



The Schuylkill Center for
Environmental Education

2005 Annual Report

Celebrating Our
40th





OUR MISSION

To promote, through environmental education, the preservation and improvement of our natural environment.

We do this by:

Fostering appreciation, understanding and responsible use of the ecosystem;

Disseminating information on current environmental issues;

Encouraging appropriate public response to environmental problems;

Maintaining the facilities of the Center and conserving its land for the purpose of environmental education.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our 40th anniversary year has been extraordinary! Celebrations throughout the year honored all those whose vision and hard work laid the foundation for our current success.

Sadly, we also paid our last respects to one of our founders, Henry H. H. Meigs, whose passing in February signified the end of an era.

This milestone year has been marked by a renewed connection to our neighbors. A series of informal gatherings has strengthened relations, and the formation of the new Schuylkill Center Community Council has opened the door to ongoing dialogue about partnership efforts within the local community.

Outside recognition from prominent local institutions brought validation for our efforts and commitment to environmental leadership. Our Education staff's work with the Green Woods Charter School received commendation from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and our land restoration efforts garnered renewed funding from the Horace Goldsmith Foundation. We also received a substantial grant from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.

Without our friends, the work of the Center could not flourish. Thank you for your continued, generous support!



Dennis Burton
Acting Executive Director



Harry Weiss
Chair, Board of Trustees



Acting Director, Dennis Burton (seated on left) and Board Chair, Harry Weiss (standing on right) with neighbors Mark Soffa, Brendan Binder and Ruth Ann Fitzpatrick celebrating the Center at a reception in the home of supporters Debbie and Bobby McFerrin.

Annual Picnic

Neighbors & friends enjoyed delicious home cooking and birthday cake provided by Eiselen's Pastry Shoppe at our 40th Anniversary Potluck Picnic in July.



40th CELEBRATIONS

We celebrated this important milestone all throughout the year!



40th Kickoff Party

At our Opening Night Reception at Drexel University's Westphal Picture Gallery in February, we kicked off the year of festivities by honoring our past Board Chairs. In attendance were (left to right) Charles D. Dilks, William G. Walkup, John W. Church, Jr., Julie D. Spahr, I. Tatnall Starr II, Thomas S. Stewart, and George M. Riter, Esq. Also honored were past chairs Linda Unland, John A. Affleck, William Y. Webb, David P. Montgomery, and F.M. Rivinus, and deceased past chairs Bertram W. Zumeta and Emerson Greenaway.

Renewed Neighbor Relations

Throughout the year, an informal series of gatherings and meetings greatly strengthened our ongoing relationships with Center neighbors. Additionally, The Schuylkill Center Community Council was formed as a partnership between the Center, our neighbors, and members of local civic associations to work toward restoring the ecological vitality of the Schuylkill River watershed.



Night At the Phillies

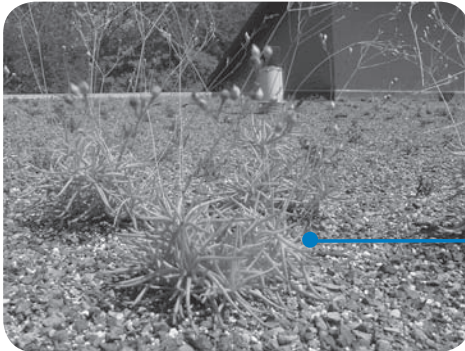
Nearly 300 friends spent a chilly “Night at the Phillies” this April with the Phanatic, and raised over \$1,400!

Improved Visitor Experience

Several new features, rolled out for our 40th anniversary year, have made it easier for first-time or returning visitors. A new trail map and guide helps people navigate the Center’s trails and learn about the history and current use of the Center’s land. New entrance, driveway and parking lot signage, as well as signs on the roads leading up to the Center, improve visibility as well.

Green Roof Installed

Thanks to The McLean Contributionship, this fall the Center installed a vegetated roofing system on a portion of our Education Building. In just a few growing seasons, the plant community on the roof will be a thriving, seasonally-changing natural system! Otherwise known as a “green roof,” this system will reduce the amount and rate of stormwater runoff from our building, and is one of the few places in the Philadelphia area where this green building technology is demonstrated. In the upcoming years, we will work with student groups to compile a body of data comparing the new green roof to the adjacent traditional roof, documenting its benefits for the environment.



NEW THIS YEAR



Kentucky Warbler Habitat Enhancement Project Expanded

Our BioPreserve provides undisturbed wildlife habitat and offers an important study site for researchers. This year, funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation allowed us to restore important habitat that we hope will attract a breeding pair of migrating Kentucky Warblers. Last seen nesting in 1999, a Kentucky Warbler was heard calling last year for the first time since! The restored, dense understory created through this project is also preferred by many other native creatures, including the Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Ovenbird.



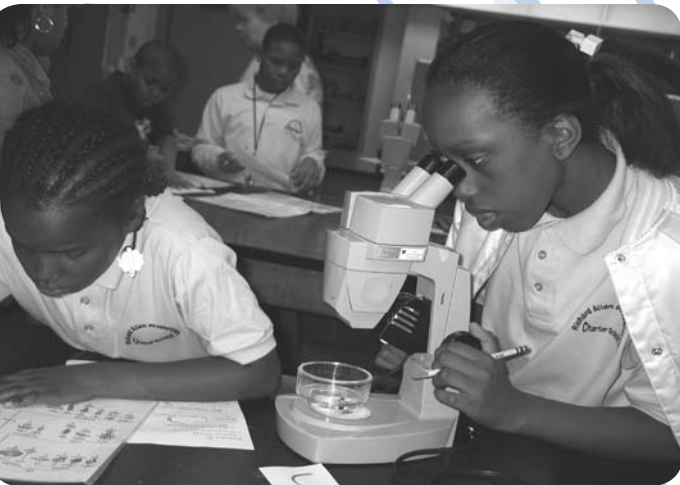


Joint Visioning Process with Green Woods Charter School

Since 2002 when Green Woods opened its doors as Philadelphia's newest public charter school in space leased from the Center, our educational partnership has grown and flourished. This year, a joint planning process underwritten by the Nonprofit Finance Fund allowed stakeholders from both organizations to consider and plan for our future together. In particular, the process focused on the physical space required for our partnership to meet its mission.

Technology Upgrades

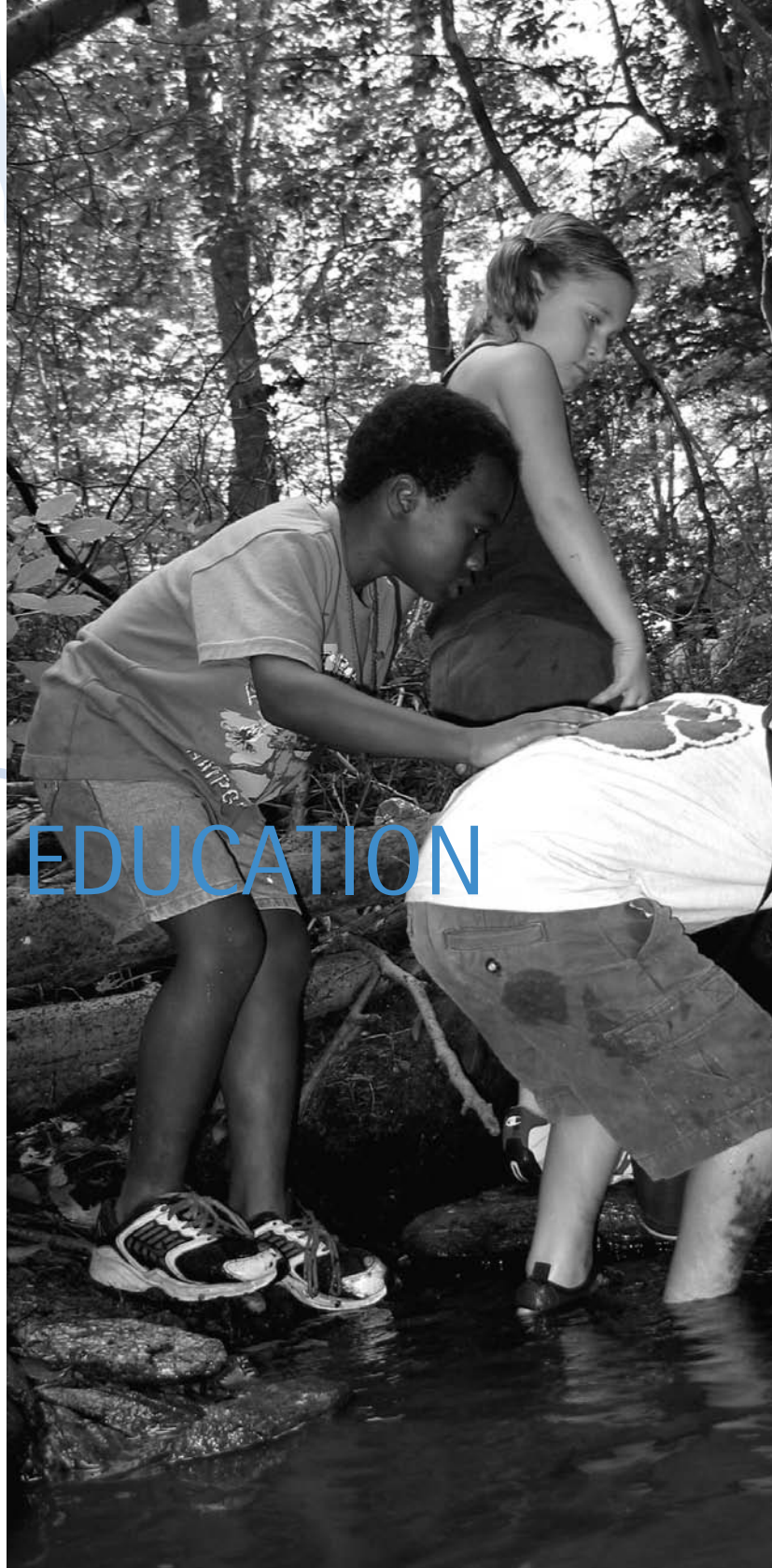
With support from The Wright-Cook Foundation, we purchased and installed a new server, upgraded our fundraising software and purchased 5 new computer towers, which greatly expanded the effectiveness of our staff.



Our many and varied environmental education programs continued this year, bringing hands-on science education to students and adults alike

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

in the greater Philadelphia area. Our one-time field trip and classroom visits continue, but increasingly, we seek the funding to allow longer-term relationships with schools that facilitate a greater depth and breadth of student learning and experience. The new program model that we have developed includes a service-learning experience involving students in actual land restoration projects.



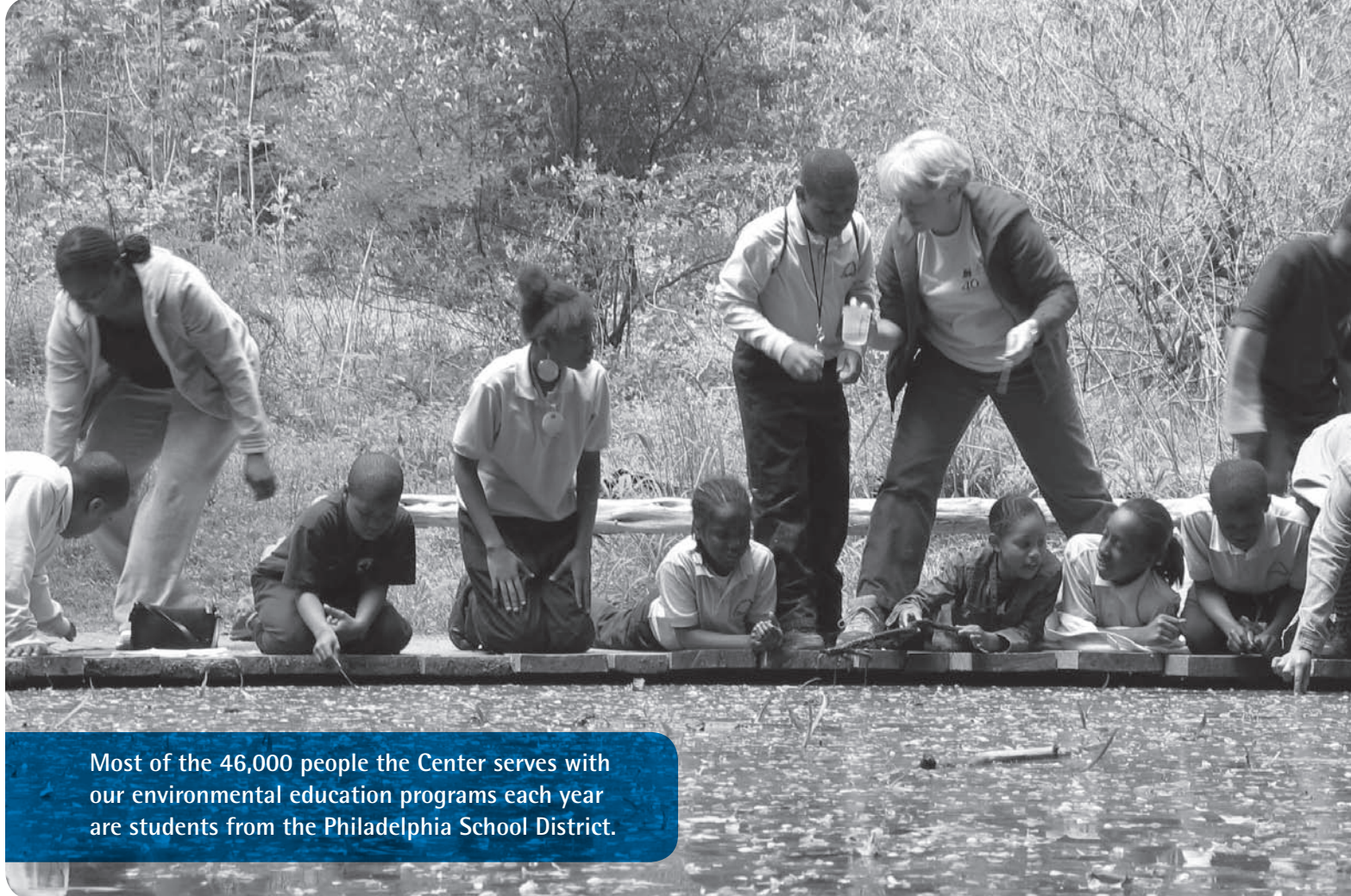


The Schuylkill Center offers many urban kids their first experience in a forest!



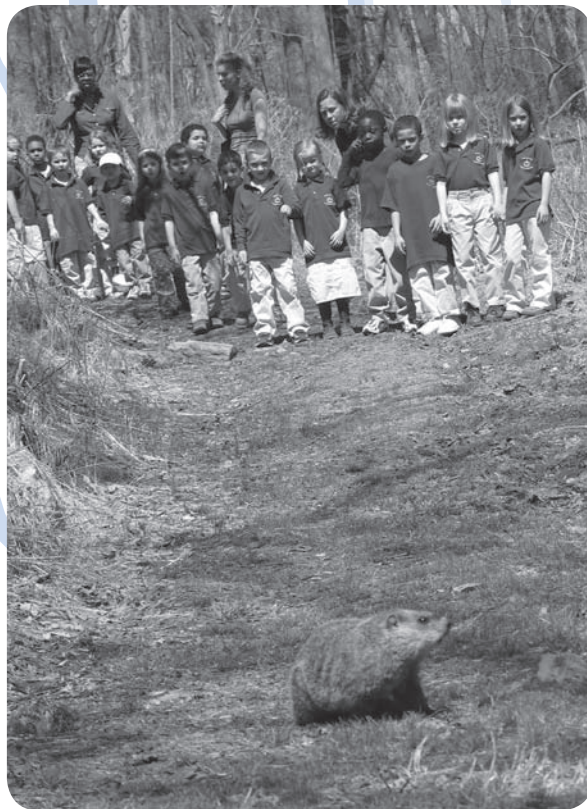
The Center is the only data collection site in Philadelphia for FrogWatch, a national monitoring program for frog and toad populations.





Most of the 46,000 people the Center serves with our environmental education programs each year are students from the Philadelphia School District.





With a partnership unique in the United States, the Center's Educators have developed a full-year environmental science curriculum for the 200 K-8th grade students at the on-site Green Woods Charter School, a part of the Philadelphia public school system.



2005 marks the 7th year the Center has coordinated the Envirothon program for Philadelphia high schools.



*In the past five years,
The Schuylkill Center has invested over \$400,000 in land restoration
projects on our 340 acres.*

LAND RESTORATION

Always working to educate the public about ecological restoration, we involve many volunteers in hands-on planting and invasive-control projects for schools and community groups. Events such as our 1st annual Plant Sale and annual Restoration Symposium offer more opportunities for spreading the word about this vital work. Research, monitoring and control of native species continues. The Center maintains a leadership position in this field in partnership with many local academic institutions.



Aster laevis is a fall flowering native, blooming here in the Center's demonstration garden.



Volunteers work with Land Restoration staff to beautify the grounds around the Green Woods Charter School with native plantings.



Fran Lawn, Acting Director of Land Restoration & Joanne Malfatti, Restoration Technician, hard at work!



Center staff work with the American Chestnut Foundation to hand pollinate American chestnut trees.



The Center's American Chestnut Grove contains 40 American chestnut trees and a variety of other native trees such as hickory and oak!



*Clockwise from bottom left:
Center staff, along with Philadelphia
University students and community
members, count deer as part of an
ongoing research study in deer
control and management.*

*Ashleigh Poff & Amanda Bryant
take part in a salamander study to
determine the health and population
of these amphibians.*

*Volunteers create rolling grade dips
to manage stormwater runoff.*

*Community members learn about
water conservation through the use
of rain gardens.*

*The Center's deer management program is a
model for Fairmount Park, and we consulted
for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's plan.*

*The Society for Ecological Restoration International defines
ecological restoration as the process of
assisting the recovery of an ecosystem
that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed.*



Joanne Malfatti works with community
volunteers to reconstruct a stone wall.



The Schuylkill Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic is the only fully-licensed rehabilitation facility in the 5-county area!



Rick Schubert,
new Clinic Director

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

The Schuylkill Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic treats over 2,700 animal patients each year!



This fall, the Schuylkill Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic proudly welcomed our new rehabilitator, Rick Schubert! It is clearer than ever that the demand for our wildlife rehabilitation services continues to grow, and to provide these services, we continue to rely on our dedicated donors and volunteers to help with all aspects of the Clinic's operations.



The Center hosts the only professionally-run gallery space in Roxborough, and the only outdoor installation space of its kind in the city!



This year, 22 artists exhibited work in our Environmental Art program!

ENVIRONMENTAL ART

Four very different exhibits graced our gallery space this year. Through their works, artists challenged viewers to consider issues related to the environment, such as abundance and scarcity, humankind's place in the natural world, and even the whimsy present in nature. We are pleased to offer our visitors these unique perspectives, which we believe supplement and enhance the overall experience at the Center.

Top left: "Natural Selection" by Katrina Mojzesz

Below: "Figures, Animals & Landforms" by Laura D'Angelantonio

Bottom: "Natural Artifice" by Lisa Murch



Left: "Natures Cradle", one of the pieces in a sculptural installation by University of the Arts students Jennifer Bradley, Nathaniel Butler and Jennie Johnson. The huge cradle, built of tree limbs found on-site, shelters native plants.

MANAGEMENT & FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board of Directors was pleased to welcome Dennis Burton as Acting Executive Director in May of this year, stepping up from his position as Director of Land Restoration to replace outgoing director Tracy R. Kay. We thank Tracy for his years of leadership.

Significant unrestricted grants from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, the Horace Goldsmith Foundation, Peco Energy, an Exelon Corporation, and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund provided important operating support.

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Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year 2004-05

	ASSETS	
	2005	2004
Cash	\$ 424,701	119,517
Contributions & grants receivable	60,679	125,872
Accounts receivable	25,703	15,388
Inventory	32,297	47,532
Prepaid expenses and other	19,676	41,771
Property, plant and equipment, net	4,437,438	4,529,731
Investments	6,109,311	5,765,579
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 11,109,805	10,645,390
	<hr/>	<hr/>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$ 50,133	66,112
Deferred rent	34,567	35,367
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	84,700	101,479
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	8,139,610	7,603,171
Temporarily restricted	175,871	231,116
Permanently restricted	2,709,624	2,709,624
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,025,105	10,543,911
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 11,109,805	10,645,390
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Center received project support from a variety of sources, including funding from Rohm & Haas Company for the 2005 Philadelphia County Envirothon; the Wright-Cook Foundation for technology upgrades; the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation for the Kentucky Warbler Habitat Enhancement Project and the Nonprofit Finance

Fund for the joint space-planning process with the Green Woods Charter School.

Trustees Ed Ripley, George Riter, Susan Mooers, and Cindy Dickey retired from the Board. We thank them for their years of service, and welcome new trustees Anne Bockarie, Linda Carpenter, Nick Cucé, Len Donato, Lara Herzig, and Binney Meigs.

Statement of Activities Fiscal Year 2004-05

2005

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	TOTAL
Revenues, gains and support				
Contributions	\$ 224,462	—	—	\$ 224,462
Grants	127,250	187,407	—	314,657
Teaching fees and tuition	262,054	520	—	262,574
Rentals	131,144	—	—	131,144
Birdseed and bookstore sales (net)	18,871	—	—	18,871
Membership dues	81,796	—	—	81,796
Investment income	249,955	—	—	249,955
Net assets released from restrictions	243,172	(243,172)	—	—
	<u>1,338,704</u>	<u>(55,245)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,283,459</u>
Expenses				
Program	1,072,835	—	—	1,072,835
Management and general	342,983	—	—	342,983
Fund raising	238,591	—	—	238,591
	<u>1,654,409</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,654,409</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets from operations	(315,705)	(55,245)	—	(370,950)
Gain on insurance recovery	447,927	—	—	447,927
Gain on investments	404,217	—	—	404,217
	<u>536,439</u>	<u>(55,245)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>481,194</u>
Net assets at beginning of year	7,603,171	231,116	2,709,624	10,543,911
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 8,139,610</u>	<u>175,871</u>	<u>2,709,624</u>	<u>\$ 11,025,105</u>

Audited financial statements are available upon request. Please contact Liz Einsig, Director of Development, at (215) 482-7300, ext. 116.

A VISION SHARED BY OUR COMMUNITY

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the new and long-time supporters who have given so generously this past year, both with your financial commitment and your time. Each contribution is important, and helps ensure the continued vitality and strength of our work. Please note that this list includes individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations whose cumulative gifts of \$100 or greater, including in-kind gifts, were received between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. If you believe your name was omitted in error, or if you wish to correct the spelling or format of your name, please contact our Development Office at (215) 482-7300, ext. 116.



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TRIBUTE TO HENRY H. H. MEIGS 1924–2005



Henry Howard Houston Meigs, longtime Philadelphia area resident, philanthropist and conservationist, was born in Harford County, Maryland in 1924.

He graduated from the Millbrook School with the class of 1942. Henry studied subjects related to conservation, including ornithology, meteorology and wildlife rehabilitation. During WW II, he proudly served overseas with the Organization of Strategic Services. Returning to Philadelphia, he studied economics and political science, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with the class of 1948.

Henry was one of the staunchest supporters of Allston Jenkins and his Philadelphia Conservationists, now known as the Natural Lands Trust. His deep commitment to land management and the preservation of open space led him to help establish a wide range of wild land preservation projects, including Tinicum Marshlands (now John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge), the Holgate Beach Preserve in New Jersey, the Little Cumberland Island Sea Turtle Sanctuary in Georgia, and, in recent years, the Brandywine Conservancy.

In the Philadelphia area, Henry will best be remembered as one of the founders of The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, established with his mother, Margaret Houston Meigs, and aunt & uncle, Eleanor Houston Smith and Lawrence M.C. Smith in 1965. Founded upon family land within the city limits, the Center comprises more than 340 acres of natural open space and serves as a model program in environmental education, land restoration and wildlife rehabilitation. It has since been the nation's premiere environmental education center. In 1976, the National Park Service designated the Center as a National Environmental Study Area in recognition of the Founders' efforts to provide a site for effective education programs.

For 40 years, Henry maintained a close relationship with The Schuylkill Center, serving tirelessly as a trustee, mentor, and guiding spirit. In 1997, the Center's Board of Trustees presented Henry with the Founders' Conservation Award in recognition of his service and outstanding leadership in the field of conservation.

Contributions to the Henry H. H. Meigs Memorial Fund are gratefully accepted. Funds will assist with the operating needs of the Center's environmental education and land restoration programs.





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