

P.O. Box 1452, Shepherdstown, WV 25443  
[info@friendsofnctc.org](mailto:info@friendsofnctc.org)  
<http://www.friendsofnctc.org>



# Friends of the National Conservation Training Center

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2014-2015

*Friends work to conserve, protect, and enhance wildlife and their habitats by building a strong, educated, and committed community of conservation-minded individuals to support and advocate for the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC): "Conservation through Learning."*

### ***STRATEGIC GOALS***

***Strong Infrastructure***

***Educational Outreach***

***Partnerships***

***Inspiration and Recognition for Service***

***Support for New Ideas***

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## **You are invited to become a member of the Friends of NCTC.**

We need your support. Membership dues cover our administrative costs and make certain you are notified about upcoming events. The \$10 per person is used to support such things as our Web site, the communications software, recognition we provide for volunteers, and supplies we need to carry out special activities like the August Membership Social.

We also need you to become members on our committees and as individuals willing to take on the responsibilities of leadership by becoming a member of the Board or by “championing” a project.

Go to our Web site to join or contact us by e-mail for more information:

**E-Mail:**    [info@friendsofnctc.org](mailto:info@friendsofnctc.org)

**Web site:**    [www.FriendsOfNCTC.org](http://www.FriendsOfNCTC.org)

## *To Our Members*

Conserving natural resources and providing a safe habitat for wildlife ---indeed for all of us --- is central to the mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Providing education and training to carry out that mission is the role of NCTC. As Friends of the NCTC, we are dedicated to supporting these important efforts.

This year, the Friends Board adopted our first five-year strategic plan and immediately set out to strengthen committee structure and improve communication with you. We expanded efforts to provide funding, develop partnerships, and inspire support for conservation education. Our primary committees meet regularly to do the research and analysis needed for informed Board actions, but we still need more Friends for committee work. With the help of new technology, including a new Web site, we can communicate regularly with you through e-mails, newsletters, the timely posting of events, and reminders about activities.

NCTC's decision to restore the Community Conservation Lecture and Film series on a quarterly basis inspired the local community to all-time record attendance at the December and March events. Some of these lectures, as well as other interviews and educational events, are available online for viewing through both the NCTC and Friends Web sites. We hope these opportunities will help you learn more about conservation and inspire you to increased interest and support.

When a winter storm destroyed night vision of the NCTC Eagles' nest and the baby eaglets before the start of this past season, we set out to raise \$5,000 to improve the technology. On July 9, the Friends, with help from many Eagle's Nest watchers and the Mayor and Council of Shepherdstown, successfully met our goal. Improvements will be completed before the next nesting season.

Thanks to active leadership by our Finance Committee and to the Nora Roberts Foundation, we were able to fund a pilot for filmmaker Peter Schreimer to seek funding for a family series focused on the special work being carried out at about twelve of our national wildlife refuges. Preliminary footage from the pilot film is scheduled to be premiered in August at the Friends Annual Membership Social.

Thank you for everything you do already. I want to personally thank each of the members of our Board for the many hours of service they have contributed again this year. You will find their photos at the end of this report. As we look ahead to next year, we need additional help from our membership to expand activities important to supporting educational outreach for the National Conservation Training Center. We look forward to continuing and expanding our work together.

**Betty Beckley**, Chair (2014-2015)

Board of Directors for the Friends of the National Conservation Training Center

July 30, 2015

## Strategic Plan Accomplishments (2014-2015)

**Infrastructure** has been strengthened. All committees are now functioning, and members are urged to volunteer for membership on at least one committee.

- a. The **Planning Committee** is analyzing the proposed new partnership agreement and will make recommendations to the Board before the 2016 Annual Meeting. The agreement must be finalized with Fish and Wildlife Service and NCTC by August 2017. This year the Committee recommended Board liability insurance options as required in the new partnership proposal. The Committee also recommended that the membership continue to support the current NCTC road cleanup activities rather than take on a separate project. The Board accepted both recommendations.
- b. The **Finance Committee** has begun financial planning activities, including the following: improving practices to strengthen our position in obtaining and managing grants; exploring economical “best practices” for auditing; reviewing the financial requirements of and funding for existing programs; and developing plans for expanding support for the Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Scholarship Program and other programs designated by the Board.
- c. The **Operations Committee** developed an organizational plan to describe existing programs and assign leadership for coordinating and reviewing the activities of each program. Leadership for the Annual Membership Social and the Kayaking Program has been functioning well and may provide models for defining leadership and setting expectations for other individual programs.
- d. The **Governance Committee** strengthened communication with the membership by launching a new Web site, expanding the use of online communication services, including the newsletter. Policies were developed for Board approval to maintain and archive records, formalize decision making processes to coordinate committee and board actions, and to better prepare for continued leadership and Annual Meetings. The Board has adopted these recommendations.

**Educational Outreach** has been extensive this year with monthly events for the membership including conversations with NCTC staff, films, a nature walk, planting trees, and the return of NCTC’s public Community Conservation Lectures. Investigations are underway to expand the scholarship program to allow more wildlife refuge volunteers to attend educational training programs offered by NCTC. Direct support has been provided to improve the quality of viewing and restore night vision for the eagle’s nest, as well as to produce an educational pilot film for youth and families.

**Partnerships** have been developed with other organizations having goals similar to those of Friends. To maximize results and avoid duplication, we work with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society on programs important to both of us and support the Student Scholarship Award for the American Conservation Film Festival. We continue membership in the National Wildlife Refuge Association and will participate in the National Friends Academy taking place in January at NCTC. This year we became a member of the West Virginia Association of Non-Profit Organizations, which provides support in exploring administrative and legal matters that affect all non-profits.

**Inspiration** grows out of recognition for a job well done. We say “thank you” by presenting a Friends caps to the speakers at our lectures and the leaders of other special educational events, and we recognize a Volunteer of the Year from among our group. We are exploring ways of identifying members when they volunteer for special events and awarding special pins or other memorabilia to say “thank you” for special service, like planting trees or removing invasive weeds on the campus. Recognition is important to maintaining high quality and keeping up energy to continue existing programs.

**New Ideas** are important to a strong organization. Maintaining the high quality of ongoing programs is important, but strong organizations must be open to change and new ideas. New this year was soliciting financial support for the Peter Schreimer pilot film and for improving the Eagle Cam, expanding communication with members, launching a new website, formalizing policies regarding the way we archive our records and keep things moving, like asking for committee reports in advance of board meetings. We are looking at ways to increase membership, including national membership, in part through outreach to wildlife refuges and other conservation groups, and ways to encourage members to become “champions” for special programs; for example, one of our Board members recently tried out a one-man presentation about Teddy Roosevelt. Organizing similar presentations might help introduce Friends of NCTC to other groups.

**Special notes of thanks ---**

To **Beth Alegret**, our Webmaster and Volunteer of the Year, for the hours of support she provided to keep us informed by remaking the Website and effectively using our communications tools, and her initiatives in making the public aware of the pressing need for improvements to viewing the NCTC Eagle’s nest;

And, to **Ora Dixon**, our NCTC Staff Liaison, for her ongoing assistance in scheduling, keeping us up-to-date on NCTC happenings, and generally making herself available and helpful, all with good cheer.

## Financial Summary for October 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

<b>FRIENDS OF THE NCTC TREASURER'S REPORT</b>			
<b>Funds as of June 30, 2015</b>			
Brick Fund	\$ 3,787.95		
Eagle Cam Fund	\$ 1,274.52		
FWS Blog Fund	\$ 3,927.62		
Friends Fund	\$ 19,764.43		
Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,060.00		
Rick Jorgensen Fund	\$ 185.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 31,999.52</b>		
<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENSES, October 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			
Baseball Caps		\$ 35.00	
Brick Fund		\$ 678.00	
Gifts Received		\$ 343.00	
Eagle Cam		\$ 3,927.62	
Grants		\$ 17,800.00	(N Roberts & FWS)
Membership dues		\$ 2,420.89	
Scholarship Fund		\$ 1,040.00	(Paddling Trips)
Wind Chime Sales		\$ 12.00	
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$ 26,256.51</b>	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Annual Report Charge		\$ 25.00	
Baseball Cap Purchase		\$ 186.65	
Brick Fund Paid Out		\$ 286.50	
Donations:			
American Conservation Film Festival		\$ 500.00	
National Wildlife Refuge Association		\$ 50.00	

Education		\$ 15,000.00	(Peter Schreimer)
Facebook Ads		\$ 150.90	
FWS Blog		\$ 1,522.48	
Mailing Labels		\$ 13.77	
Post Office Box		\$ 58.00	
Postage		\$ 57.46	
Web site		\$ 76.05	
Wild Apricot Software Communications Program		\$ 540.00	(2 years)
Wine & Cheese Invitations		\$ 111.00	
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>		<b>\$ 18,577.81</b>	

# FRIENDS OF NCTC: Budget for Fiscal Year 2016

October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016

## Revenue

Membership Dues	1,500
Donations	1,600
Brick Memorials	1,000
Grants	2,165
Kayak Paddling Receipts	800
Deer Hunt Fees	0
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 7,065

## Expenses

### Administrative

Insurance	800
Wild Apricot Software	0
Web Maintenance	200
Identification Badges	200
PO Box Rent	60
Misc, Postage, Printing, etc	500

### Project

Eagle Cam	2,660
Scholarships	1,000
Brick Manufacture	170
Annual Meeting/Social	375
FWS Blog Site	0

### Donations

American Conservation Film Festival	
Winner award for student film	500
Transportation allowance	500
National Wildlife Refuge Association	100

Total	<hr/>
	\$ 7,065



## Friends of NCTC Board of Directors

R. MICHAEL SHEPP  
CHAIR (2015-2016)



BETTY J. BECKLEY  
CHAIR (2014-2015)



NANCY STREETER  
CHAIR (2013-2014)



JEAN CARRIGAN  
SECRETARY



BETH ALEGRET  
WEBMASTER



ANNE KERFOOT  
TREASURER



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## Friends of NCTC Board of Directors (page 2)

BARBARA ROMAN  
ASS'T TREASURER



RICHARD MALSARY  
CHAIR FINANCE



JANET OLCOTT  
CHAIR OPERATIONS



STEVEN HATLEBERG  
SECRETARY (2015-2016)



ANTHONY MACIOROWSKI  
CHAIR FOR 2016  
MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL



ORA DIXON  
NCTC STAFF LIAISON



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