

# Durango Nature Studies 2006/07 Annual Report



## From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of DNS,

The past year brought exciting changes to DNS. I joined the team in March 2006 as the executive director after three years on the board of directors and four years as a volunteer naturalist. In August, Becky Gillette assumed the reins as program director, bringing extensive experience in environmental science and education to DNS. In her first year, she has served as member of the Durango School District 9-R science curriculum review committee.

Mid year, the El Pomar Foundation approached DNS to serve as one of two Colorado non-profits in a pilot project, *Youth on Board*, with a goal of providing high school students with leadership experience through service on non-profit boards. Recognizing that local education providers are among our most important partners, the DNS board asked Brad Schneider, a senior at the Excel Charter School, to join DNS as a director. The board also asked Evan Fricke, an education major at Fort Lewis College and a graduate of the DNS Volunteer Naturalist training program, to join the board. Both of these new directors have brought valuable experience, perspective, and insights to our board.

During the winter of 2006/2007, DNS piloted the *Nature Year Project*. With funding from the Anschutz Family Foundation, La Plata Electric Association, and Fort Lewis College, DNS offered a four-part program to fifth and eighth graders at four local schools that included three classroom visits and one snowshoe field trip. The classroom curriculum focused on snow physics, winter ecology, and the scientific method, while the field session tied these concepts together in an outdoor learning experience. Student measured snow

characteristics, explored animal ecology, and conducted an experiment using the scientific method. Results from one pre-test and two-post tests that measured student comprehension illustrated the effectiveness of the curriculum in long-term student retention of science concepts.

As owners and stewards of 142 acres of mixed habitat land, DNS took steps this year to open the Durango Nature Center as a community resource for education projects. We granted requests from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico, to use the property to conduct student-based research projects. To date, four projects have either been completed or are in progress during the summer of 2007. These include two prairie dog studies, a study on animal behavior as related to solar/lunar progressions, and a water quality-monitoring project of the Florida River.

We ended the 2006 fiscal year on a positive footing. During 2007, we will be changing our fiscal calendar from January-December to July-August. The goal is to better align our grant seeking and fundraising calendars with those of our major constituents - schools and colleges.

Lastly, we continue to improve the depth of programming illustrated by such measures as contact time. Overall, the time spent with each participant increased 20% on top of a 17% increase last year. As we move into our fourteenth year, we are excited about strengthening partnerships, forging new collaborations, and providing the educational experiences most needed in our community.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Pease".

ALLISON PEASE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Education Programs

Since 1994, the goal of DNS programming has been to increase awareness and respect for the natural world through hands-on learning experiences aimed at developing educated decision-makers who are passionate about their home. Our school programs conform to state and national education standards, and give children and adults the knowledge, connection, and critical thinking skills necessary to become thoughtful community members, while allowing them to experience the joy and wonder of nature.

During fiscal year 2006-07, DNS served 6,672 people in SW Colorado

and NW New Mexico. Of these, 75% were children in grades preK-8 and in schools located across 12,000 square miles in five counties and two states. These programs have become a mainstay in many schools and across the Four Corners.

Since 1994, requests for DNS programs have consistently increased. One program, Children Discovering Nature has grown from 400 students in 1994 to 3,427 in 2006/07 (757%). Recent annual growth of the program includes 13.0% in 2003, 7.6% in 2004, and 10.6% in 2005, and 3.6% in 2006. Part of this growth is the need for quality science programming that

bolsters standardized test scores while giving teachers and students a venue for fun, engaging, and experiential place-based learning.

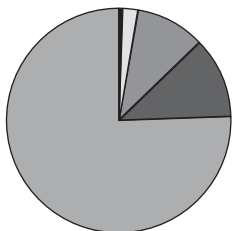
Success is also illustrated in contact time, evaluations, and assessments. In the last two years, we increased the time spent with each participant by 17% and 20%. Teacher evaluations show that 97% think DNS programs add content knowledge to the classroom, while 83% say that DNS curriculum helps students improve standardized test scores. Lastly, recent student assessment tests demonstrate long-term retention of DNS program content.



“The opportunity to pass my love and adoration for the natural world to kids is such a gift. Without this program, they just might not get exposed to such treasure. I am really happy to be a part of it.”

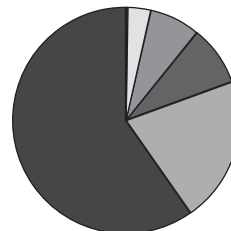
- Volunteer, Spring 2006

## Programs by the Numbers



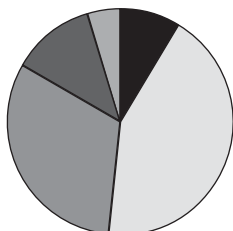
2006/2007 Program Participants 6,672

- School Programs (75%)
- Community Outreach (12%)
- Adult & Family Programs (10%)
- Summer & Youth Program (2%)
- Educator Training Programs (1%)



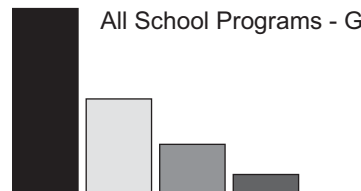
School Program Participants 5,032

- Children Discovering Nature, Durango (59%)
- Nature in the Classroom (21%)
- Children Discovering Nature, Pagosa (9%)
- Nature Year Project (7%)
- Surviving and Thriving in Winter (3%)
- Other School Programs (1%)



Grade Levels Served

- Grades 7 & 8 (4%)
- Grades 5 & 6 (12%)
- Grades 3 & 4 (32%)
- Grades 1 & 2 (43%)
- Pre-K/K (9%)



All School Programs - Geographic Distribution

- La Plata County, CO (52%)
- San Juan County, NM (27%)
- Archuleta County, CO (14%)
- Montezuma County, CO (6%)
- San Juan County, CO (1%)

# Volunteers

Whether helping in the office or serving as educators in our field programs, volunteers are critical to DNS success. By the end of 2006, 341 community members had graduated from the *Volunteer Naturalist Program*. Along with returning veterans, these volunteers contributed more than 5,000 hours to DNS last year helping us reach more students while keeping costs low.

One of our most important uses of volunteers is in program delivery to school children. Each year, DNS offers two intensive trainings as part of our *Volunteer Naturalist Program*. In 2006, we trained 29 new naturalists in Durango and 6 more in Pagosa Springs. In Durango, these new volunteers participated in 17 hours of training over three days, while in Pagosa Springs, training was 11 hours over two days.

## Volunteer Naturalist Program

- ♦ Participants receive a 200+ page naturalist manual with information on natural history, child behavior, science lessons, and age-appropriate activities
- ♦ Volunteers report increased confidence and knowledge
- ♦ 2004 Citizen/Community Award from the Colorado
- ♦ Alliance for Environmental Education
- ♦ 341 community members since 1994
- ♦ 30-40 new naturalists trained each year
- ♦ The program allows DNS to provide education to approximately 4,000 students each year



“If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.”

- Rachel Carson

# 2006 Board of Directors

## Ali Baird, Durango, CO - *President*

Environmental Consultant, NewFields International. Co-President, GIS Colorado Board of Directors. Member Women's Resource Center, Trails 2000, and Society for Conservation GIS. Current DNS Volunteer Naturalist.

## Niki Hansen, Durango, CO - *Vice-President*

Reading teacher – Needham Elementary, active in extracurricular school programs including writing and character building clubs. Regularly uses DNS programs.

## Susan Raye Blackman, Mancos, CO - *Treasurer*

Self-employed Certified Public Accountant. Adjunct professor, Fort Lewis College. Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Colorado Society of Public Accountants.

## Maggie Bowes, Durango, CO - *Officer*

English as a Second Language Instructor - Durango Adult Education Center, more than 30 years experience in education, including 14 years as an elementary school teacher.

## Candice Carson, Durango, CO - *Co-President*

President - Coultts & Clark Western Foundation, author: *Wildflowers of Durango and High Country Wildflowers*. Former Board Member Women's Resource Center and La Plata Electric Association Round-Up Fund. Member, Leadership La Plata Steering Committee. Current DNS Volunteer Naturalist.

## Laurie True, Durango, CO - *Secretary*

Masters in Special Education with an endorsement in Outdoor Education. Third grade teacher - Needham Elementary School. Member of the Durango District 9-R science curriculum review committee and regular participant as a teacher in DNS programs.

## John Byrd, Ph.D., Durango, CO - *Officer*

Senior Instructor - University of Colorado at Denver. Former course director for Colorado Outward Bound. Co-founder of Fort Lewis College Outdoor Pursuits. Co-organizer of FLC's Population Awareness Week and World Food Day events. Formally on the La Plata County Budget advisory board, School District 9-R finance advisory board and Operation Healthy Community board of directors.

## Mark Franklin, Durango, CO - *Officer*

Graphic designer and owner of Interpretive Design LLC, member of the National Association of Interpretation, Chair of the Old Spanish Trail Association: Rio Las Animas Chapter, Co-Chair Friends of the San Juan Skyway, Member of San Juan Citizens Alliance.

## Richard Grossman, M.D., Bayfield, CO - *Officer*

Obstetrician gynecologist, Durango Herald columnist for "Population Matters!" Private pilot. Member of the Durango Choral Society, Heartwood Co-housing. Current Durango Nature Center thistle killer and volunteer naturalist.

## Michelle Hall, Durango, CO - *Officer*

B.S. in Marketing. Certified elementary education teacher. Former instructor with the Boulder County youth wilderness program, coordinator for Boulder Mountain Parks in the Junior Ranger Youth Corps Program and Environmental Education program. Former "Red Card" wild-land firefighter for the City of Boulder and Boulder County. Former outdoor and environmental education instructor at the Boston University Sargent Camp Environmental School and backpacking/canoe guide for teens.

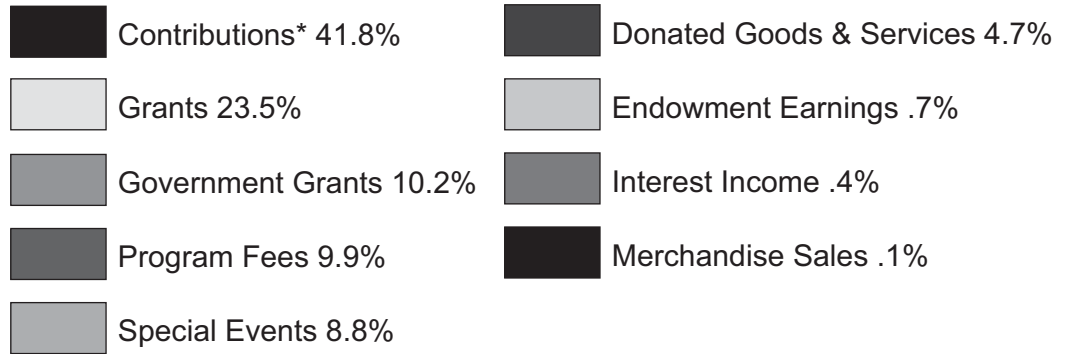
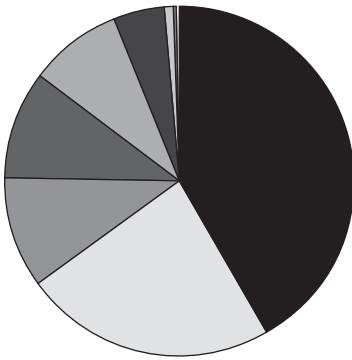
## James Mohle, M.D., Durango, CO - *Officer*

Retired emergency room physician. Was in practice for almost 30 years at the Kaiser Medical Center in San Rafael, CA. Currently a member of Trails 2000 and the La Plata County Search and Rescue.

## Rick Routh, Durango, CO - *Officer*

State highway traffic engineer, Big Brother for 16 years, Rotarian for 9 years, Member of Trails 2000. Formerly La Plata County Engineer.

# Revenue & Support



\*Includes membership, corporate contributions, and one-time donors

## Major Donors\*

\*contributions of \$100 or more

Alpine Bank  
 Anne Varis  
 Anschutz Family Foundation  
 Bacon Family Foundation  
 Bank of Colorado  
 Bank of the San Juans  
 Bob Bigelow  
 Bobbie Carll Realty  
 Brad & Justin Tafoya  
 Brainstorm Internet  
 Bridget & James Irish  
 Brown Family Trust  
 Candice Carson & George Banker  
 Caroline Shryock  
 Christina Engler  
 City Market Cares Program  
 Colorado Trails Ranch  
 ColorQuest Graphics  
 Conoco-Phillips Foundation  
 Cynthia Stengel  
 D.J. Simmons Inc.  
 David Wegner & Nancy Jacques  
 Ecosphere Environmental Services  
 Ed Young & Cathy Cowles  
 El Pomar Foundation  
 Elizabeth Skartvedt  
 Engineer Mountain Land Company  
 Four Corners Inspection Service  
 Frank Kenna  
 Frank Vogee  
 Gaines Godfrey  
 Good Deeds! Real Estate Inc.  
 H.O. Peet Foundation  
 Harris Water Engineering  
 Hawkeye Graphics  
 Herb & Enid Brodsky  
 Howard & Jean Poe

Ignacio High School EPYCS  
 Interpretive Design LLC  
 Investment Centers of America  
 John & Nancy Loftis  
 Jeff Nelson  
 Jessie Morgan  
 Jim Mohle & JM Jones  
 John & Barbara Lawson  
 John & Gina Petty  
 John Mabbott  
 John Ralph  
 Julia Lindsey  
 Kim Martin & Steven Phillips  
 Kiwanis of the Narrow Gauge  
 La Plata County  
 La Plata Electric Roundup Association  
 La Plata Energy Council  
 Leigh Gillette  
 Liz & Paul Cahill  
 Lynn Gray  
 Maggie Bowes  
 Margaret & John Galland  
 Margaret Cowing  
 Marge & John Waters  
 Mariel Johnson  
 Mark Franklin & Rose Chilcoat  
 Marsh Bull  
 Michael Goldman & Deanne Carlson  
 Michael Schultz  
 Michelle & Will Herringer  
 Mick Souder  
 Mike Malone & Pat Palmer  
 Mild to Wild  
 Morehart Chevrolet & Subaru  
 Moreno Surveying & Geographics  
 Nathan Morris & Ali Baird  
 Native Roots

New Belgium Brewing  
 Nikki Wilband  
 Norcross Wildlife Foundation  
 Palmer Pipe  
 Peter Norton & Judy Hodges  
 Peterson Office Supply  
 Philippa Howard  
 Randal Jernigan  
 Richard & Gail Grossman  
 Rick Routh & Deb Pavak  
 Robert & Beverly Danielson  
 Robert & Virginia Chaput  
 Robert Winslow  
 San Juan Mountains Association  
 San Juan Mountain Mustards  
 Sara Olsen  
 Sharon & Terry Lee  
 Steven Boos & Peg Rogers  
 Susan Kroes  
 Susie Patalam  
 Sven & Beth Brunso  
 Ted & Jill Wright  
 Tekla Miller  
 Thad & Deb Barnes  
 The Durango Herald  
 The Estate of Betty Haskell  
 The Wells Group  
 The Wit Company  
 There's No Place Like Home  
 Traci Henderson  
 Trails 2000  
 Wal-Mart  
 Water Information Program  
 William Karls  
 Witt & Sons Inc.

*Thank you all!*

# Financial Statements

## 2006 Balance Sheet

	<u>Dec 31, 06</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1005 · Alpine Bank	20,176.93
1000 · Vectra Bank - Checking	574.12
1010 · Cash on Hand	100.00
1030 · Money Market Account	<u>44.63</u>
Total Checking/Savings	20,895.68
Accounts Receivable	
1036 · Pledges Receivable	3,684.88
1035 · Grants Receivable	<u>16,290.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	19,974.88
Other Current Assets	
1070 · Inventory	<u>1,418.54</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>1,418.54</u>
Total Current Assets	42,289.10
Fixed Assets	
1650 · Website and other design	8,190.00
1530 · Habitat Playspace	4,775.00
1500 · Equipment	12,025.76
1550 · Land	271,500.00
1600 · Improvements	40,544.89
1570 · Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-25,747.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	311,288.65
Other Assets	
1900 · Endowment Fund - Community Fdn	<u>15,293.46</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>15,293.46</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>368,871.21</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 · Accounts Payable	<u>579.16</u>
Total Accounts Payable	579.16
Credit Cards	
2020 · VISA Credit Card	<u>1,154.17</u>
Total Credit Cards	1,154.17
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	
2105 · Colorado Unemployment	516.14
2110 · Colorado Withholding	620.00
2120 · Federal W/H, FICA, Medicare	1,597.66
2150 · Accrued Vacation	<u>576.88</u>
Total 2100 · Payroll Liabilities	<u>3,310.68</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>3,310.68</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>5,044.01</u>
Total Liabilities	5,044.01
Equity	
3400 · Perm Restr Net Assets	13,123.89
3200 · Temp Restr Net Assets	
3220 · Temp Restr Net Assets - Bldg	10,000.00
3210 · Temp Restr Net Assets - Land	9,308.02
3200 · Temp Restr Net Assets - Other	<u>31,420.00</u>
Total 3200 · Temp Restr Net Assets	50,728.02
3100 · Unrestricted Net Assets	310,482.28
3900 · Retained Earnings	-13,982.08
Net Income	<u>3,475.09</u>
Total Equity	<u>363,827.20</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>368,871.21</b></u>

# Financial Statements

## 2006 Income & Expense Statement

	<u>Jan - Dec 06</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4305 · Fundraising Events	1,565.00
4290 · Donated goods and services	6,893.00
4000 · Program Fees	14,723.37
4100 · Membership Dues	
4125 · Individual Membership	14,749.25
4122 · Corporate Membership	<u>940.00</u>
Total 4100 · Membership Dues	15,689.25
4110 · Grants	34,690.00
4200 · Contributions Income	
4222 · Corporate Contributions	19,673.08
4225 · Individual Contributions	24,009.99
4200 · Contributions Income - Other	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total 4200 · Contributions Income	45,183.07
4250 · Government Funding	15,000.00
4310 · Sale of Merchandise	148.83
4320 · Special Events Income	11,482.25
4300 · Miscellaneous Income	596.33
4400 · Interest Income	<u>1,003.94</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>146,975.04</b>
Expense	
7004 · Advertising	1,272.20
7010 · Bank Service Charges	354.57
7021 · Credit Card Fees	428.35
7025 · Contract Labor	5,660.91
7035 · Equipment Exp	449.77
7050 · Insurance	4,383.71
7055 · Lease Fees	571.93
7060 · License, Permits, & Fees	120.00
7063 · Meals	211.33
7070 · Mileage	1,516.84
7100 · Payroll	
7101 · Salaries & Wages	81,738.48
7102 · Vacation	1,994.54
7100 · Payroll - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total 7100 · Payroll	83,733.02
7120 · Payroll Taxes	9,190.16
7170 · Workman's Comp	692.00
7205 · Office Supplies	1,041.45
7210 · Photocopying & Printing	5,171.29
7220 · Postage & Delivery	3,916.24
7230 · Professional Fees	
7233 · Grant Writing	569.64
7231 · Accounting	6,193.75
7230 · Professional Fees - Other	<u>3,450.00</u>
Total 7230 · Professional Fees	10,213.39
7235 · Outside Services	2,273.07
7300 · Public Relations	79.94
7310 · Repairs and Maintenance	64.09
7320 · Rent	6,780.00
7330 · Subscriptions and Dues	993.50
7340 · Staff Development	280.00
7350 · Program and Other Supplies	1,516.94
7400 · Telephone	2,231.80
7410 · Utilities	1,951.74
7900 · Miscellaneous Expense	100.00
5800 · Land Expenses	
5885 · Property Taxes	<u>53.00</u>
Total 5800 · Land Expenses	<u>53.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>145,251.24</b>
Net Ordinary Income	1,723.80
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
8000 · Unrealized Gain/Loss on Invest.	<u>1,751.29</u>
Total Other Income	<u>1,751.29</u>
Net Other Income	<u>1,751.29</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>3,475.09</b>