



# DODGE NATURE CENTER

2005

## Annual Report

for Fiscal Year September 1, 2004-August 31, 2005



*“Inspiring generations to become better stewards  
of our natural world.”*

*“We must give our young people the  
realization that in nature we are all part of  
one another and whatever happens to one  
species will inevitably affect the whole  
chain of nature, including us.”*

~Olivia Dodge,  
founder of Dodge Nature Center

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## from the board of directors

Dear Friends of Dodge,

In his recent book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Richard Louv discusses the challenges and consequences we will face from essentially raising generations of children indoors. His book is destined to become an environmental education classic. It reinforces what we have been teaching at Dodge Nature Center for years. There are many challenges to raising and parenting today's children. Technology has changed our society. We allow children to coop themselves indoors behind computers and other electronic devices rather than hiking in the woods or playing in the local creek. Air conditioning has added to the issue because "it's too hot to go outside and play." There is also an underlying fear of some urban dwellers that allowing kids to play in the local creek or wetland is dangerous. All of these combined factors greatly reduce the next generations' emotional bonds with nature. The results have significant impacts on our children, our communities, and our environment.



For example a child's mental, physical, and spiritual health is enhanced through valuable contacts with nature. Studies show that outdoor play benefits persons with attention deficit disorder, obesity, and depression. In addition, children satisfied playing indoors may not be inclined to conserve nature's resources upon which our quality of life depends. But children that bond with and appreciate nature will become environmental stewards of the future.

Because of your support, Dodge Nature Center attracts over 40,000 annual participants each year, mostly children, who attend our environmental education programs. Thank you for that needed support! With your continued support we will continue providing children with outdoor experiences and enthusiastically carry on the fight to reduce "nature-deficit disorder".

Dodge Nature Center is entering a new era of funding and leadership. The legacy that our founders laid for us nearly forty years ago provides a solid base for future growth and success. We owe a great deal to their vision and initiative while we accept the responsibilities as the new generation of leaders. Fortunately, many of our young emerging leaders enjoyed the benefits of attending Dodge Nature Center as schoolchildren, and are passing this legacy on to their own. In order to keep our environmental education organization vibrant, we must strive to engage new champions; donors and volunteers alike-on behalf of our mission. Now, more than ever, we need to ensure that future patrons are informed of our success, and become enthusiastic about supporting it. As our giving community matures, we invite and challenge you to lend your support to this critical effort focused on succession planning for donors and nature enthusiasts. Those willing to give generously of their time and talents will keep this jewel in our community growing strong. Please join us to make **the next forty years** a fitting tribute to the legacy with which we have been entrusted!

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bennett  
President

Ben Van Gundy  
Executive Director

**The Importance of Bio-diversity**

~by Jayne Whitson Moeller

Ahhh! *The diversity of LIFE!*—  
--it's the simplest definition of bio-diversity; inclusive of all living things: plants, animals and micro-organisms-- from minute genes to complete ecosystems.

waste, stabilization of the climate, decrease of flooding, drought, and other environmental disasters which are all necessary for human survival. Therefore, an ecosystem rich in bio-diversity has a greater chance of adapting to environmental changes.

Bio-diversity has contributed and will continue to contribute to the development of human cultures globally. In return, human-kind leaves a mark on the shaping diversity of genes, species, and ecosystems...often times, not so kindly. A close look at bio-diversity reveals *ecological, economical and ethical* roles of bio-diversity that not only benefit you and I, but that *are necessary for human survival*. Basically, all living things are on this planet to benefit from one another...or not.

**The Economic role**

Bio-diversity provides human-kind with resources for daily life and it is often considered a reservoir of resources for manufacturing food, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetic products. Some of the important economic commodities that bio-diversity supplies to humankind are: food, medication, industry, oils, lubricants, perfumes, fragrances, dyes, paper, waxes, rubber, latexes, resins, poisons, and cork, which can all be derived from various plant species. Supplies from animal origin include wool, silk, fur, leather, lubricants, and waxes. Animals may also be used as a mode of transportation and for the tourism and recreation industries.

**The Ecological role**

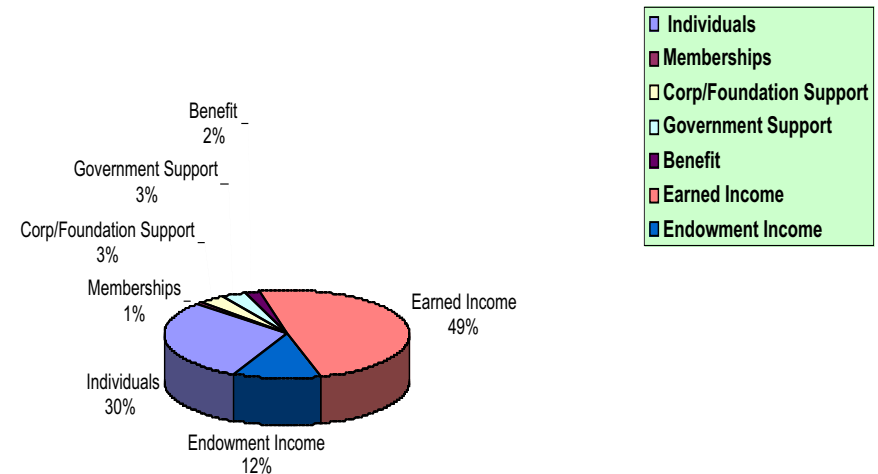
Many species are found in stable and healthy ecosystems. Losing species decreases the system's ability to maintain itself, or recover from damages and disturbances because all species have specific and inherent functions: to capture and store energy, produce organic material, decompose organic material, help cycle water and nutrients throughout the ecosystem, control erosion or pests, fix atmospheric gases, and regulate the climate.

**The Ethical role**

Bio-diversity is a part of many cultures' spiritual heritage and cultural diversity. Finally, bio-diversity has an ethical role for humans to consider; that other species also have an intrinsic right to exist. Some eco-philosophies assert that it is morally wrong to voluntarily cause extinction. Bio-diversity is therefore a good measure of the state of humankind's relationship with other living species.

These functions provide various *supports of productions and services* such as purification of the air and water, soil fertility, decomposition of

Dodge Nature Center Revenue and Support by Sources



**2005 board of directors**

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**Executive Director**

Ben Van Gundy

**President**

Bonnie H. Bennett

**Founder**

Olivia Irvine Dodge

## cash flow plus assets

*Thomas Irvine Dodge Nature Center  
for the Year Ended August 31, 2005*

	Operating	Non-Operating	Total Unrestricted	
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
<i>Public Support</i>				
Contributions	485,403		485,403	
Government Grants	51,042		51,042	
Memberships	11,300		11,300	
Fundraiser Revenue (Net)	62,616		62,616	
<b>Total Public Support</b>	610,361	-	610,361	
<i>Revenue</i>				
Visitor Fees and Tuition	716,496		716,496	
Rental Revenue	47,994		47,994	
Interest and Dividends Income	180,593	277,513	458,106	
Miscellaneous	6,806		6,806	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	951,889	277,513	1,229,402	
<i>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</i>				
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	100,359	167,482	267,841	
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	1,662,609	444,995	2,107,604	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<i>Program Services</i>				
Nature and Environmental Education	1,314,446		1,314,446	
Depreciation		(240,712)		
	1,314,446	(240,712)	1,314,446	
<i>Supporting Service</i>				
Management and General	238,374		238,374	
Fund Raising	112,598		112,598	
Depreciation		(12,669)		
<b>Total Supporting Service</b>	350,972	(12,669)	350,972	
<b>Total Expense</b>	1,665,418	(253,381)	1,665,418	
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	(2,809)	191,614	188,805	
<b>Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets</b>				
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	6,417,688	200,095	9,054,019	15,671,802
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	188,805	(46,075)	177,292	320,022
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	6,606,493	154,020	9,231,311	15,991,824

*“When one tugs on a single thing in nature,  
he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”*

~John Muir

## volunteers--our finest assets

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is  
the only thing that ever has.” ~ Margaret Mead*

### *The Shan Knox Volunteer of the Year Award*

Thomas Irvine Dodge Nature Center announced the annual Shan Knox Volunteer of the Year Award for the first time this year. The award was named in Shan's memory to recognize her commitment to environmental conservation and education as exemplified by her 25 years of service to Dodge Nature Center. Those who met Shan Knox knew they had met someone special. Shan loved the outdoors and loved to teach. She was a leader of the pack for all volunteers at Dodge Nature Center.

Shan was a teacher-naturalist volunteer at Dodge Nature Center. Shan once said that she enjoyed the fun and informative training provided by DNC staff, the teaching experiences afforded to her and the special educational outreach field trips for volunteers provided by the center. She found the joy of working with people in nature highly rewarding and satisfying. Canoeing, hiking, and cross-country skiing are just a few of the outdoor activities that Shan enjoyed and promoted.

The Shan Knox Volunteer of the Year Award pays tribute to dedicated volunteers who embody an outstanding commitment to Dodge Nature Center and whose contributions to the center are an outstanding example of the work accomplished by all of our volunteers. Each year, Dodge staff will nominate volunteers for the award and the



*The 2005 award winner, Lou Kruchowski is pictured holding the award with Mr. Jep Knox, widower of Shan Knox; Jason Sanders, Volunteers and Events Director; and Mrs. Olivia Dodge, founder.*

Volunteer Committee will choose an annual winner or winners. The 2005 Shan Knox award was presented to Lou Kruchowski.

### 2005 VOLUNTEER STATS

*Our thanks to 578 volunteers who worked 13,560 hours in 2005 at these well attended special events:*

**Frosty Fun Festival** 578 participants

**Pancake Breakfast** 398 participants

**Earth Day** 212 participants

**Farm Festival** 359 participants (low attendance due to rain)

**Autumn Adventures** 500 participants

## Individual and Organization Gifts

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\$10,000 and above

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*continued from page 2 - The Importance of Bio-diversity*

### **Why Conserve Bio-diversity?**

The existence of the human race is dependent all forms of life and it's diversities. Vegetation sustains the earth's atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide and generates the oxygen we breathe. Food and electricity, fabrics and pharmaceuticals are all produced by the diversity of life on our planet. Our lives are affected by all aspects of bio-diversity that we may take for granted. Genes, organisms, and ecosystems do not merely exist for the benefit of humankind--but for *all* living creation. We share some of the same benefits with others in our ecosystem.

Therefore, shouldn't we attribute to all living things in the natural environment the same right to exist that we have for ourselves?

### **Dodge Nature Center's role**

is to create a balanced existence between mankind and other living beings in our shared environment. Through environmental education and restoration programs, children and adults learn to become better stewards of the natural world we share. In doing so, we strengthen our species intellectually, physically, and spiritually...ahhhhh!

*...The diversity of LIFE!*

***“To cherish  
what remains  
of the earth  
and to foster  
its renewal is  
our only legitimate  
hope of survival.”***

*~Wendell Berry*



**THANK YOU!**

*for contributing to the  
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*to support Dodge Nature Center in  
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and adults in our community with  
lessons on the importance of nature,  
the environment, and the delicate  
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**"This very moment  
is a seed from  
which the flowers  
of tomorrow's  
happiness grow."**

~Margaret Lindsey

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*“Do not go where the  
path may lead;  
Go instead  
where there is no path  
and leave a trail.”*

*~Ralph Waldo Emerson*



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