

BEAVER BROOK ASSOCIATION

2016 Annual Report





A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As the date for completing this message falls during the week of Thanksgiving, it seems appropriate to share with you some of the blessings for which we at Beaver Brook Association are thankful. Here, in no particular order, are but a few we had this year:

- The addition of 71 new members and the renewal memberships of many more
- The energy and infectious enthusiasm of Paula Babel, our new head gardener
- A tremendous response from many generous donors to support our Fire Recovery Fund
- The skills and talents of John Spear and Brandon Rackliff to restore our historic Ice House and gardening shed
- Mother Nature for again providing perfect weather for our annual Fall Festival & Art Show
- The kind investment of five Boy Scouts whose Eagle and Life projects were of great benefit
- A New Hampshire Charitable Foundation grant and donations from several private donors to fund class trips from low-income schools
- Four new wildflower identification signs thanks to Laura Pagano, Joan Bonnette, and Rivka Schwartz
- A growing number of Beaver Brook Corporate Partners and Photographer Friends
- Smooth transition of volunteer trustee presidency from Drew Kellner to Jay Nannicelli
- Grants to support Beaver Brook from the Hollis Brookline Rotary, Colonial Garden Club, and the Robin Colson Memorial Fund
- A Summer Nature Camp that had the largest number of campers in the last five years

While the above may have been unique to the year just passed, Beaver Brook Association is perennially blessed with a tremendously talented staff of full- and part-time employees, hundreds of volunteers, and the loyal and generous support of the nature-loving public this organization serves. For all of you to whom one or more of these categories applies, we are very thankful and truly blessed.

Thom Davies, Volunteer Executive Director

Beaver Brook Association, Inc. 2016

Financial Statements-Operations
June 1, 2015-May 31, 2016 (in thousands)

REVENUE

Contribution and Bequests	\$ 173
Educational Programs	156
Forestry/Maple Hill Gardeners	54
Rental Income	26
Grant Revenue	33
Investment Income	133
Other Revenue	54
Total Revenue	\$ 629

EXPENSES

Education Services	\$ 255
Forest Management	255
Management and General	164
Fundraising	47
Total Expenses	\$ 721
Excess of Revenues over Expenses (Loss)(Operations)	<u>(92)</u>

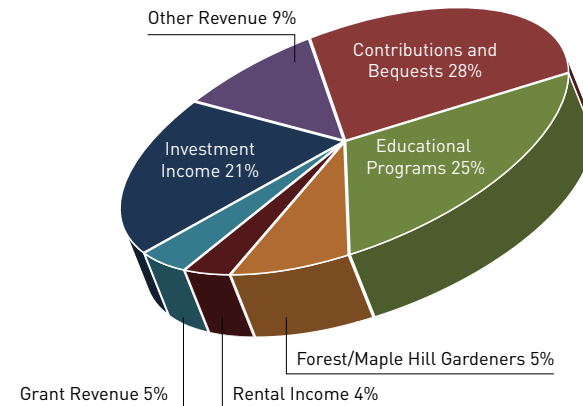
Notes

#1: Value of endowment funds at May 31, 2016: \$4,478,000

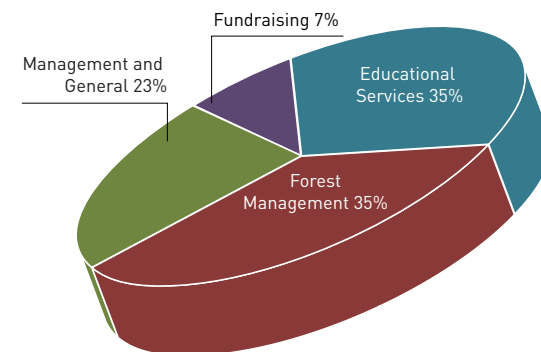
#2: "Spending Policy" was 4½ % of average market value of endowments available for operations. Balance is retained in endowment funds and reinvested.

#3: Trustees have worked diligently to achieve comfortable rate of return on endowments.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



NICHOLS-SMITH
CONSERVATION
LAND TRUST
WWW.NSCLT.ORG

The Nichols-Smith Conservation Land Trust has been helping to protect open space and natural resources in Southern NH since 1997. NSCLT holds the easements for and monitors nearly 3,000 acres of Beaver Brook Association land. The all volunteer board of trustees works with the Hollis Conservation Commission, Hollis Agricultural Commission and the USDA Farm and Ranch Land Program to monitor the Woodmont and Bayrd properties. NSCLT completes monitoring reports for these easements. The land trust is enrolled in the LTA affiliated CE defense program and took appropriate action on the potential conservation easement infraction of the proposed gas pipeline routes through Beaver Brook and Woodmont easements. For additional information or to attend a monthly meeting please contact Gerry Coffey at gerrycoffey123@gmail.com.

New at Beaver Brook in 2016



INTO THE WOODS PROGRAM

Beaver Brook was awarded a \$18,154 Community Grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to provide outdoor environmental education programs for Nashua students from Ledge Street, Amherst Street, Mt. Pleasant, Dr. Crisp, Fairground Elementary, and Elm Street Middle Schools. This year, 1,376 students from these schools studied wetlands, New England wildlife, animal adaptations, and forest ecology.

Beaver Brook, together with Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, hosted a "Connecting Communities" hike and a "Thoreau for Kids" workshop.

Beaver Brook partnered with NH State Parks to host a "First Day Hike" on January 1 at Silver Lake State Park. Over 350 people started the year off with a healthy hike here. BBA continues to serve on the Leadership team of the New Hampshire Children in Nature Coalition.

A total of 16,000 people participated in Beaver Brook programs, field trips, camps and events this year. Tens of thousands enjoyed our trails and gardens on their own.



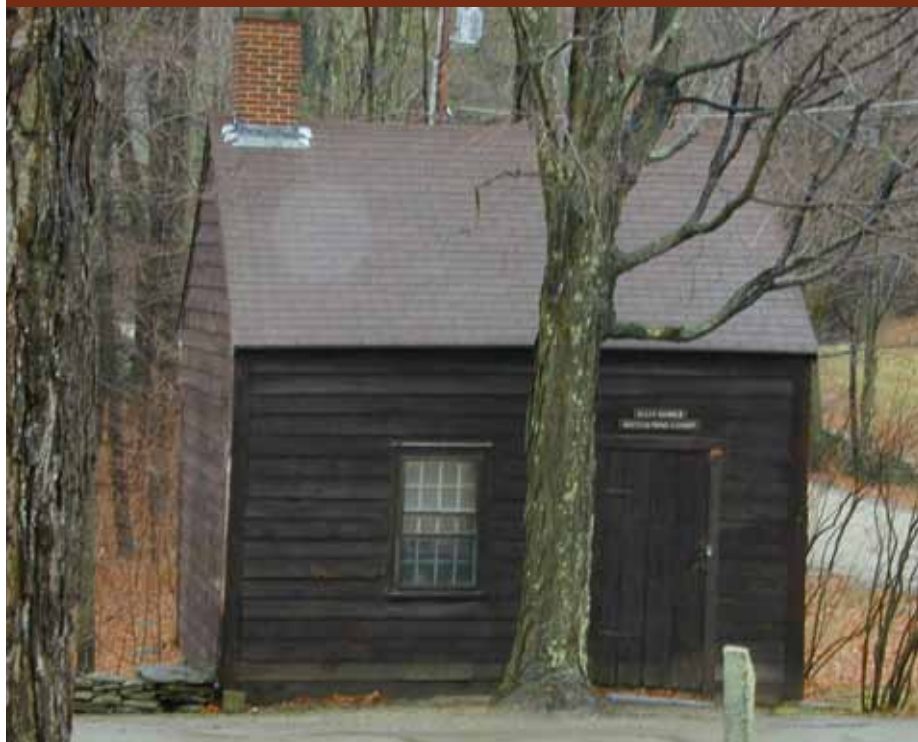
This year, Beaver Brook created a week of summer camp for students who do not have access to camp or conservation land. Members of the Police Athletic League Safehaven in Nashua spent a week in August learning about campfire cooking, New England wildlife, hiking and fishing, and life on a local farm. Private donors, the Preston Family Foundation, and the Robin Colson Foundation contributed to this new program.

Beaver Brook benefited from many Boy Scout projects including renovations at the cabins (shown left) and cookhouse, (Adam McQuilken and Sean Stearns), the historic Cooper Shed (Austin Colby), construction of new picnic tables using recycled plastic lumber (Kyle Swanson) and kiosk upgrades (George Trabucchi).



PLUS Co. and Gateways, nonprofit service providers for handicapped adults, participated in several summer field programs at Beaver Brook. The BBA Educational Scholarship fund helped underwrite these programs for this enthusiastic group.

Security lighting was installed following the fire that destroyed two storage buildings and much equipment at Beaver Brook. Not only does this aim to deter vandalism, but it greatly improves nighttime safety and access at the Beaver Brook facility.



WILDFLOWER TRAIL

Early Summer Wildflowers

July / August



Bee Balm
Monarda didyma



Black Eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta



Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis



Deptford Pink
Dianthus armeria



Jewelweed
Impatiens capensis



Joe Pye Weed
Eupatorium maculatum



Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria



Meadowsweet
Spiraea alba



Milkweed
Asclepias syriaca



Queen Anne's Lace
Daucus carota



Rough Fruited Cinquefoil
Potentilla recta



Tansy
Tanacetum vulgare



Thistle
Cirsium vulgare



Wintergreen
Gaultheria procumbens



Experience the Beauty of New Hampshire Wildflowers

Covering a short distance of 3 miles, the wildflower trail meanders past flowers of the field, wetlands and woods. Over 40 varieties of flowers bloom here over the seasons.

Check back to see what will be blooming in late summer, fall and next spring. Enjoy your walk!

Want to know more about these plants? "A Diary of Wildflowers: Walking the Trails of Beaver Brook" by Joan Bonnette is available for sale in the office. Also, join the guided wildflower walks at Beaver Brook in the spring.



Yarrow
Achillea millefolium

Volunteers Laura Pagano, Joan Bonnette, and Rivka Schwartz photographed and created four signs for the Wildflower Trail. Its kiosk, built by staff member Brandon Rackcliff, was donated in honor of Lorna Levi, longtime volunteer at Beaver Brook.



Beaver Brook, in partnership with the Town of Hollis, worked to improve the Old City Trail on land owned by the Hollis Conservation Commission. A new information kiosk was installed by Eagle Scout Ben Thyng. Clearing of the waterfall area and old mill site was completed on National Trails Day.

ALSO NEW IN 2016

- Paula Babel joined us as head Maple Hill Gardener when Liz Brown retired after 16 years in the position.
- Memorial Trees were planted for longtime volunteers Barb Rottenberg and Shirley Cohen.
- Beaver Brook hosted Organic Home Gardening with Ron Christie.
- Partnerships with Hollis Social Library, Freedom's Way, NH Fish and Game, NH Children in Nature Coalition, LaBelle Winery, Opportunity Network, Gateways, Home, Health & Hospice Care, and Nashua PAL afforded many programs for local communities.

Thank You to Our Donors:

June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016

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Dave Tully
Rich Wholey

Members of the Corporation

Michael Quinlan, Chairperson
Ralph Andrews
Craig Birch
Susan Durham
Thomas Enright
Frank Grossman
June Litwin
Fred Lyford
Lorin Rydstrom
Chris Trow
David Tully

Corporate Members Emeritus

Peter Bennett
Anne Cram
Richard "Rick" Hardy
Richard "Dick" Husk
Sandra Solka



BBA Office Staff

Thom Davies, Executive Director
Paula Babel, Gardens
Celeste Philbrick Barr, Education & Community Affairs
Tara Happy, Education
Roisin McElroy, Education
Brandon Rackliff, Natural Resources
Bridget Rines, Office
Peter Smith, Natural Resources
John Spear, Buildings & Grounds
Kelly Walker, Office
Joyce Woodrow, Finance & Administration

Educators

Brooke Arthur
Gail Basiliere
Cheri Birch
Rosemary Clough
Gail Coffey
Angela Craggy
Ethan Craggy
Winnie Crouse
Kat Dickau
Jen Farquhar
Bruce Fessenden

Cathy Ford
Ginnie Hoffman
Stephanie Jones
Becky Kellner
Anjali Longan
Carol Ritchie
Lynn Sawyer
Kap Siddall
Rivka Schwartz
Chick Wetherbee