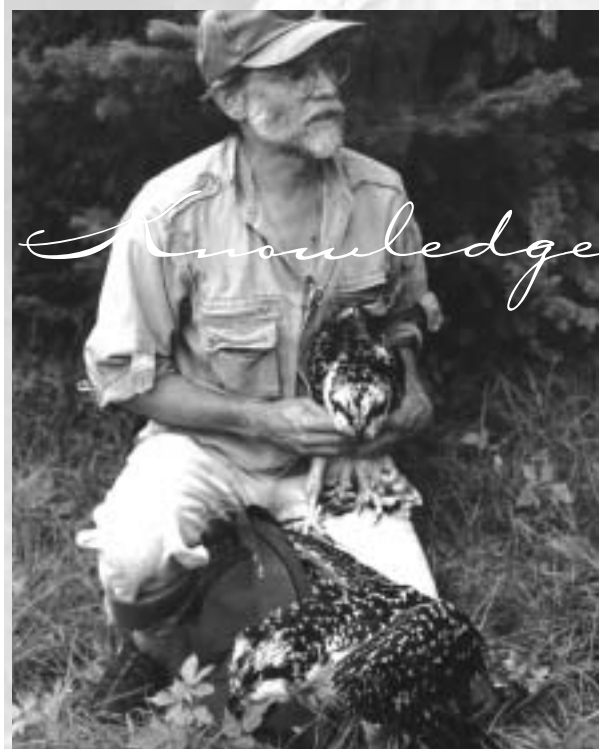


"It's the leadership and knowledge of your guides that make trips special."

**I**n 2001, the NRF offered 58 field trips ranging from visiting prairies to exploring old-growth forests, examining freshwater mussels to howling with wolves, and canoeing places in between. Field trips were led by DNR biologists, who shared their expertise to provide a glimpse of the wonder and variety of nature that Wisconsin holds.



Thanks to the adventurous and generous spirit of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage osprey banding field trip participants, the NRF raised \$2,000 last year for nest monitoring cameras to be placed on nesting platforms in the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. The cameras will provide biologists with critical information about bird behavior, fledging time, and predation—adding to the body of knowledge about these birds and their unique ecological role within our state.

**Additional accomplishments in 2001**

- The NRF secured a \$15,000 donation to publish the field guide, *Amphibians of Wisconsin*, by the Bureau of Endangered Resources. The book details the biology, habitats, and behaviors of Wisconsin's amphibians.
- The NRF became a sponsor of the children's television show *Into the Outdoors*, produced by the Department of Natural Resources. The show takes viewers on a tour of Wisconsin's natural resources in a child-friendly format.

"A swamp is a dark, wonderful place, and that's what we want people to enjoy."

**D**uring the year, the NRF awarded a total of \$11,230 in C.D. Besadny Conservation Grants to organizations, schools, individuals, and government agencies working on projects involving restoration, management, research, and education related to Wisconsin's natural resources.

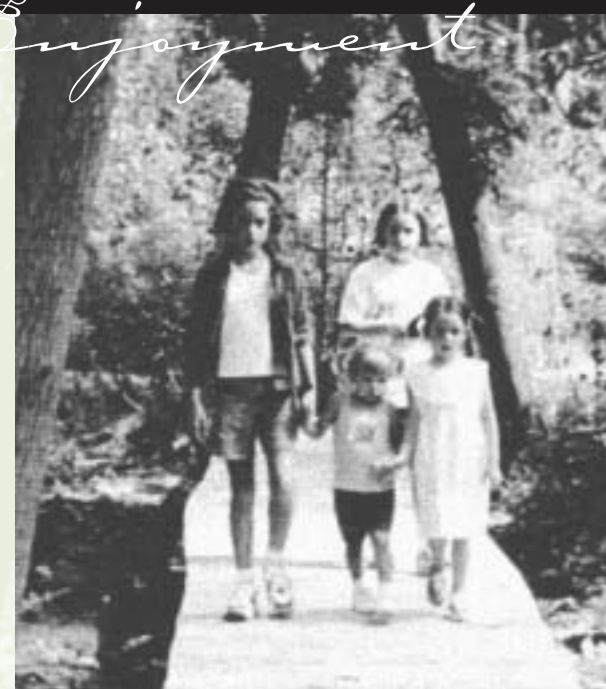
The Wetlands Preserve bridge in Ephraim was one of 19 projects statewide funded by Besadny Conservation Grants in 2001. Grant money awarded to the project was used to purchase materials for the bridge, with labor donated by local volunteers. A series of bridges and paths will allow visitors, including schoolchildren, to experience and enjoy the swamp environment within the 7.5-acre Door County wetland as they learn about this remarkable ecosystem.

Over the past eleven years, the NRF's Besadny Conservation Grants program has helped fund 193 projects in 59 counties, with total contributions of \$120,237.

**Additional accomplishments in 2001**

- The NRF gave \$5,000 to the State Natural Areas Program to fund the research needed to create a guidebook to be published in 2002. The guide will detail the location, history, and ecological significance of 150 State Natural Areas.

*Enjoyment*



**I**n our second year as a participant in the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP), the Natural Resources Foundation raised \$70,000 to support the establishment of a breeding, migratory flock of whooping cranes in Wisconsin.

Once dangerously close to extinction, this wetland bird remains one of the most endangered species on the planet. Using an innovative migration technique, juvenile whooping cranes follow ultralights on their first journey south to their winter home in Florida. Contributions to WCEP were used to purchase video equipment, satellite receivers, and other equipment critical to the migration.

NRF's unique role in WCEP is to locate additional partners willing to lend their financial support. The Whooping Crane Club, established by the NRF in 2001, raised an additional \$14,860 for the reintroduction project through 105 contributions.

**Additional accomplishments in 2001:**

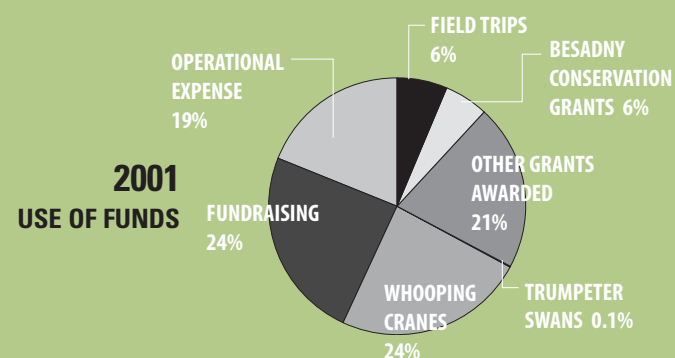
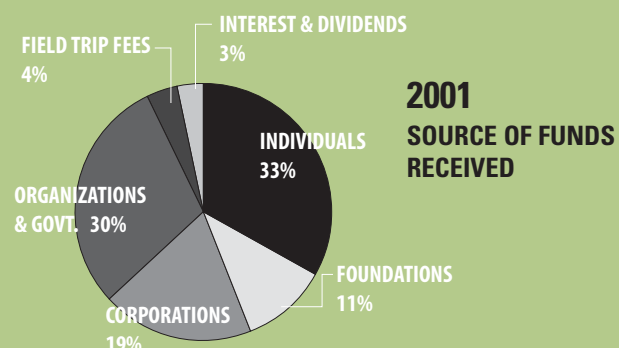
- The NRF continued administering the program for habitat restoration under the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, identifying three project recipients to receive and coordinating improvements to the program. Project activities included sustaining and expanding remnant prairies and savannas and restoring a dam-removal site. The habitat restoration program offers small, grassroots organizations without 501(c)(3) status access to matching grant funding for long-term restoration projects. In 2002, the program seeks to award a total of \$100,000 in matching grants of between \$2,500 and \$20,000.
- The NRF facilitated two grants from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board. Recognizing the importance of educating our children from the early years onward, the "Project Learning Tree Early Childhood" grant sponsored the creation and distribution of preschool forestry education activities incorporating music/movement, literature, and art components. The "Energy & Me" grant will provide education materials to 120 Wisconsin teachers. The materials help students explore the concept that our day-to-day energy choices affect not only our own lives, but also the whole planet.

"I don't think that Rose and I have ever had a more gratifying or beautiful experience than watching these birds come in with the ultralights. I want to express . . . a deep gratitude for you guys who fly the ultralights and take care of these precious possessions." *Former President Jimmy Carter*

*Stewardship*

**FUNDS RAISED**

CONTRIBUTORS	2001 TOTAL
Individuals	\$ 101,961.33
Foundations	33,500.00
Corporations	58,916.19
Govt. & Organizations	91,573.43
Schools	100.00
Field Trip Fees	11,889.00
Interest & Dividends	10,049.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 307,989.29</b>



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

ASSETS	
<b>Current assets</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 301,981
Certificates of deposit	6,024
Investments	212,196
Pledges receivable	18,500
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 538,701</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
(custodial accounts)	\$ 29,381
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Unrestricted	\$ 117,541
Board designated	391,779
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>509,320</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 538,701</b>

A copy of NRF's 2001 audit by Wegner LLP is available on request



Fifteen years ago, the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (NRF) was formed to seek new partnerships and funding to preserve and protect Wisconsin's natural resources heritage. The foundation funds numerous programs at the grassroots level, ranging from invasive plant removal to fish crib construction. The NRF enjoys a unique relationship with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, providing financial support to prominent field biologists and scientists working on programs that benefit our state's natural resources.

NRF programs and services are designed to promote the knowledge and enjoyment of our natural resources—and to inspire local citizens to take actions so that Wisconsin's legacy of responsible stewardship will continue for years to come.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

This past year offered a unique opportunity to reflect on what is truly important in our lives. Caring for our corner of the earth remains a priority for me as an individual, and for the Natural Resources Foundation as a whole. Working together to support grassroots conservation and education efforts in our state, we can make a difference—from protecting ecologically sensitive areas to providing outdoor classrooms for tomorrow's leaders.

We clearly made a difference in 2001. The NRF achieved its long-held goal of securing an endowment to perpetually fund the Besadny Conservation Grants Program, which supported nineteen projects statewide last year. And as a partner in the Whooping Crane Reintroduction Project, we witnessed history as an entourage of endangered whooping cranes, ultralight aircraft, and dedicated

people made the longest human-led migration from Wisconsin to Florida. Our future looks bright as we work to fund grants for habitat restoration, celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of State Natural Areas with more than sixty field trips, and play a significant role in the site cleanup of Wisconsin's Lower Fox River and Green Bay.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the NRF's vitality through direct donations, volunteer assistance, or staff support. We're grateful to have you in our corner!

*Laurie Osterndorf*  
Executive Director

## MEMBERS & DONORS OVER \$100

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## 2001 ANNUAL REPORT

## NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION OF WISCONSIN



**Natural Resources  
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Caring For Our Corner of the Earth  
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**Natural Resources  
Foundation of Wisconsin**