



VERMONT WILDERNESS SCHOOL, INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Vermont Wilderness School is dedicated to cultivating long-term mentoring relationships rooted in community, nature connection, and earth living skills. Inspired by the ways of Earth-based, indigenous cultures, we envision a future where the majority of our needs are met in a vibrant, local economy that serves both humans and nature alike. We further envision that we are one of many bioregional communities across the globe that interconnect and support each other.

The year in review (September 2010- September 2011): Vermont Wilderness School...

- Raised \$11,440 through our 2010 Annual Fundraising Campaign and Summer Appeal.
- Southern Vermont Permaculture Design Course received an additional \$5,000 grant.
- Community Wilderness Initiative received a \$1,000 UPS Foundation grant as well as raised \$3,746 to support Oyase Community School.
- Granted \$1,350 from Ingwe's Path Scholarship Fund for three adults and one teenager to attend programs offered by White Pine Programs, Shelburne Farms and the Institute for Natural Learning.
- Formed the Great Blue Heron Fund to provide additional financial support to children and families seeking to attend VWS sponsored programs. In its inaugural year, \$955 was granted to enable 3 children to stay enrolled with Oyase Community School and 2 children to attend Otter Day Camp;
- Revised our Vision Statement and created a "What We Do" Statement – see our website.
- Organized Art of Mentoring 2011 with enrollment maxed for Adult and Teen Programs six weeks in advance with a wait list for a 3rd year in a row! (76 Adults, 48 Teens, 24 Youth) Then Tropical Storm Irene hit New England three weeks before forcing us to move locations. Enrollment dropped 40% as a result – but it still happened touching the lives of all the participants; a study in Resiliency. (45 Adults, 34 Teens, 13 Youth)
- Offered two weeks of Otter Day Camp at Ft. Dummer State Park in July 2011. 1st week - 19 campers, 2nd week - 25 campers. (24/week maximum)
- Provided instructors and programming for the Manitou Project's Earthfriend Discovery Day Camp in Williamsville, VT and the wilderness living/nature awareness components of The Grammar School Summer Camp in Putney, VT;
- Provided fiscal sponsorship and organizational support for 5 programs:
 - Full Moon Girls led by Efan Hsieh and Dhyana Miller with Alisha Mai Frank – 2nd year of the program for girls ages 11-16. Fall 2010 - 7 girls; Spring 2011 -10 girls (12 maximum)
 - Eyes of the Forest led by Connor Stedman – 2nd year of programming for adults. Fall 2010 - 10 participants. Theme: *Art of Survival*. Spring 2011 - 10 participants for 2 classes. Themes: *Bird Language* and *Wild Crafting with Plants* (10 maximum)
 - Fox Walk Programs led by Bob Etzweiler – 2nd year of programming with VWS for youth ages 9-15. Avg. 8 participants/program day. Open Attendance. (10 maximum)
 - Southern Vermont Permaculture Design Course: 2nd Year offered. Summer 2011 - 15 participants enrolled, completed and received a PDC Certificate, including a permaculture forest garden design and installation at a local pre-school. (15 maximum)
 - Community Wilderness Initiative: Oyase Community School directed by Brian Robertshaw and Amy Hyatt, 12th year of program for youth ages 7-16. 25 full-time students. (36 maximum)
 - Spring Walk - Reading the Forested Landscape with Tom Wessels
 - Summer Gaia Roots Concert



- Sponsor for Gathering in Gratitude Community Performance, November 2010
- Sent Amy Hyatt to Art of Mentoring Leadership Development in Connecticut, February 2011
- Held inaugural meeting for a regional instructors cooperative and revised materials for the Guild.
- Helped organize an American Red Cross Wilderness Remote First Aid course for guild instructors to renew their certification.
- Revised our mission statement and operations description. Posted on our website.
- Implemented the first stage of upgrading our website to reflect our emerging organizational changes and to be more web search friendly (thank you, Rafe Rosen!)
- Purchased a new iMac to replace our aging iMac (circa 2005) so that we could be more efficient and make use of newer programs and technologies for outreach, communication, and development;
- Reviewed the second year of our Executive Director Amy Hyatt's service
- Gave our blessing to Connor Stedman as he resigned as a board member and instructor to pursue a Field Naturalist Master's Degree at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT. Also gave our blessing to Cara Benedetto as she stepped down from the Board but continues as an Elder Advisor.
- Welcomed Ben Riseman and Valerie Palar to our Board.
- Hired, welcomed, and oriented a part-time new office assistant: Jodie Holmquist.
- Represented Vermont Wilderness School at the River Valley Credit Union's Kids' Fest; the 1st & 2nd Annual Southern Vermont Wildlife Festival hosted by the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum; Brattleboro Youth Services Annual Camp Fair; and the Strolling of the Heifers first Slow Living Summit;
- Appeared in the Brattleboro Reformer and Parent Express newspapers.

Contact:

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www.vermontwildernessschool.org

Executive Director:

Amy Hyatt

Board of Directors:

Charlie Laurel, Secretary

Becca Martenson, President

Valerie Palar

Ben Riseman, Treasurer

Advisors:

Cara Benedetto

Tad Montgomery



**Vermont Wilderness School, Inc.
Summary Financial Statements**

Profit and Loss for the year ended:	<u>8/31/08</u>	<u>8/31/09</u>	<u>8/31/10</u>	<u>8/31/11</u>
Fundraising income	19,059	45,554	19,521	21,241
Programming income	88,282	90,877	157,117	137,831
Product income	1,050	2,832	4,572	2,863
Total income	108,391	139,263	181,210	161,935
Fundraising expenses	1,785	1,959	1,739	3,289
Programming expenses	64,045	81,976	152,756	131,923
Product expenses	490	1,825	2,736	2,003
General & administrative expenses	18,204	12,293	27,738	35,275
Total expenses	84,524	98,053	184,969	172,490
Net income	23,867	41,210	(3,759)	(10,555)
Balance Sheets as of:	<u>8/31/08</u>	<u>8/31/09</u>	<u>8/31/10</u>	<u>8/31/11</u>
Cash	32,981	66,124	64,159	39,375
Current assets	15,234	23,387	24,916	35,100
Other assets	300	300	300	2,050
Total assets	48,514	89,811	89,375	76,526
Total liabilities	166	253	3,576	1,281
Retained earnings	24,481	48,348	89,558	85,799
Net income	23,867	41,210	(3,759)	(10,555)
Total equity	48,348	89,558	85,799	75,244
Total liabilities and equity	48,514	89,811	89,375	76,526

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to those who have made financial contributions during the year. It is their generosity that allows Vermont Wilderness School to continue to pursue its mission.

Connie Ahara
Philip K. Allen
Helen C. Armstrong
Amy Beam
Barbara Benedetto
Cara Benedetto
Alan Keith Booker
Wilmer Brandt
Ruth H. Brown Foundation
Beth A. Burkhardt
Miriam Dror
Joan Ewing & Wilton Duckworth
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Joshua A. Freund
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Dan Gardoqui
Kathleen Handley
Hannafords Helps Schools
Patti & Bill Hetrick

Sue Howard
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Lisa Kuneman
Richard T. Kramer
Charlie Laurel
Evan Leonard
Christine Linn
George Livanos
Thomas J. Mackey
Mary Magnant
Becca & Chris Martenson
Warren Moon

Luz Elena Morey
The Mountain T-Shirt Co.
Valerie Piedmont
Pfizer United Way
Elizabeth A. Raposa
Bill Record
Bob Repoley
Josh Roberts
Thomas Ruth
David Shaw
Sharon & Michael Stacey-
Blackwell
Nancy Sullivan
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Lauren Yohe Von Krusenstiern