
FISCAL YEAR
2017
ANNUAL REPORT
This past week at The Ecology School was fun. We spent four long days exploring different ecosystems and learning how they were created and how they function. I was able to spend a lot of time with friends and got a lot closer to them as well. I learned that everything comes down to abiotic factors and without them we would no longer be here. The educators were very good at teaching with a purpose and making things fun too. I enjoyed the food, people, places and ecosystems here, and I will never forget it.

- Laura, Grade 8, Spring 2017

IN 2017, OVER 12,000 CHILDREN AND ADULTS EXPLORED ECOLOGY, OUTDOOR SCIENCE, AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH THE ECOLOGY SCHOOL’S INNOVATIVE, HANDS-ON, AND FULLY IMMERSIVE PROGRAMMING. OUR PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES TO LEARN THROUGH NATURAL INCLINATIONS—ENGAGING THEIR CURIOSITY AND ALL FIVE SENSES TO DISCOVER AND CONNECT WITH THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE WORLD AROUND THEM. EXPLORATION AND INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED IN THE GREATEST CLASSROOM IMAGINABLE, THE OUTDOORS.
Letter from The Ecology School President & CEO

I’m so proud to say that 2018 marks the 20th year of operations and community service for The Ecology School. Since 1998, our staff has passionately dedicated our work to guide students of all ages in exploring the world around them—figuring how things work—and their role in it. We help kids create true and honest connections to their surroundings through authentic and sustainable living practices, actionable conservation steps, and engaging environmental education so that their relationship with nature carries forward into adulthood. To continue our commitment to the next generation of environmental stewards, it is crucial that we grow our programs to reach an even wider audience. River Bend Farm, a historic 105-acre farm nestled along the Saco River just 20 minutes up the road from our current leased site, gives us such a tremendous opportunity to ignite the next phase of The Ecology School as a nationwide leader for residential environmental learning centers.

Coincidentally, 2018 marks a hallmark 20th anniversary for River Bend Farm as well. In 1998 its previous owner, the conservationist and philanthropist Mary Merrill, placed the property under a conservation easement to preserve the integrity of its colonial history, ecological abundance, and agricultural roots as well as its unparalleled beauty. It seems fitting that this year will mark the beginning of The Ecology School’s transition to this new home as our students, staff, and friends begin to breathe new life and increased stewardship to the abundant farmlands and forests of River Bend Farm.

I’d like to personally invite every one of you, our friends and supporters, to visit us at our current Ferry Beach site or at River Bend Farm in 2018. Please join us as we “Reimagine Now” through our programs, events, and magnificent new farm.

— Drew Dumsch, President & CEO
As The Ecology School Board Chair and as an educator, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to share with you the excitement and promise that surrounds the recent purchase of River Bend Farm.

Your contributions, volunteerism, and advice have allowed for continued high-quality environmental education which provides students an opportunity to explore the ecosystems that surround them, to develop a sense of stewardship, and to gain a deeper understanding of the world and their place in it. River Bend Farm has a specialness of place—a natural beauty and an ecological diversity—that will enhance programming, model sustainability, and increase engagement with the broader community through new programs and partnerships.

It is with deep gratitude that I acknowledge your investment in youth and a sustainable future. I look forward to joining you in the near future at our new home, River Bend Farm.

— Mary Martin, Board Chair
Board of Directors

**Officers**
Mary Martin, CHAIR
John Rooks, VICE CHAIR
Steven Grindle, TREASURER
Linda Boudreau, SECRETARY

**Directors**
Robert Adkins
Joel Alex
Catherine Goodwin
Mike Hansen
Corey Hascall
Amy Ouellette
Susan Swanton
Richard Mersereau, BOARD ADVISOR

**Administrative Staff**
Drew Dumsch, PRESIDENT AND CEO
Bryan Matluk, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Alex Grindle, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
Meg Edstrom Jones, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM DESIGN
Caley Mackenzie, RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS MANAGER
Leanna Bonds, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE
Caitlin Brooke, COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR
Amalie Sonneborn, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

List Current as of March 31, 2018

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**2017 PROGRAM IMPACT**

Total Program Participants: **12,104**
Residential Program Participants: **3,294**
Outreach, Events and Day Program Participants: **8,570**
Total Participating Towns in New England: **52**
Total Participating Schools in New England: **69**
Total Participant Contact Hours: **206,493**

**2017 PROGRAM IMPACT IN MAINE**

Total Program Participants from Maine: **7,710**
Total Maine Students Reached: **6,984**
Total Maine Teachers Reached: **614**
Total Contact Hours with Maine Students: **34,201**
Total Participating Towns in Maine: **17**
Total Participating Schools in Maine: **25**
Financials
Audited financial statements by Albin, Randall & Bennett, CPA, Portland, Maine

2017 Revenue

- Program Income $717,246
- Fundraising & Grants $394,737
- Sales, Interest & Contracts $8,164

Total Revenues $1,120,147

2017 Expenses 2017 Actual

- Program Expenses $878,623
- Events/Fundraising/Grants $79,450
- Support, Management $118,440

Total Expenses $1,076,513

2017 Educators and Seasonal Staff

Dawn Allison, RN
Amy Andrews
Kristen Balschunat
Bridget Benson
Sydney Bergen
Cassandra Biette
Mary Birrer
Leanna Bonds
Grace Carbeck
Sam Collins
Clare Cunningham

Carly Dominick-Sobol
Tessa Diehl
Mallory Durkee
Chris Emery
Tom Foley
Alec Knapp
Abbey Leonardi
Victor B. Leos
Kelsey Madison
Danielle Nugent
Rich O’Brien, Head Chef & Owner, Pangea Food Service

Laura Poppick
Nick Raines
Hannah Ryde
Aaron Snyder
Amalie Sonneborn
Kalyn Sullivan
Zach Taylor
Celeste Venoila
Joel Wagner
Sam Wilson
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT ASSETS:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>334,677</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>9,935</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,337</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Insurance</td>
<td>1,458</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>347,407</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land (105 acre River Bend Farm property)</td>
<td>936,141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings (River Bend Farmhouse, Barn, etc.)</td>
<td>671,924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>26,552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaseholder Improvements</td>
<td>64,389</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction in Progress</td>
<td>166,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>-60,557</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Property &amp; Equipment</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,804,755</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,152,162</strong></td>
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| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS:                |      |
|Current Liabilities:                     |      |
|Current portion of long term debt        | 1,571,000 |
|Accounts Payable                        | 34,104  |
|Accrued expenses                         | 3,182   |
|Tuition Deposits                         | 143,500 |
|**Total Current Liabilities:**           | **1,751,786**|
|Long-Term Debt, net of current position  | **10,000**|
|**Net Assets:**                          |      |
|Unrestricted                             | 340,376 |
|Temporarily restricted (2018 grants)     | 50,000  |
|**Total Net Assets/Equity:**             | **390,376**|

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<td><strong>2,152,162</strong></td>
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Donors

**Businesses**

$10,000+
- Pratt & Whitney
- Poland Spring Bottling Company

$1,000-9,999
- Unum Matching Gifts

$500-999
- Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church
- Allagash Brewing Company
- Angelrox
- Bangor Savings Bank
- Flatbread Company
- Kaplan Thompson Architects
- Oakhurst Dairy
- P&C Insurance
- Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution

$250-499
- Hannaford Bags 4 My Cause

$100-249
- Biddeford Savings Bank
- Altrusa International, Inc. of Greater Biddeford Saco
- Edison Press
- Saco Valley Credit Union

**Up to $99**
- Moody’s Nursery & Garden Center

**FOAM**
(Fantastic Order of Alumni Masters/Past Educator)

$1,000+
- Drew Dumsch and Lisa Farago
- Kristin Hunter-Thomson

$100-249
- Joel Alex*
- Will Broussard*
- Mo Duggan and Dean Emery
- Sara Gabrielson
- Victor Izzo*
- Christopher Kirkhoff*
- Debbie Lyon
- Maggie Samen
- Michael Spradlin
- Katrina Venhuizen*

$50-99
- Hannah Bissex
- Kathleen Smith Caruso
- Mallory Durkee
- Chris Emery
- Margaret Graciano*
- Peter Levi
- Andie Bisceglia and Wick Prichard
- Liz Robbe
- Sarah Trapido
- Jeff Zotz

$1,000-9,999
- Drew Dumsch and Lisa Farago
- Kristin Hunter-Thomson

$500-999
- Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church
- Allagash Brewing Company
- Angelrox
- Bangor Savings Bank
- Flatbread Company
- Kaplan Thompson Architects
- Oakhurst Dairy
- P&C Insurance
- Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution

$250-499
- Hannaford Bags 4 My Cause

$100-249
- Biddeford Savings Bank
- Altrusa International, Inc. of Greater Biddeford Saco
- Edison Press
- Saco Valley Credit Union

**Foundations**

$30,000+
- Davis Family Foundation
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation *Funding the ELLMS Project

$10,000-29,999
- Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation
- D. Suzi Osher Foundation Trust
- Quimby Family Foundation
- Virgina Hodgkins Somers Foundation

$5,000-9,999
- The Belayer Fund of the Maine Community Foundation
- Clif Bar Family Foundation
- The Leonard and Mildred Ferguson Foundation
- Fund for Maine Land Conservation of the Maine Community Foundation
$1,000-4,999
A Rising Tide Inc.
Androscoggin Bank’s MainStreet Foundation
People’s United Community Foundation
York County Children’s Aid Society Fund of
the Maine Community Foundation

$500-999
Morgan Stanley Foundation
The Nash Foundation

Individuals

$100,000+
In Honor of Mary D. Merrill

$10,000+
Anonymous
Nick and Mary Dumsch
Steven H. and Merilee Grindle

$5,000-9,999
Martha Taylor

$1,000-4,999
Robert Adkins
Dee & Tom Brown
Paige Eagle and Christian Sinderman
Caryl Everett*
Bridget Jones and Dinesh Goburdhun
Bobbi Keppel
Mary and Fred Martin
E. Bruce and Mary L. Plummer

$500-999
John R. Brautigam
Bill and Louise Graver
Guy and Robin Huntley*
Tom Klak and Jeanne Hey
Bob and Sue Murphy*
Linda Sullivan
John & Barbara Zotz

$250-499
Ken and Amy Barber
Linda and Guy Boudreau
Virginia Crocker
Kate Gillis*
Cathy Goodwin
Mike Hansen
Corey Hascall*
Deborah & Clayton B Jones III
Bryan Matuk*
Alan Minthorn
Lucien and Amy Ouellette
Peter Signell
Susan Swanton

$100-249
Jessica Boehland
Frank and Nancy Brooks
Peter Desnoyers
Kenneth R. and Mary V. Feathers
Joan Forrest
Rebecca Harrison
Margy Holson
Penny Kates
Don and Kathy Knight
Vicky Leknes
Irmgard Neils
Russ Peppe
Norman Segel
Gayle A. & Michael J. Tweed
Robert and Susan Williams
Dale Yerger
Susan Louisa Zayac
Robert and Vicki Zwerdling

Up to $99
Vicki and Al Adams
Kate Anderson
Geri and Vic Barry
Claudia Tsiopora Berman
Ann Boynton
Barbara Fiore
Judith Fletcher
William Glidden
Kathleen Guilday
Jane and John Hartnett
Ronald and Patricia Harwood
Carol Hayden and Dick Hall
Adele Holman
David and Rommy Holman*
Laura and Stephen Humphrey
Robert Jope
Peter Knight
Tom Ledue
John and Diane Lemoine
Susan and James Marcotte
John and Charles Partridge
Janice Pelletier
Don and Linsey Pilon
Jamie Potenberg
Loid and Brown Pulliam
Robena Reid
Allen and Carol Rivest
Nan Schildroth
Diane M. Schuette
Ethan and Miho Segal
Julie and Curtis Smyth
Lindsay Sommerauer
Hannah Sukonick
Dorina Toppan and Ray Peterson
Peter and Margaret Zack

*Reoccurring Gifts
River Bend Farm: 105 Acres of Opportunity

Transformation from a limited, seasonal small-scale leased property to an expansive year-round agroecology farming and conservation center will propel The Ecology School’s future programmatic reach and community engagement.

Since 1998, we have leased the Ferry Beach Park Association center for 12 weeks in the spring and 10 weeks in the autumn (weekdays only) for nearly $200,000 in rent costs per year. Nearing the end of our current 10 year Ferry Beach lease, we focused on finding the perfect new home and have found it just 20 minutes away at River Bend Farm. The completed Master Plan envisions turning this historic farm into a year-round residential environmental learning center. Through adherence to The Living Building Challenge standards, our campus at River Bend Farm will follow the most advanced measure of sustainability in the built environment, going above and beyond LEED certification.
Current Location at Ferry Beach

- Limited to half-acre teaching garden
- Limited to 100 residential program days per year
- Suburban location with publicly shared beach access and excessive auto traffic
- Shared office with limited storage and no year-round educational space
- No opportunities for on-site community programs
- No capacity for ongoing ecology research

River Bend Farm

- 105 acre working agroecology farm with livestock, orchards, and gardens
- 365 days unlimited usage per year allowing for the creation of new summer and year-round programs as well as expanded community engagement initiatives
- Saco Bay beaches, salt marsh and tide pools just a short bus trip away PLUS new ecological zones including freshwater pond, streams, and agroecology farm
- Pastoral location with half-mile private Saco River frontage
- Majority of property is secluded from traffic and other houses
- Historic 1794 farmhouse with four offices, three educational meeting rooms, visitor center, and caretaker’s apartment
- Historic 12,089 sq. ft. barn capable of housing livestock, equipment, large educational and meeting spaces, produce processing and storage, and offices
- Over 2.5 miles of conservation trails
- Unlimited potential for ongoing field ecology, agriculture, and conservation research
Thank you for turning games into learning! That was one of my favorite things about the whole trip!
- Shawn, Grade 7, Fall 2017