Celebrating 20 Years
Inspiring stewardship of and connection to the natural world through experiential learning in ecology, conservation, farming, and sustainability.

FISCAL YEAR 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

THE ECOLOGY SCHOOL

Celebrating 20 Years
Inspiring stewardship of and connection to the natural world through experiential learning in ecology, conservation, farming, and sustainability.
Ecology is much more than an important branch of science, it is a way to understand the world and make important connections by studying “HOME” in all of its many forms. In 2018, The Ecology School welcomed more than 12,000 total participants to learn about:

- the specific homes created and lived in by a diversity of plants and animals,
- the wider ecosystem homes that they compete and cooperate with,
- the human homes we inhabit and interact in ranging from our family houses to our classrooms to our work places,
- and, perhaps most importantly, our shared home, the Earth.

Our program participants learn that systems we incorporate in our everyday homes are often modeled after system processes which naturally occur. They also learned that the systems in nature’s homes are sustainable over hundreds, thousands, and millions of years; whereas current human-made homes are most often not.

The Ecology School guides students towards new ways of thinking and long term solutions to be more sustainable and resilient. To this end, River Bend Farm is designed to incorporate our educational philosophy by modeling everyday sustainable systems and drawing inspiration from the natural landscape.
Few words hold as much emotional resonance and deep meaning as the word HOME. Expressions like coming home, home for the holidays, home is where the heart is, and home sweet home all invoke feelings of warmth, understanding, and happiness. On the other hand, words such as homesick and homeless invoke sadness, disconnection, alienation, and even fear. To be away from your home, however you define it, leaves you ungrounded and uncertain. To have no home endangers your health and safety.

The Ecology School began, grew, and flourished for 20 years as an anchor tenant at a leased facility but we were limited as seasonal renters with the majority of our programs and tuition revenue happening in just 20 weeks (11 Spring Term and 9 Fall Term)—weekdays only. After four years of planning and preparation starting in 2015, and now construction slated to begin this summer, River Bend Farm will officially become the year-round home in the summer of 2020 for all of our programs, our offices, our farming operations, and our ecology research.

When you’re at home you know where to find things, you know where the food is, you know how to sustain comfort, warmth, and well-being. This is as true for any animal as it is for us. The Ecology School at River Bend Farm will model this idea of Home in the broadest and deepest ways with the meals we serve in our dining commons featuring food grown in our own fields. When you spend the night in our Living Building dormitory, you’ll know that the power to light the hallways and dorm rooms comes from the 700+ solar power panels just a few hundred yards down the hill! When you spend time exploring the varied and diverse ecosystems of River Bend Farm you will begin to feel fully at home in the most meaningful way possible, connecting your own life to the Earth and the natural cycles and systems that sustain us all. These new deep connections will lead to a generosity of spirit and a true commitment to being an active part of healthy and resilient communities.

Welcome home!

–Drew Dumsch, Co-founder, President, and CEO, The Ecology School

Celebrating 20 years of welcoming people home!

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 us all at River Bend Farm.

Within just a few weeks the foundations for the new dormitory and dining commons will be laid and construction will begin. While these foundations will provide the support and stability for the structures, the ideological foundation for these buildings has been present for twenty years and has impacted thousands of children and adults.

As we make our home at River Bend Farm, relationships and a sense of belonging remain at the heart of who we are and what we do. While exploring our relationship to the environment, we also seek to build and strengthen the relationships that connect us to each other. We recognize that the contributions of our collaborative partners and generous donors continue to make it possible to focus on our vision for a sustainable future.

River Bend Farm provides the ideal opportunity for us to deepen our commitment to our mission through expanded programming and to become a national model for environmental education, sustainable farming, and conservation. Thank you for supporting our vision and joining us on this important journey.

–Mary Martin, The Ecology School Board of Directors, Chair
Instead of learning about our world from a textbook or inside classrooms, our residential students receive **more than six hours of interactive education outside in nature** each day. Using costumed characters and story-telling techniques, we teach important ecological concepts through hands-on activities. We call this approach to learning **Narrative Education**; utilizing skits, songs, and games to uncover nature’s systems and themes like reading chapters in a book.

Our music **parody popular songs** while including important **environmental and agricultural themes** to make them educational. One of our newest songs, “Fallow” is about the “Garden Recycling Center” and how decomposers, like worms, can enrich the soil. It parodies the song “Shallow” from the movie *A Star is Born*. (Sung with your best Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga impressions!)

**“Fallow” (Em7, D/F#, G)**

to the tune of “Shallow” from *A Star is Born* (2018)

Tell me something, worm
Are you happy in your garden world
Or do you need more?
Are there nutrients you’re searching for?

I’m calling
For all the fruit peels and salad greens
Longin’ to change
Them into rich soil we farm ourselves.

Tell me something, kids
About the plate waste that you thought you hid
so You think you need more?
Could you take less next time or think, “What for?”

I’m calling
For-you-to-think-what-you-choose for yourself
Longin’ for change
And it can come if we think for ourselves.

I’m in the garden, watch as I dig in
I’ll always till this ground
Plants on the surface, where they can feed us
It’s soil in the garden now.

In the garden, gar gar-den
In the garden, garden, gar gar-den
In the garden, gar gar-den
It’s soil in the garden now.

*chords you need to know to play this song.*

Parody written by Meg Edstrom Jones, The Ecology School
Director of Education and Curriculum Design
PROGRAM IMPACT
Total Participating Towns in New England: 60
Total Participating Schools in New England: 75
Residential Program Participants: 3,268
Outreach, Events, and Day Program Participants: 9,975
Total Program Participants: 13,243
Total Participant Contact Hours: 225,052

PROGRAM IMPACT IN MAINE
Total Participating Towns in Maine: 23
Total Participating Schools in Maine: 31
Total Maine Teachers Reached: 697
Total Maine Students Reached: 8,377
Total Program Participants from Maine: 10,066
Total Contact Hours with Maine Participants: 50,770

TUITION IMPACT
Total Program Tuition: $1,039,704
Tuition Discounts and Scholarships: $256,686
Actual Tuition Paid: $723,018

*Tuition discounts and scholarships are made possible, in part, through the generous contributions of individuals, businesses and foundations to our Annual Fund.

As we were working on our postcards, a student, Danielle, called me over to ask a question. I saw that on the front of her postcard she drew a picture of The Ecology School and wrote ‘community’ above it. Danielle asked, ‘Would it be okay if I wrote ‘love’ too?’ She said that she feels so much love here while in The Ecology School community. I said, “Of course! Add it!” This is the same girl that later cried tears of joy at the closing ceremony.
—Gabby Brodek, Educator, March 2018
The Ecology School
Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report

FINANCIALS
Audited financial statements by Albin, Randall & Bennett, CPAs

Thanks in large part to our friends and supporters, we ended the fiscal year December 31, 2018 with an increase in Net Assets of $916,392, primarily through funding of the River Bend Farm Project. This represents a tremendous increase in contributed support and by far our most financially significant year in our 20-year history. The expenses shifted to higher costs for fundraising and management due in part to new IRS reporting requirements and to preliminary work on the River Bend Farm Capital Campaign along with important staffing increases.

2018 REVENUE

- Fundraising and Grants Income: $1,186,946
- Program Income: $783,018
- Other Income (Sales, Interest, & Rent): $215,974
- Total Revenues: $2,185,038

2018 EXPENSES

- Program Expenses: $911,721
- Fundraising Expenses: $177,823
- Support, Management: $179,102
- Total Expenses: $1,268,646

2018 REVENUE

During my trip I learned so much! I learned about composting and zero food waste, ecosystems in the woods, and dunes and beaches. We learned about animals and their adaptations and even tried some new food. I had so much fun this trip! I also learned about our environmental footprint, and even watched lots of funny skits and listened to and sang funny songs. I am proud of stepping out of my comfort zone and becoming interested in nature. Overall I loved it here; especially when we all sat down to dinner and I felt like a part of an amazing big family.

–Derek, Grade 6, April 2018
# Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2018

## Current and Other Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; cash equivalents</td>
<td>370,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign pledges &amp; other receivables</td>
<td>398,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses &amp; debt issuance costs</td>
<td>48,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>6,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current &amp; Other Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>825,218</strong></td>
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## Property and Equipment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land (105-acre River Bend Farm Property)</td>
<td>936,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings (River Bend Farmhouse, Barn, etc.)</td>
<td>685,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>27,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction in progress</td>
<td>969,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,576,179</strong></td>
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</table>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

### Current Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line of credit</td>
<td>416,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current portion of long term debt</td>
<td>1,525,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>92,151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>8,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition deposits</td>
<td>41,905</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,084,629</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Long-Term Debt, net of current position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
<td>64,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions</td>
<td>1,241,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,306,768</strong></td>
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</table>

## Total Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,401,397</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Audited financial statements conducted by Albin, Randall & Bennett CPAs
FOAM  [ˈf əm]
1. A mass of bubbles formed on top of liquid
2. A lightweight material reused to make fun and educational costumes
3. Fantastic Order of Alumni Masters
4. A group of extremely talented, outlandishly funny, and supremely passionate environmental educators who have been, and continue to be, the foundation of The Ecology School.

FOAMer Spotlight: Gabby Queenan,
Getting Real About Boston’s Dirty Water
Gabby was recently featured on WBUR, Boston’s NPR News Station, to bring much needed attention to the raw sewage that is discharged in some local rivers.

One of the many takeaways I brought with me from teaching at The Ecology School is the mantra that ‘all water is local.’ Everyone should feel connected to their water system because we are integrally tied to it. This is essential because if people feel connected to their waterways, they are far more likely to want to protect them. I try and push that idea in all of my work in safeguarding our water resources.

–Gabby Queenan, Educator, Spring 2015 & Fall 2016

Gabby is the current Policy Director at the Massachusetts River Alliance (Cambridge, Massachusetts), an organization that works to strengthen statewide river policies in four areas: water quality, stream flow, wildlife habitat, and investment in green infrastructure. As reported by WBUR, her group is pushing for notifications to be sent to the public, not just government entities as currently mandated by Clean Water Act standards. Read the full article at theecologyschool.org/newsletters (April 2019).

At the start of the week, my group had some clearly defined boundaries about “who’s who” and preconceived judgments about each other. After only a few lessons, those walls began to dissolve and students started to organically work with each other—redefining who they are and bursting with creative energy. It was really encouraging to see the kids lead songs and develop activities they wanted to do together to make the experience memorable. This was a group where I could DIRECTLY see where they came from and where they were going had changed.

–Chris Emery, Educator, April 2018

2018 EDUCATORS AND SEASONAL STAFF
Dawn Allison, RN
Giovanna Bishop
Gabrielle Brodek
Kyle Brooks
Alex Chasse
Nolan Crees
Tessa Diehl
Mallory Durkee
Chris Emery
Chelsea Hubert
Ellie Johnson
Alexandra Keith
Katie Legnard
Maya Littlefield
Krissy Lynch
Philip Mathieu
Josh Miller
Leah Mould
Rich O’Brien, Head Chef & Owner, Pangea Food Service
Shenandoah Raycroft
Molly Scanga
Kaitlin Stitnner
Brody Todd
Miranda Wheeler

The Ecology School Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

$100,000+
Daniel E Offutt III, Charitable Trust
In Honor of Norma Harrison
   Anonymous
   Olivia Clawson
   Jane Cloutier
   Bruce and Marlene Cummings
   Drew Dumsch and Lisa Farago
   Keil Dumsch
   Nick and Mary Dumsch
   A. Donald and Susan H. Grant
   Benjamin Harrison and Megan Rohrssen
   Buck and Jackie Harrison
   Jordan Harrison and Adam Greenfield
   Rebecca Harrison
   Anna and Max Hjortsberg
   Marjory Keeler
   Peggy Kornegger and Anne Katzeff
   Connie and Bob Lehner
   Lozier Family
   Irmgard Neils
   Gail Parker
   Thomas Peterson and Karin Neils
   Jamie and Steve Potenberg
   Linda Proefrock
   Sandra K Roberts
   Lizabeth and John Snell
   Lisa and Phillip Swinehart
   Jeffery and Margaret Swinehart
   Michala Gallagher
   The Harrow Partal Family
   Priscille Michaud
   Jonathon Olesen
   Amy and Lucien Ouellette
   Bernard and Lisa Ouellette
   Paul and Alma Ouellette
   Albert and Elaine Ouellette
   Craig and Mary Parent
   Reg Parent
   Scott and Wendy Parent
   Fred Watson Pierce
   George and Colette Quirion
   The Reed Family
   Ries Family
   Robert and Del Anne Rowe
   Katherine Rutheford
   The Saymours of Massachusetts
   Darlene Stubbe
   Amy Winslow
   Warren and Barbara Winslow
   In Honor of Mary D. Merrill
   Tom and Polly Merrill
   In Honor of Sara Gabrielson and the fall 2012
   and spring 2013 cohort of environmental
   educators
   Mary Love May and Paul W. Gabrielson
   In Honor of Alumni Educators
   Anonymous

Up to $49,999
Bridget Jones and Dinesh Goburdhun
Poland Spring, Nestle Waters N.A.
Quimby Family Foundation
Martha L. Taylor
Bobbi Keppel
John W. Paynter
Deborah Thaxter and Robert Adkins
Mike Hansen and Hannah Sukonick
In Honor of Jack, Lily, Charlotte
Bryan Matluk
In Honor of Holly Hascall Jominie
Corey Hascall
Anonymous Foundation
Linda and Guy Boudreau
Mary and Forrest Martin
Catherine and Mike Goodwin
Susan and Michael Swanton
Jonathan Rooks

$50,000-99,999
In Honor of Sharon Parent
Total raised in 2018: $54,615
   Anonymous (2)
   The Armstongs
   Jill Boivin
   Michael and Maggie Cox
   Bob and Adrienne Fournier
   Bridget Jones and Dinesh Goburdhun
   Poland Spring, Nestle Waters N.A.
   Quimby Family Foundation
   Martha L. Taylor
   Bobbi Keppel
   John W. Paynter
   Deborah Thaxter and Robert Adkins
   Mike Hansen and Hannah Sukonick
   In Honor of Jack, Lily, Charlotte
   Bryan Matluk
   In Honor of Holly Hascall Jominie
   Corey Hascall
   Anonymous Foundation
   Linda and Guy Boudreau
   Mary and Forrest Martin
   Catherine and Mike Goodwin
   Susan and Michael Swanton
   Jonathan Rooks

In Honor of Alumni Educators
   Anonymous

Anonymous
In Honor of Floyd L Huntley
   Guy and Robin Huntley
   Dee and Tom Brown
   Nolan and Kathy Stokes

Steven and Merilee Grindle
Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation
ANNUAL DONORS

BUSINESSES
$10,000 +
Poland Spring, Nestle Waters, N.A.
Pratt & Whitney

$1,000-9,999
Inspira Marketing Group, LLC
Oakhurst Dairy
Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution

$250-999
Edison Press
Flatbread Company
Kennebunk Savings Bank
Network for Good

Up to $249
DataRite of Maine, Inc.
Moody’s Nursery & Garden Center
Old Orchard Beach Chamber of Commerce
Saco Bay Trails
Saco Valley Credit Union

FOAM
(Fantastic Order of Alumni Masters/ Past Educators)

$100-999
Joel Alex
Grace Barber
Will Broussard*
Anna Cynar
Drew Dumsch and Lisa Farago
Sara Gabrielson
Alexandra Grindle*
Laura Poppick
Gabby Queenan
Sarah Trapido

Up to $99
Dawn Allison
Leanna Bonds
Gabrielle Brodek
Kyle Brooks
Grace Mary Carbeck
Alex Chasse
Sam Collins
Tyler Core
Charlie Creagh
Nolan Crees
Katy Davis
Tessa Diehl
Mallory Durkee
Jaime Duval and Rob Beranek
Evan Elderbrock
Christopher Emery
Elizabeth Fagenholz
Ross and Sarah Feitlinger
Satya Glover
Margaret Graciano*
Laura Heil
Sue Henry
Chelsea Hubert
Laura Hughes
Leah Imman
John and Krysta Isben
Ellie Johnson
Noelle Jordan
Christopher Kirkhoff
Alec Knapp
Lindsay Lang
Diane and Sonny Lapointe
Victor Leos
Caley Mackenzie
Krissy Lynch
Philip Mathieu
Joanna Lisker Meyer
Megan Fallon Meyer
Rebecca Taylor Miner
Leah Mould
Anne and Tom Pearce
Shenandoah Raycroft
Claire Russo
Casey Schott
Heidi Shatz
Steve Signell
Francey Hart Slater
Kathleen Smith-Caruso
Amalie Sonneborn
Kaitlin Stiltner
Emma Stuhl
Brody Todd
Katrina Venuhuizen
Miranda Wheeler
Andy Wood
Amos and Monica Wright

FOUNDATIONS
$30,000 +
Elmina B. Sewall Foundation—Funding the ELLMS project administered by Chewonki Foundation**

$10,000-29,999
D. Suzi Osher
Horizon Foundation
Morton Kelly Charitable Trust
Sam L. Cohen Foundation

$5,000-9,999
The Belayer Fund of the Maine Community Foundation
Clif Bar Family Foundation
S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation administered by NatureBridge

$1,000-4,999
Margaret E Burnham Charitable Trust
York County Children’s Aid Society Fund of the Maine Community Foundation

$500-999
Anonymous
Alfred M. Senter Fund
Bangor Savings Bank Foundation
Jahns Family Foundation
The Kresge Foundation

INDIVIDUALS
$5,000-9,999
Bill and Louisa Graver
Craig and Mary Parent
Linda Sullivan
ANNUAL DONORS

$1,000-4,999
Virginia Crocker
Maggie and Bob Daigle
Nick and Mary Dumsch
Bridget Jones and Dinesh Goburdhun
Tom Klak and Jeanne Hey
Tom and Polly Merrill
Martha L. Taylor

$500-999
Anonymous
Kate Gillis*
Bud Harmon
Benjamin and Megan Harrison
Margy Hobson
Guy and Robin Huntley*
Alan Minthorn
Bob and Sue Murphy
John and Barbara Zotz

$250-499
Ken and Amy Barber
Lucian Basile
Linda & Guy Boudreau
Caitlin Walker Brooke
Steve and Rebecca Buccieri
Lisa Buck
Corey Hascall*
Mary and Fod Martin
Bryan Matluk
Dirk and Carol Sonneborn
Susan Swanton

$100-249
Peter Desnoyers
Mike and Peggy Emery
Caryl Everett
Kenneth R. and Mary V. Feathers
Karen and Patrick Fox
Howard Haines
Kathy and Paul Katie Hanna
Jane and John Hartnett
Eric and Caroline Hoffman
David and Rommy Holman
Albert Howlett
Susan Jennings
Don and Kathy Knight
Jonathon Olesen and Sarah Cusack
Wendy and Scott Parent
Reg Parent
Mark and Claire Parent
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Jo and Grant Reynolds
Adam Routhier
Nan Schildroth
Kelley Shimansky
Tom and Joan Sonneborn
Donna Miller Ward
Dale Yerger
Susan Louisa Zayac

Up to $99
Vicki and Al Adams
Joanne Alex
Penny and Dirk Asherman
Dorothy D Barton
Ann Boynton
Jessica Burton
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John and Elizabeth Daggett
David Farago
Rhianna Flanagan
Judith Fletcher
Joan Forrest
William Glidden
Ronald and Patricia Harwood
Carol Hayden and Dick Hall
David Herring
John and Linda Ibsen
Katie Jensen
Ann Johnson
Thomas and Jayne Jones
Rosemary Kirby and Steve Meserve
Thomas John Ledue
John and Dianne Lemoine
Christelle P. and Len Landelius
Diane M. Schuette
Carol Lenna
Susan and James Marcotte
Tim and Carly McAteer
Richard Mersereau
Judith Morse
Lucien and Amy Ouellette*

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS
Robert Adkins
Catherine Goodwin
Suzanne Goucher
Rosemary Griffin
Steven H. Grindle
Lucien and Amy Ouellette*
Laura Poppick

William Glidden
Ronald and Patricia Harwood
Carol Hayden and Dick Hall
David Herring
John and Linda Ibsen
Katie Jensen
Ann Johnson
Thomas and Jayne Jones
Rosemary Kirby and Steve Meserve
Thomas John Ledue
John and Dianne Lemoine
Christelle P. and Len Landelius
Diane M. Schuette
Carol Lenna
Susan and James Marcotte
Tim and Carly McAteer
Richard Mersereau
Judith Morse
Lucien and Amy Ouellette*

* Recurring gifts
**ELLMS Funding- Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students
It has been our honor over the past year to have had so many students, teachers, community members, supporters, educators, and Board Members consider The Ecology School as a place that they can call home. It is our hope that everyone who leaves our programs will do so with a better understanding of our natural home and will enact positive changes which will sustain it for generations to come.

“I became and remain honored to be elected to the Board because The Ecology School has provided and continues to provide children from a wide socio-economic demographic with valuable and entertaining life lessons on sustainability and ecological stewardship. And now we are embarking on the most exciting expansion of our campus and capacity to reach many more children as well as adults.”

–Steven H. Grindle, The Ecology School Board of Director’s, Treasurer