

Annual Report

2017



Board of Directors

Charles E. Smith
Chairman

Jay Levy
Vice Chairman

Sam Davis
Treasurer

Dana Coleman
Secretary

Jennifer Bent
Tim Bent
Beth Boord
Betsy Crossley
Sharron Francis
Claudia Gifford
Llew Ann King
Martha Larkin
Susan Leathers
Norm Miede
Lori Ray
Margaret Wilburn

Young Leaders Council
Erich Chadwick

Honorary
Jean Buchanan
Lee Peterseim

Staff

Susan Duvenhage
President & Executive Director

Mary Catherine Mousourakis
Development Director

Julie Eperjesi
Education Director

Kristin Hopkins
Naturalist

Randy Cromer
Land Manager

Amy MacKenzie
Live Animal Supervisor

Dear Friends,

It's been another great year! Our programs, events and the Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary experience continue to make a profound impact on visitors of all ages. In the words of an 8th grade student after a class service project, "It was so great to just go outdoors and help the Earth."

Our efforts to connect environmental science to active learning are never-ending. This past year we provided a wide variety of year-round environmental education programming (both on-site and in the community) for school groups, scout troops and others, including adults and home-schooled children. For the second year, school group attendance topped 6,000 and represented 12 school districts. We offered 115 public programs (15% increase) touching on a variety of subject matters, including: fossils, geocaching, hiking, invasive plants, seasonal foraging, and, of course, owls and wildlife.

We reached a 20-year citizen science milestone with our involvement in the North American Butterfly Association's annual butterfly count. The 2017 Tennessee Naturalist Program (TNP) cohort is the largest ever at 37 participants. This 10-month training program focuses on the natural history of Tennessee and is a vital source of knowledgeable, dedicated volunteers. Our workshops and classes, led by local favorites Ellen Knisley, Janet Lanier and Rachael McCampbell, interwove art and nature. Our Music in the Meadows summer series continues to grow and this year featured Colin Elmore & the Danville Train, Femke Weidama & Friends, The Whiskey Gentry and Nashville Jazz Orchestra Quartet. And, on a beautiful cloudless day, 80 visitors, including two families from out-of-state, chose Owl's Hill as the place they wanted to be to watch the mesmerizing total solar eclipse that captured the nation, and the world.

Looking ahead, sparking an interest in studying, understanding, appreciating and protecting the native plants, wildlife and vibrant ecosystem of Owl's Hill remains at the core of our work. None of our achievements would be possible without the ongoing support of our friends, volunteers and donors. Your generosity makes a difference to the school groups, teachers, families and visitors we serve each year. On behalf of our dedicated board and talented staff, we thank you for joining us in this worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,



Susan B. Duvenhage
President and Executive Director



Susan Duvenhage and Dr. Charles E. Smith



Dr. Charles E. Smith
Chairman, Board of Directors

Environmental Education



Classes

Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary is a 160-acre open-air classroom with forest, creek, meadow and hilltop stations for learning and exploration. We delivered **115 quality hands-on environmental education programs** in 2017 both on-site and in the classroom, reaching **6,000 students and teachers** from **12 school districts** in Middle Tennessee.



Camp 2017

Camp was another sell out! During seven weeks, **800+ campers** made a connection with nature - exploring and finding box turtles, salamanders and crayfish in the creek and even catching a glimpse of a Barred owl as it flew across the trail.

Dr. Ken Salleng and our own, Amy MacKenzie demonstrated a few of the skills necessary to become a veterinarian during Animal Caretaker camp. From injections and stitches to starting an IV for fluids, campers took the first steps toward a career in veterinary medicine.

Public Program Days

Our hike days (Free Hikes, Marshmallow & Hot Chocolate, Ultimate S'mores, etc..) took **over 800 visitors** out on the trail to experience the wild, natural beauty of Owl's Hill.

Our youngest - and most enthusiastic - participants are the **Knee-High Naturalists**, ages 3 to 5. These fearless explorers found fossils, learned all about owls, explored the creek and made friends with all our animal ambassadors.

Owl Day remains a perennial favorite giving children and adult visitors alike the opportunity to meet 3 of our owls, dissect an owl pellet and make an owl-inspired craft. And let's not forget the Great American Eclipse! Almost **70 individuals** hiked up to Bird's Eye View meadow to experience the solar eclipse in totality.

OWL'S HILL BY THE NUMBERS

2017 VISITORS

3,901 Adult Visitors

6,037 Children

10,046 Total Visitors

Visitors came from **18 States**

2017 EDUCATION PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

184 Classes of school children

18 Scout Programs

106 Public Program Days

2,800 Public Program Day Attendees

804 Summer Camp Participants

Conservation & Research

Though a year is but a blip barely registered by time, another one has passed and with it the story of the land continues. Thanks to our friends at LEAPS Environmental Consulting, we have made many discoveries while looking back through old records and entering new records into Owl's Hill historical data. Last fall, we discovered a very special fall blooming wildflower hanging out along the creek trail. *Spiranthes ovalis*, **Lesser or October Ladies' Tresses**, is a member of the orchid family, and though not endangered, it is a rare flower, considered vulnerable in its native range, and is on Tennessee's watch list. We are fortunate to protect such a beauty, as well as its cousin, *Spiranthes tuberosa* or **Little Ladies' Tresses**. Both species call the slopes of South Ridge home.



Spiranthes Ovalis / Lesser Ladies' Tresses
Photo Credit: Richard Hitt

Back in 1988, a naturalist with Cheekwood (who managed the property at the time) recorded the presence of *Fraxinus biltmoreana*, a native white ash tree, and described it as "residing in a mixed deciduous-oak/hickory habitat" on South Ridge. Two volunteers got to work and confirmed the existence of this **Biltmore Ash** on South Ridge - an exciting rediscovery!



The challenging work of focused invasive plant removal is ongoing. The goats reduced the presence of honeysuckle on the slopes of Haircut Hill. A special thanks to The Goat Guys, friends and neighbors of Owl's Hill, for continuing to partner with us on this natural brush removal alternative.

The next few years will see many more exciting activities on property. Specifically, we are seeking to collaborate research efforts with higher education institutions targeting our native bee population, bat populations, and more thorough inventory into what types of snakes live here at Owl's Hill.

Scientific research is an important part of Owl's Hill's mission. Specifically, scientific research that documents overall health and population density of indicator species and species of conservation concern which will help to inform key land management decisions is needed. If you have a research proposal you would like Owl's Hill to consider, please contact us.

Thank You to Our 2017 Donors

Many thanks to all our donors including Great Horned Owl Society members, foundations, businesses and other supporters. The following gifts were received between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017

INDIVIDUALS

Dane Anderson
Steve and Kathy Anderson
Lin and Bill Andrews
Currie and Jane Andrews
Anonymous
Mr. L.H. Armistead, III
Bill Arrants
James Ashenhurst
Kirby and Carolyn Baker
Margaret and Todd Bender
Susan D. Benson
Tim and Jennifer Bent
Mary Lee Bliet
G. Gordon and Claudia Bonnyman
Henry Ambrose and Elizabeth Boord
Jeanalice Brickman
Mary and Hank Brockman
Carl and Holly
Adrian Cameron
Jim and Margaret Cameron
Doug and Debbie Cate
James and Patricia Charron
Jim^(D) and Debbie Clapper
David and Patty Coats
Dan B. Coleman
Dana Coleman and Ron Taylor
Michael and Cindy Corn
Roger and Barbara Cottrell
Ben and Holly Couch
Erin Davis
Sam and Sharlo Davis
Katherine Dean
Mr. and Mrs. William Edwards
Peter and Julie Eperjesi
Joyce and David Eyler
John and Renee Farkas
B.Q. and Maureen Foy
Sharron Francis
Barbara Futter
Catherine and Scott Gain

Mike and Sue Gay
Claudia and John Gifford
Thomas Gifford
Pete and Jan Giordano
Andy and Alene Gnyp
Tom and Carol Ann Graham
Barry and Karla Graul
Barbara and Gehrig Harris
Jason and Carrie Haslam
Mary C. Healy
Mimi and Russ Heldman
Richard Hitt
Robin Holt Zenker
Mrs. Henry Hooker
Bill and Margaret Howell
Margie Hunter
Matt and Llew Ann King
Paul and Peggy Kingsbury
Anne Knauff
Charles and Elizabeth Kown
Liz and Thomas Krueger
Martha and Larry Larkin
Larry and Susan Leathers
Cynthia Leu
Jay and Lisa Levy
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lusky
Amy MacKenzie
Mary M. Marble
Dr. Charles and Tammy McKay
Mark and Janice McNeely
Norm and Debby Miede
Calvin and Molly Miller
Michael and Lu Miller
Dick and Kathy Minton
Michael Modrak
Angela Morris
Steve and Mary Catherine Mousourakis
Lezlie Murray
Mrs. Colleen M. Nagy

Roy and Maya Neeley
Phoebe Clark Nischan
Kitty Norton
Julie O'Hara
Lee and Marguerite Peterseim
Danielle Peterson
Jon and Jessica Plumlee
John and Lori Ray
Ralph and Jane Roach
Seth and Victoria Robertson
Alice Rooker
Emme Rotier
Susan Savage
Schine Family Hannukah Charity Project
Roger and Martha Shirley
Crea and Alan Sielbeck
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Silva
Carolyn Smith Bryant
Charles and Barbara Smith
Dr. Margaret Smith
Dr. Shannon Snyder and Oran Aranson
Ms. Peggy C. Steele
Andy Sudbrock
Mr. William R. Taber, Jr.
Vernon S. Taylor
Mark and Theresa Tillinger
Stephanie Vandenberg
Mary and Alex Wade; Dee Dee Wade
Laura E. Ward
Betty and Charles Warfield
Sarah Webster
Rick and Connie Weisner
Margaret Wilburn
Teri Wildt
Jeffrey and Kristy Williams
L. Glenn and Barbara Worley
Douglas and Betty Wise
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Wolfe

OWL'S HILL BY THE NUMBERS

20 Acres of Honeysuckle Cleared

119 Native Trees Planted
(Laurel Oak, Virginia Pine, American Plum, Rough-leaf and Silky Dogwoods, Shumard Oak, Tulip Poplar)

57 Number of Native Plants Installed
(Witchhazel, Aster, Blackeyed Susan, Coreopsis, Bergamont, and others)

859 Butterflies Recorded Representing
36 Different Species

CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS & GOVERNMENT

AWC Family Foundation
Barbara J. Mapp Foundation
Belk Charity Days
bighouse graphix, llc
Cameron Worley, P.C.
Clayton Management
Community Foundation of Middle TN
Roger and Barbara Cottrell Foundation
Cumberland Trust & Investment
Doochin Family Charitable Foundation

H. G Hill Realty, Inc.
HCA Foundation
HCA / TriCare
Horticultural Association of Tennessee
IBM International Foundation
The Merrell Family Fund of AYCO Charitable Foundation
Pinnacle Financial Management Partners
Play It Again Sports

R.B. Construction
Sharing Change of Middle Tennessee
T & T Family Foundation
TBH Global Asset Management
Tennessee Native Plant Society
Tennessee Naturalist Program
Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency
Mary and Alex Wade; Dee Dee Wade
Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis, LLP
Williamson County Chamber Foundation

(D) - deceased

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In Honor of Alma Vails
Amona

In Honor of Arlene Fulmer
Jeff and Sonja Fulmer

In Honor of Bill & Margaret Howell
Alix Weiss-Sharp

In Honor of Bob and Pandv English
Cindi Smith-Walters and W.D. Walters

In Honor of Carolyn Baker
Scott, Elaine, Quinn & Ty

In Honor of Dr. Mary L. Michael
Mary Ann Sugg^(P)

In Honor of HCA IT&S Field Operations Leadership
Jay & Lisa Levy

In Honor of J. Randy Cromer
Karen and Paul Isaac

In Honor of Ken Schubring
George and Betsy Crossley

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Aimee McCray
Brian McCray

In Memory of Alex Steele
John and Caroline Brewer
Mary and Hank Brockman
Lori D. Canale

In Memory of Barbara Coleman
Dan B. Coleman

In Memory of Bennie Wells Shaw Batson

Aldridge, Borden & Company, P.C.
Clara Allison
Steve and Kathy Anderson
Susan S. Weiss, Attorney
Dr. and Mrs. George Carpenter
Russ and Jackie Corley
Michael and Cindy Corn
Cassie Fahrney
Jeff and Sonja Fulmer
The Hartman Family
Ms. Marilyn Hecht
Tom Hill
Les Hottov
Howard Schubiner and Valerie Overholt
Charitable Fund

Lewis Lefkowitz
Mrs. Armistead Nelson
Lynn and Steve Waterman
Dr. & Mrs. Faxon Payne
Lee and Marguerite Peterseim
Mrs. Ann W. Rowe
Thomas A. Satterfield
Pangaea

IN-KIND DONATIONS

bighouse graphix, llc
Jean and David Buchanan
James and Margaret Cameron

Betsy Crossley
Peter & Julie Eperjesi
Michael Gaster & Associates

Lance Krafft
Susan Leathers
Dawn Lewis

Nashville Pizza Company
Ms. Jeannine Pruitt
R.B. Construction

Jerry and Linda Rainey
Janelle Wilson
The Saucy Sisters

In Honor Margaret Cameron
Steve and Kathy Anderson
Tim and Jennifer Bent
Emily and David Berry
Henry Ambrose & Elizabeth Boord
Dan B. Coleman
Dana Coleman & Ron Taylor
George and Betsy Crossley
Linda Kantoz-Doochin & Michael Doochin
Bob English
Pandy English
Ann Ercelawn
Sharron Francis
Catherine and Scott Gain
George and Nancy Garden
Claudia and John Gifford
Tom and Carol Ann Graham
Barbara & Gehrig Harris
Morel Enoch Harvey
Mary C. Healy
Mimi & Russ Heldman
Richard Hitt
Margie Hunter

Steve and Betsy Silverman
Greg and Jan Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Lester H. Smith, Jr.
Benjamin and Amanda Sneed
Dr. Mildred Stahlman
Lane Newton Summers
Steve, Cheryl, Lindsey & Kellie Wilburn
Tracey Hill Woodward

In Memory of Bob Francis
Sharron Francis
Brenda Martin

In Memory of Johnny Howell
George and Nancy Garden

In Memory of Lazy Beignet
Bruce Hafford

In Memory of Lee A. Enoch, Jr.
Morel Enoch Harvey

In Memory of Mae Ellen Wilson
Teri Wildt

In Memory of Mary Ann Sugg
Steve and Kathy Anderson
Ran Batson
Henry Ambrose & Elizabeth Boord
David & Jean Buchanan
Patsye Candish
Morel Enoch Harvey
Bill & Margaret Howell
Pat Maffei
Dr. Mary L. Michal
Charlie and Connally Penley

Matt & Llew Ann King
Anne Knauff
Charles & Elizabeth Kown
Jay & Lisa Levy
Norm and Debby Miede
Michael and Lu Miller
Ann Orman
Charlie and Connally Penley
Lee and Marguerite Peterseim
Charles and Barbara Smith
Dr. Margaret Smith
Rita W. Venable

In Honor of Mary Catherine Mousourakis
Rea and Nancy Huston

In Honor of Norm Miede
Carol and Charley Hankla

In Honor of Sara Holcomb
Dave and Elizabeth Lemke

In Honor of William D. Leader
Mary Moore

Lee and Marguerite Peterseim
Sr. Breakfast Group on Tuesday
Prudence Sherrill
James and Rebecca Short

In Memory of Ralph Carlson
Norm and Debby Miede

In Memory of Robin Stratton
Linda Johnson
Sandra Stratton

In Memory of Ruth Inman Hardiman Schubring
George and Betsy Crossley

In Memory of Sarah Sharp Taylor
Joe and Margaret Peel

In Memory of Joe W. Diehl
Ellen Dillon
John Noel and Melinda Welton

In Memory of Shawna Lea Hickerson Smith
Tommy Lee and Butch Garrett
Jim and Jean Turbeville
Joan Miller
Linda Ramsey
Charles and Barbara Smith
Jack and Carolyn Williams

Steve Benneyworth Fund for the Arts
David Benneyworth
Lisa Jennings
Anne Knauff
R.B. Construction
Steve Sirls and Allen DeCuyper

Statement of Operating Activity

For the years ended September 30, 2016 and 2017 (prior to audit)

<u>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</u>	2017	2016
Programs	\$89,811	\$83,230
Contributions	\$118,114	\$108,093
Sponsorships and Grants	\$53,900	\$44,150
Investment Distribution designated for Operations	\$78,082	\$48,984
Other Income	\$1,433	\$2,757
Total Revenue	341,340	287,215

<u>EXPENSES</u>	2017	2016
Personnel	\$211,079	\$186,593
Education Programming	\$37,569	\$34,502
Facilities, Trails and Ground	\$18,215	\$14,049
Management and General	\$57,365	\$41,704
Development and Events	\$13,105	\$6,773
Marketing and Advertising	\$7,703	\$9,842
Retail and Supporting Services	\$960	\$2,209
Total Expenses	\$345,996	\$295,672

<u>OTHER</u>	2017	2016
Investment Income and Change in FMV	\$53,808	\$89,199
Capital Expenditures	(\$2,788)	-
Depreciation Expense	(\$25,805)	(\$25,805)
Investment Management Expense	(\$10,655)	(\$10,128)
Total Other	\$14,570	\$53,267

Statement of Financial Position (9/30/2017)

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$27,259
Property and Equipment	\$822,706
Investments	\$1,190,002
Total Assets	\$2,039,966

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expense	\$5,083
Advance Program Fees	\$7,400
Total Liabilities	\$12,483

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$2,017,570
Change in Net Assets	\$9,914
Total Net Assets	\$2,027,484
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$2,039,966



Photo by C. Routledge

Thank you to all our donors! Every attempt is made to accurately report recognitions, but errors can occur and we apologize for any misspellings or omissions.
Please contact 615.370.4672 with corrections.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Volunteer Spirit

Owl's Hill depends on our volunteers to carry out mission by leading nature hikes, participating in citizen science projects and innumerable other contributions. These groups and individuals gave of their time and talent to Owl's Hill in 2017. To all of them, we give our sincere gratitude and appreciation.

50+ Volunteer Hours

Mary Lee Bliak	Morel Enoch Harvey
Jean Buchanan	Richard Hitt
David Coats	Margaret Howell
Sharron Francis	Denis Lovell
Nancy Garden	Margaret Smith

527 Total Number of Volunteers

25+ Volunteer Hours

Dane Andersen	Julius Johnson
Benny Ayers	Llew Ann King
Claudia Gifford	Susan Leathers
Mary C. Healy	Boyce Wanamaker

1,558 Volunteer Hours Logged

