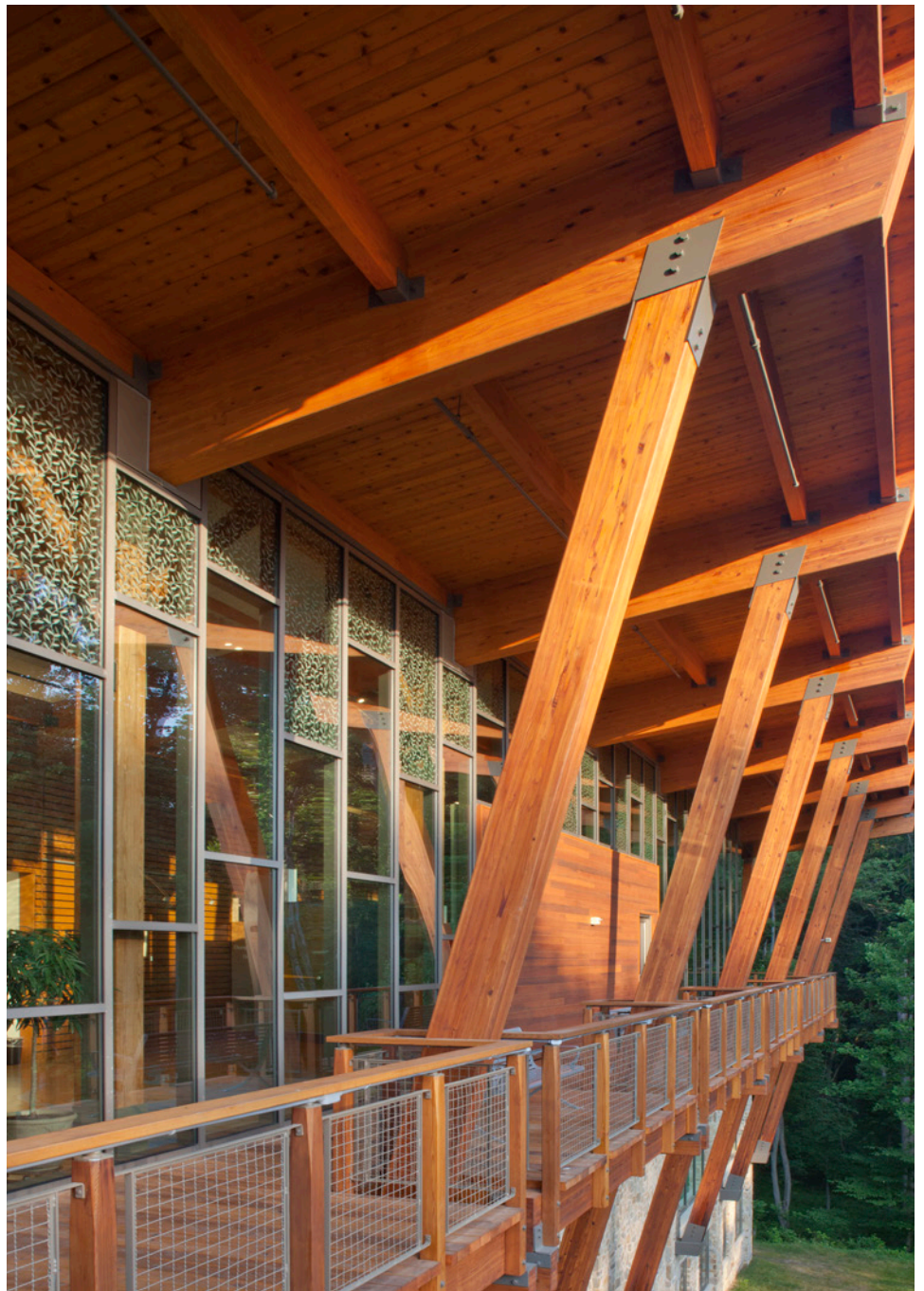


## From The Field: Designing for Birds is not just for the Birds

At The Nature Place in Reading, PA, an acid-etched glazing with a horizontal stripe pattern spaced 2" apart along with sunshades was utilized to make the entire façade a visible barrier to birds. While noticeable to the human eye the pattern is minimal, thus maintaining the sweeping wetland views. Patterned glass is a premium over typical transparent glazing, however, for Berks Nature, protecting nature is part of their mission and therefore the decision to include etched glazing was easy. Bird collisions were a regular occurrence at their previous facility, but since moving into the new building one year ago, Berks Nature has not witnessed a single collision. These bird friendly design features not only support their mission, but also provide a teaching tool for visitors.

Other examples include Robinson Nature Center in Columbia, MD where glazing with a decorative leaf pattern serves as a visible barrier while also complimenting the interior living tree exhibit. Dot pattern glazing was selected for Cahill Fitness and Wellness Center, which is nestled into Baltimore's Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, the second largest woodland park in the US. Even at an elevation of over 14,000 feet bird collisions are a consideration. For the new visitor center atop of Pikes Peak in Colorado, in addition to bird friendly glazing featuring vertical stripes, screening has been incorporated as an integral part of the building design to both serve as a visible barrier and protect the glazing from the extreme elements.

If you need even more of an incentive, USGBC introduced a LEED pilot credit worth one point in 2011, Pilot Credit 55: Bird Collision Deterrence. The pilot credit addresses the issue of bird collision from four aspects: the façade, interior lighting, exterior lighting, and performance monitoring. The pilot credit remains available today in LEED Version 4. Proof that bird friendly design does not have to be at the cost of natural daylight and views, The Nature Place was able to achieve this pilot credit along with the Daylighting and Views Indoor Environmental Quality credits.

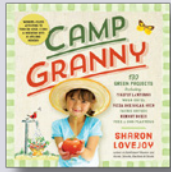


*A decorative leaf pattern complements the interior living tree exhibit and deters birds at the Robinson Nature Center. Credit: ©Robert Creamer.*

While legislation that promotes bird-friendly design has been enacted in some cities across America, for the most part it remains largely unregulated. Until bird-friendly design practices are required nationwide, it's up to designers and owners to consider the avian population. Responsible design of glazing and lighting can greatly reduce deadly bird collisions and help support biodiversity in the built environment.

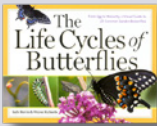






## COMMON GROUND

stunningly beautiful books since 1986



800-654-0626

[www.comground.com](http://www.comground.com)



EXHIBIT DESIGN AND FABRICATION.

DESIGNED & BUILT ON PROVEN  
PROCESS, HELPING YOU FOCUS

217.893.4874

[info@taylorstudios.com](mailto:info@taylorstudios.com)

[www.taylorstudios.com](http://www.taylorstudios.com)

Share your  
center's success  
with your peers  
& help ANCA  
spread best  
practices!

Email ANCA at [membership@natctr.org](mailto:membership@natctr.org) to set  
up a **profile of your center** on ANCA's social  
media pages.

Visit us  
online  
[www.natctr.org](http://www.natctr.org)

- What's new
- Meetings
- Chat groups
- & more!



# Feet On The Ground:



## Recent & Upcoming ANCA Activities Around the World

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** The Minnesota Region met at Carpenter Nature Center in Hastings, MN to discuss self-care with guest Elle Skelton, CEO/ Executive Director of Touchstone Mental Health as well as leadership and mentoring. See pictures [here](#).

**January 18-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019:** The Residential Environmental Learning Center (RELC) Gathering will take place at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, MN. Sixty residential environmental learning center leaders will spend five glorious days in a northern Minnesota Winter Wonderland laughing, learning, exchanging ideas, and exploring the 2000-acre campus. Keep an eye out for pictures [here](#).



**February 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2019:** The Texas Region will meet the evening of Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and all day Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center in San Antonio, TX. More information [here](#).

**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019:** Attend the ANCA endorsed Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Nature Center Summit on Friday, Feb. 15, 2019 at the [Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center](#) in Roscommon. Sessions will cover a variety of Michigan natural resource topics: DNR experts will present the latest science and management strategies for deer (chronic wasting disease) and other wildlife health issues, bear, wolf and cougar updates, forest health issues, invasive species updates, Michigan fisheries, and others. Stay overnight for a fun networking opportunity as well! More information, agenda and registration information is available [here](#). Endorsed by the ANCA Michigan Region, Great Lakes Region 4 NAI, and MAEOE! Contact Jon Spieles at [spielesj@michigan.gov](mailto:spielesj@michigan.gov) for more information.


**March 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2019:** Nature-Based Preschool Business Planning Workshop put on by Rachel Larimore and David Catlin of Samara Early Learning LLC at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland, MI. The workshop will be a mix

of presentations and small-group interaction and problem solving. We will also visit Chippewa Nature Center's Nature Preschool. All of these activities are designed to ensure you leave the workshop having made substantial progress on your business plan. More information [here](#).

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2019:** The Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee, WI is hosting its second training [Intensive](#) for civic and community leaders from cities around the world. Attendees will learn about the unique urban environmental education and community center model that the Urban



Ecology Center has been running in Milwaukee for over 25 years. 2018's Intensive workshop brought 23 attendees from across the globe. In 2019, we will host focus workshops including: Nature-Based Early Childhood Education, From Transactional to Transformational Fundraising, Urban Land Stewardship, and Community Science. See more [here](#).

**August 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2019:** Save The Date for the ANCA Summit, Evolve, at the Cincinnati Nature Center in Cincinnati, OH! Check back for more information [here](#). 

evolve  
ANCA SUMMIT 2019

August 20-24  
Cincinnati Nature Center, Milford, Ohio



# WINTER IS COMING... MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR NATURE'S DELIGHT COFFEE



## .50/lb goes to ANCA's scholarship fund

Old world varieties of typica and bourbon yield a cup with spicy and floral aromatics, brightness, good body, and hints of chocolate and orange with a clean smooth finish! Triple certified: bird friendly, organic, fair trade

Caffe Ibis is a member of Café femenino.

[www.caffeibis.com/product/organic-anca-natures-delight/](http://www.caffeibis.com/product/organic-anca-natures-delight/)



**izone**  
Imaging

## Graphic Panels Custom Solutions



Made for Extreme Environments  
Fade, Scratch and Graffiti Resistant  
Fast Delivery, Ten Year Warranty



[izoneimaging.com/ANCA17](http://izoneimaging.com/ANCA17)

# Join ANCA's Google Group!

*"Thanks for all the input, everyone. I love knowing that you're all out there ready to help me with answers."*

- Katie Watson, Pajarito Environmental Education Center

Don't miss discussions about:

- 2018 Summit
- Docent Programs
- Gift Policies
- Board Training
- Depreciation
- BioBlitz
- Funding
- Annual Reports
- Revenue
- Exhibit Planning

and more!

[www.natctr.org/google-group](http://www.natctr.org/google-group)



Serving  
Nature Centers  
since 1987

[www.nature-watch.com](http://www.nature-watch.com)

800-228-5816



## Replica Skulls



## Displays

So Much More...

# THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS!

We are thankful for the support and expertise of our Business Partners. These companies are invested in the future of nature center leaders through ANCA and we hope nature center leaders will, in turn, consider these businesses when they are in need of resources.

## PLATINUM PARTNERS



ARCHITECTS



## GOLD PARTNERS



## SILVER PARTNERS



## BRONZE PARTNERS

