



NATURAL  
BIODIVERSITY  
*A Conservation Strategy*

*New Growth*

2009 Annual Report



## **NATURAL BIODIVERSITY TEAM**

Kristin Sewak, Director  
Meghan Kerr, Assistant Director  
Douglas Beri, Jr., Projects Manager  
Mary Helsel, Invasive Species Specialist  
Hannah Clemenson, Outreach Coordinator, Intern  
Janel Huffman, Invasive Projects Coordinator, Intern  
Matthew Johnson, Projects Assistant, Intern  
Jeff McCullough, Invasive Projects Coordinator, Intern  
Adam Miller, Projects Assistant, PMSC AmeriCorps  
Pandora Smith, Projects Assistant, Intern  
Andrew Wicks, Environmental Outreach Coordinator, PMSC AmeriCorps

## **STEERING COMMITTEE & FRIENDS PROVIDING ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDANCE**

Brad Clemenson, Pennsylvania Environmental Council  
Branden Diehl, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds  
Len Hess, Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, Inc.  
Melinda Hughes-Wert, Nature Abounds  
Mike Makufka, Juniata Clean Water Partnership  
Rob McCombie, Environmental Consultant  
Kathy Penrod, National Park Service  
Robb Piper, Cambria County Conservation District  
Karen Post, Westsylvania Heritage Corporation  
Melissa Reckner, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team  
Ellen Singleton, National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward™  
Dave Steele, Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation & Development Area

## **PRIMARY SUPPORTERS**

Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Pennsylvania DCNR, Wild Resource Conservation Program  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps, AmeriCorps Program  
Recreational Equipment, Inc.  
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

## **CONSULTANTS**

FisherWorks, Johnstown, PA  
Hurst Media Works, Johnstown, PA  
Interpretive Insights, Houston, TX  
KH2 Design, Freeport, PA  
OiKOS Design, Jerome, PA  
Recharge Web Design, Altoona, PA  
Strager Consulting, Morgantown, WV  
Vegetation Managers, Inc., Clearfield, PA

This annual report was made possible, in part, by a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). It may not necessarily express the views of APHIS.

# Letter from the Director

KRISTIN SEWAK

*Dear Friends,*

It is with childlike excitement that I write to you about Natural Biodiversity's 2009 accomplishments and promising future. A great deal of progress was made over the past year, both organizationally and programmatically.

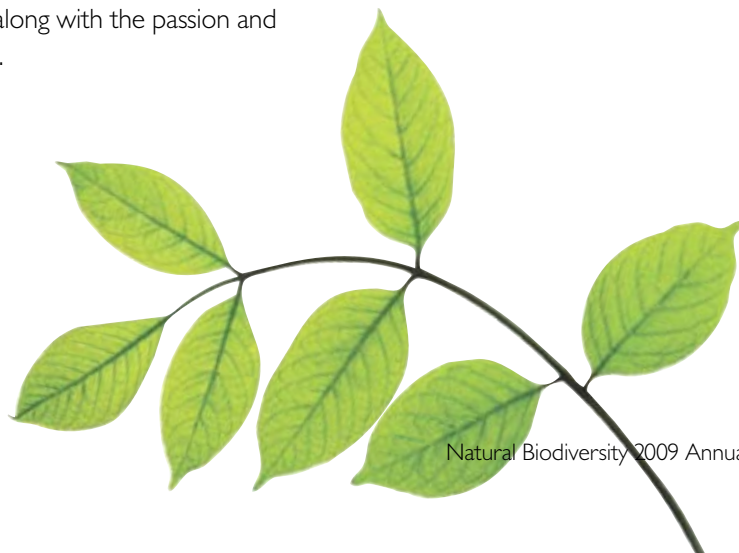
In spring 2010, we will celebrate our program's 10th anniversary with the founding of a new organization that will be charged with the continuation and enhancement of Natural Biodiversity's work. Why did it take a decade to formalize this work? Because our focus has been upon the program, projects and their impact. But now, faced with new challenges such as the increasing development of alternative energy sources and other added pressures on our landscape, it is clear that there is a great need for our work to continue well into the future. Our proposed vision of "a healed landscape, one sustained and restored by citizen stewards, that provides all of the ecosystem services necessary for life to thrive" is not something that has come to fruition – or will any time soon. So a new organization is needed that will work indefinitely toward fulfilling that vision.

We've secured a founding board of directors – a wonderfully diverse and knowledgeable group of individuals. I look forward to collaborating with this board upon the construction of a new organization, aimed at successful landscape stewardship in cooperation with our current and future partners. During 2010, organizational documents will be finished and submitted to the state and federal governments, with the goals of establishing a corporation, obtaining 501(c)(3) status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and being awarded state tax-exempt status from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thanks to funding secured from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, the new board will have the financial resources necessary to undertake a complete strategic planning process, which will aid in the establishment of priorities and timelines. The strategic plan will include a complete four-year financial framework and accompanying fundraising strategies. The purpose of Natural Biodiversity will remain – along with the passion and persistence that have made it a successful program.



Kristin Sewak  
*Director of Natural Biodiversity*





The founding Board of Directors for the new organization are: (Seated, left to right) Melinda Hughes-Wert and Gina Makris. (Standing, left to right) Dennis McNair, Janie French, Andy Mack, and Adia Dobbins. Absent from photo: Tom Dick.

## *A New Organization*

A new nonprofit organization is arising, one that is being designed to successfully carry forward the vital landscape stewardship efforts started by Natural Biodiversity. In September, 2009, a call for a founding board of directors was featured in our newest outreach tool, *The Leaflet* newsletter. The resulting nominations were reviewed and approved by our nominating committee, which was comprised of steering committee members and staff.

Seven nominees have accepted our invitation to serve on the founding board of directors. Areas of expertise represented by the group include conservation biology, zoology, chiropractic and veterinary medicine, business, green infrastructure development, communications, environmental law, volunteer management, fundraising, marketing, and nonprofit management. Perhaps most impressive, however, is the group's shared passion for environmental stewardship and enthusiastic desire to contribute to the success of the new organization.

# The New Board of Directors

## **TOM DICK, DVM**

Tom is a naturalist, retired veterinarian and the founding father of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society, Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, and Dunning's Creek Wetlands sanctuary. He recently served as President of the American Littoral Society and has received many awards: Special Recognition (US Fish & Wildlife Service), Earth Defender (National Audubon Society), Pennsylvania Conservation Landowner of the Year (Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation) and National Wetlands (Environmental Law Institute).

## **ADIA G. DOBBINS, MBA**

Adia received a Bachelor of Music Education degree in Jazz Voice/General Music from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music but also holds an MBA with an emphasis in Nonprofit Arts Management. Professionally experienced in the areas of marketing, diversity, human resources, and corporate law, Adia currently keeps an active schedule as a business professional within Somerset Trust Company's commercial lending department and as a freelance vocalist.

## **JANIE FRENCH**

Janie is the Director of Green Infrastructure Programs with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and has 28 years of professional experience, working with more than 150 grassroots organizations on community based planning and water resource sustainability. She has served on the boards of the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers, Curwensville Development Corporation and Pike Township Planning Commission and as co-chair of the development committee for the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited.

## **MELINDA HUGHES-WERT**

Melinda is the president of Nature Abounds, an emerging national 501 (c)(3) corporation that educates and empowers citizens to sustain their community through environmental stewardship. Nature Abounds launched its first program "IceWatch USA" in 2008 and launched a second program "Watch the Wild" in 2009, engaging volunteers in monitoring the weather, wildlife, and plants in their communities. Prior to leading Nature Abounds, Melinda worked for the National Wildlife Federation and the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement.

## **ANDREW MACK, PHD**

Andrew is the William and Ingrid Rea Conservation Biologist at the 2,200 acre Powdermill Nature Reserve and has authored more than 45 published works in ornithology, ecology and conservation. At one time he lived in Papua New Guinea, where he studied rainforest ecology and directed a postgraduate program. He has also been Collections Manager of birds at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Andrew grew up in rural Pennsylvania and now lives in Westmoreland County.

## **GINA MAKRIS, DC, MSEL**

Gina is a chiropractic physician, clinical nutritionist and peer reviewed author with a focus on the indoor environment and its impact on human health. She received her post Doctorate Master's degree in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School with an expertise in indoor air quality and environmental legislation, relating to toxic cleaning products, air and water. Gina consults with owners/facility managers on the use of green cleaning strategies and in employing environmentally friendly purchasing practices.

## **DENNIS M. MCNAIR, PHD**

Dennis is a biology professor at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, teaching ecology and physiology. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA; and a Master of Arts and PhD in Zoology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. His research involves ecology of aquatic insects, particularly dragonflies and damselflies. Since its founding Dennis has been a member of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society and currently is President.





**LOOKING AT THE YEAR JUST PASSED, MUCH PROGRESS WAS MADE WITH OUR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.**

**DURING 2009 WE:**

- Initiated the Juniata Cooperative Weed Management Area in partnership with Juniata Clean Water Partnership.
- Trained a new Habitat Stewards™ Volunteer Corps.
- Hosted Outdoor Adventures and Outdoor Heritage Month programming.
- Launched the development of the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Educational Supplement.
- Published the premiere issue of *The Leaflet* newsletter.
- Enhanced both the Natural Biodiversity and Outdoor Heritage websites.
- Secured a founding board of directors.
- Educated nearly 5,000 people.
- Engaged more than 200 volunteers who provided services valued at \$83,099.
- Assessed 54 acres for invasive plants.
- Planted more than 4,700 native plants.
- Restored 40 acres of land.
- Established a Natural Biodiversity and Outdoor Heritage Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.
- Incorporated online donation options for Natural Biodiversity and Outdoor Heritage.
- Added rain barrels as a product.
- Established a fee-for-service program for invasive and native plant project work.



As we move forward in 2010, forming the new organization and working on another great year of stewardship initiatives, let us “dwell in possibility,” as Emily Dickinson wrote. Let us also give all that we can to the new organization to ensure its long-term success and growth.

Thank you, friends, for your involvement and commitment to our vitally important land stewardship endeavors.

Best regards,

*Kristin D Sewak*

Kristin Sewak  
Director



# Outdoor Heritage

Natural Biodiversity and Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team accepted leadership of an annual natural and cultural heritage fair for school students now known as "Outdoor Adventures" in 2007, and made it the centerpiece of a broader initiative, called "Outdoor Heritage Month." Building on momentum from previous years, partners set out with a goal to make Outdoor Heritage 2009 better than ever, starting with the addition of a new website: [www.ohmonth.com](http://www.ohmonth.com), newly developed logos, and defined missions. Realizing connections between past practices and new trends in going green, partners themed Outdoor Heritage 2009: "Back to Basics: Going Old School Green," and focused upon simple practices that can be done at home, work or school to reduce negative impacts upon the environment.

Partners kicked off Outdoor Heritage Month on April 3, 2009, at the REI Bedford Distribution Center. The opening ceremony consisted of several presentations and a guided tour of the LEED certified green building. Representative Carl Metzgar of Pennsylvania's 69th District presented House Resolution No. 173, which declared April to be Outdoor Heritage Month in the Allegheny Mountains, and passed along a greeting from Governor Ed Rendell, who commended our efforts. Also, Ruth Roperti, President of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators, attended and presented her organization's endorsement of Outdoor Adventures. Other presentations included a proclamation by Somerset County, presented by Commissioner John Vatavuk, and the first annual Outdoor Heritage Outstanding Partner Award to REI.



# Outdoor Heritage



During Outdoor Heritage Month, partners organized and featured a collection of more than 30 conservation action opportunities that occurred that month throughout the Alleghenies. Working closely with the Johnstown Area Heritage Association, partners hosted a variety of workshops and presentations by speakers, some sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Presentations covered topics such as: "My Backyard or Yours! Poetry to Create a Sense of Place," "From Nature Study to Environmental Literacy: Rachel Carson as a Teacher" and the "History, Evolution and Future of the American Garden."

Outdoor Adventures has become a very popular field trip for area schools and homeschool groups. The 2009 event took place on April 23 and 24, 2009, once again at the Summer's Best Two Weeks Camp at Quemahoning Lake. During the two days, more than 45 exhibitors delivered exciting, hands-on environmental education activities for students, ranging from renewable energy concepts to nature crafts and art. Activities addressed various Pennsylvania academic standards such as those found within: Science and Technology; Environment and Ecology; Arts and Humanities; and Health, Wellness, and Physical Education. More than 1,100 students in grades K-6 attended.



# Outdoor Heritage 2010 - Planning Underway

Following a successful Outdoor Heritage 2009, Natural Biodiversity, in partnership with the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, initiated planning for Outdoor Heritage 2010 with a wrap-up meeting in June and the first OH 2010 planning committee meeting in October. By year's end Natural Biodiversity had notified every school district, private school, and homeschool association within Indiana, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties. In addition, more than 400 carefully selected individuals, businesses, and organizations were sent sponsorship request letters. Follow-up phone calls and personal meetings will occur in early 2010.

Outdoor Heritage Month activities kick off and inspire a full year of natural resource stewardship in the Allegheny Mountains. For this reason, plans are in effect to develop a new focus of the Outdoor Heritage website, [www.ohmonth.com](http://www.ohmonth.com), to include events scheduled outside of April that contribute to sustainability and conservation within the region.



Photographs courtesy of Melissa Reckner





# Weeding Invasives



During 2009, Natural Biodiversity assessed 111 sites within the Juniata and Kiski-Conemaugh watersheds and formed the Juniata Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) in partnership with the Juniata Clean Water Partnership.

## JUNIATA COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

Natural Biodiversity and the Juniata Clean Water Partnership received a \$49,000 grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Pulling Together Initiative" to combat invasive plants cooperatively with stakeholders and experts by integrating management resources and efforts across jurisdictional boundaries. A steering committee was formed, consisting of land managers and representatives from state agencies, nonprofit organizations, conservation districts, and municipal governments. A strategic management plan for the Juniata CWMA was drafted in December of 2009 that includes:

- A framework for invasive plant management.
- Defined education and outreach objectives.
- An invasive species list for the Juniata watershed.
- A map of the Juniata CWMA.



The plan recommends an innovative approach to landscape based invasive plant management using early detection and rapid response strategies, predictive modeling, and a trained volunteer corps to locate small populations that can be eradicated without large outputs of time or resources.



Natural Biodiversity drafted a Memorandum of Understanding and initiated discussions with potential signatories, with the goal of garnering at least five agency signatures by March 31, 2010. The memorandum is an important component of a CWMA because it creates official partnerships, setting the stage for long-term collaboration in solving invasive plant problems.

## INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL DEMONSTRATION SITES

Since 2000, Natural Biodiversity has maintained demonstration sites for invasive species control at 20 locations within the Kiski-Conemaugh and Juniata watersheds. Assessments were conducted at 15 of the sites within the Kiski-Conemaugh watershed, during the spring and summer of 2009. Data gathered will be used to assess the progress of restoration at each site and update the site management plans for landowners.



In 2009, Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and other nonnative invasive plants were treated with herbicide on a total of 34 acres across four demonstration sites: the Roaring Run Trail, the Avonmore River Access, the West Penn Trail Saltsburg Section, and the West Penn Trail Conemaugh Dam Section. Accord®, a glyphosate herbicide formulation, was used to treat invasive vegetation at the sites. A nonionic surfactant ingredient was applied with the herbicide to reduce chance of harm to wildlife and the environment.

### EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE INITIATIVE

The Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) initiative uses a landscape based predictive model, completed by the Natural Resource Analysis Center at West Virginia University and Natural Biodiversity in 2005, to identify areas that are vulnerable to invasion. This model is used in combination with an invasive plant prioritization system and natural heritage data to prevent the invasion of sites with a high conservation value. During the 2009 field season, data was collected at 111 model derived sites throughout the Kiski-Conemaugh and Juniata watersheds to verify the accuracy of the model and to provide more information on invasive plant presence within the Kiski-Conemaugh and the Juniata watersheds.

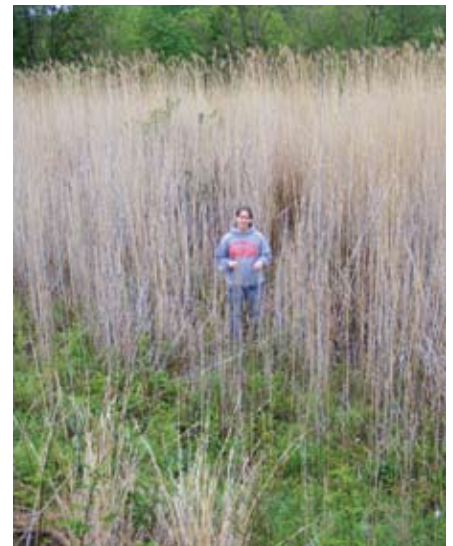
## Weed Whackings

### NATURAL BIODIVERSITY HOSTED THREE WEED WHACKING EVENTS IN 2009:

June 1: Natural Biodiversity personnel cleared a 20-foot wide path through a dense stand of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) in Seward along the Conemaugh River so that boaters participating in the Kiski-Conemaugh Sojourn could easily exit the water.

June 6: Thirty volunteers worked with Natural Biodiversity on the Pike 2 Bike Trail near Breezewood in Bedford County to remove invasive plants. Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Japanese knotweed, mile-a-minute weed (*Persicaria perfoliata*), and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) all were found and removed.

July 27: Natural Biodiversity staff spent a hot summer day at the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds' demonstration site near Alexandria in Huntingdon County. The site was littered with common burdock (*Arctium minus*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), bush honeysuckle, Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). Thanks to funding received from the Foundation, Natural Biodiversity will test a number of native plant competition strategies at this site during the 2010 growing season.



# Planting Natives



Each year, Natural Biodiversity enhances the region by holding habitat restoration projects throughout the Allegheny Mountains. The year 2009 was no exception. Natural Biodiversity hosted four work days that involved approximately 60 new or returning volunteers and resulted in the installation of nearly 5,000 plants.

## **DOWNTOWN PROUD DAY**

Since 2007, Natural Biodiversity has partnered with the Discover Downtown Johnstown Partnership on their annual Downtown Proud Day project, which focuses on cleaning up and beautifying downtown Johnstown to attract new businesses to the area. Natural Biodiversity chairs the plant committee every year. The 2009 Downtown Proud Day was held on May 17. Joined by five community volunteers, Natural Biodiversity staff planted nearly 1,600 donated plants throughout the central business district of downtown Johnstown.



## **REITZ PROJECT**

Three years ago, Natural Biodiversity and Shade Creek Watershed Association (SCWA) envisioned a great opportunity at the Reitz #1 abandoned mine drainage (AMD) treatment site in Central City, Somerset County. At this site, SCWA has been working to remedy the AMD pollution problem in Laurel Run, a tributary of Dark Shade Creek. The partners collaborated to turn the \$240,000 passive treatment system here into a dynamic wildlife habitat and educational resource. With much thanks to the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and USDA APHIS for funding this project, the endeavor has turned into a successful accomplishment for both Natural Biodiversity and SCWA.



Planning for the transformation of this site was based upon a concept developed by Natural Biodiversity and landscape designs created by Julia Herbst of OIKOS Design. Volunteers added color and vivacity to the entranceway on May 16 and, on October 3, created habitat along the stream bank through native plant installations. Twenty-seven volunteers got their hands dirty to make this possible, including a number who were striving to become National Wildlife Federation Habitat Stewards™, a volunteer program hosted locally by Natural Biodiversity. Overall, more than 1,300 trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants were installed and now are contributing to the sustainability of the ecosystem.





Additional plans call for a trail, interpretive signage, a shade structure, and more plantings in the in the forest, wetland, and riparian buffer areas. This site demonstrates how a degraded landscape can be transformed into a beautiful wildlife haven. For many years to come, the Reitz site will flourish – not only with color, but also with birds, bees, and butterflies!

#### **LOWER TRAIL WORK DAY**

On October 17, 2009, volunteers gathered at the Water Street entrance of the Lower Trail in Huntington County to install more than 1,700 native plants as part of Natural Biodiversity's Service Learning Outdoors program. Previously, this Natural Biodiversity control demonstration site benefited from the manual removal of invasive plants and from selective herbicide application. Native grasses, herbaceous plants, and ferns were used to revegetate this section of the popular rail-trail where Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) have been controlled effectively. Restoration of the site with healthy native plant communities will help to prevent the recurrence of invasive plants and the establishment of new weeds.

#### **NATIVE PLANT DATABASE**

In the spring of 2009, Natural Biodiversity began creating a database of native plants and their attributes, which currently includes approximately 1,400 native plants that occur in Pennsylvania. The list is derived from many references, such as *Plants of Pennsylvania* by Ann Fowler Rhoads and Timothy Block, USDA Plants Database, and Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's Native Plant Database. Plants indexed include an extensive array of trees, shrubs, succulents, herbs, vines, grasses, and ferns. Roughly 60 categories and characteristics are utilized to describe and classify each individual plant including: native location; rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) status; growth characteristics; light, soil, and moisture preferences; wildlife value; method of reproduction; fruit type, bloom time, flower color, height; browse; salinity and drought resistance; pH range; hardiness zones; Pennsylvania distribution; and potential utilization. The native plant database will be used as a reference in providing technical assistance and expertise to landowners and businesses.



# Education and Outreach

## THE LEAFLET

An exciting outreach publication, our newsletter, *The Leaflet*, was launched by Natural Biodiversity during 2009. The premiere printed issue was distributed in September, reaching more than 1,000 people. To be published once or twice a year, *The Leaflet* is intended to let partners, donors, volunteers and the public know about our activities and to provide information about invasive plants, native plants, and land stewardship. An electronic version of *The Leaflet* was launched in early December and will be e-mailed to stakeholders as often as once a month to keep Natural Biodiversity supporters familiar with our programs and activities in-between printed issues. Both versions of *The Leaflet* can be found within our News and Events section at [www.naturalbiodiversity.org](http://www.naturalbiodiversity.org).

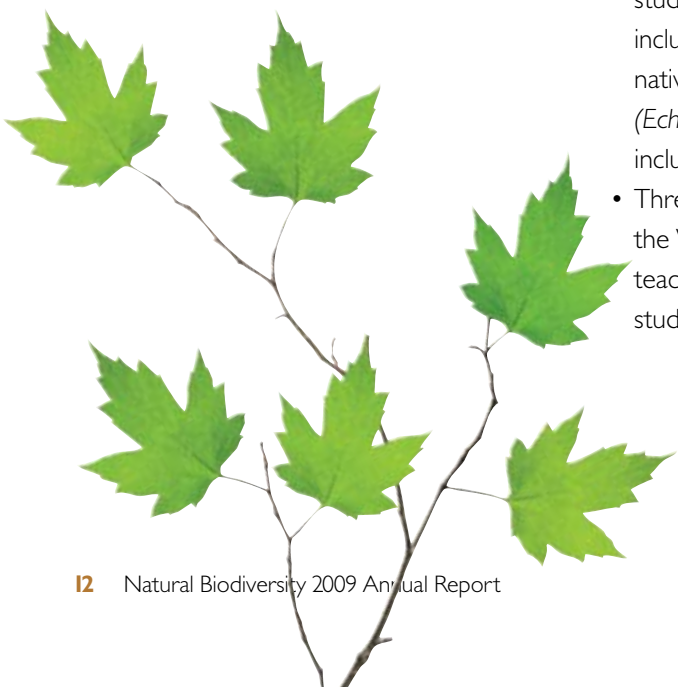


## BEYOND THE SCHOOLHOUSE

Beyond the Schoolhouse is a program designed to enhance educational outcomes for students, teachers, schools and communities across Pennsylvania by supplementing indoor instruction with hands-on outdoor activities. Building on the principle that a richly resourced environment – one with exciting play materials and imaginative adventures – augments outdoor learning, Beyond the Schoolhouse promotes the creation and use of outdoor classrooms and educates people about their benefits. Each school participating in the program will be provided with a guide, *The Teacher's Toolkit: Creating Quality Outdoor Learning Environments*, which is being prepared for peer review.

In 2009, Natural Biodiversity worked with two area school districts on outdoor classroom projects:

- United Elementary School in Indiana County partnered with Natural Biodiversity in 2008 to begin creating an outdoor classroom. Students were involved in the process from start to finish, including site design, species selection, and planting. Working with students from the neighboring high school, United Elementary students completed Phase I of their outdoor classroom in May of 2009, which included the design of a butterfly garden in the shape of a butterfly, featuring native plants such as black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*). Planning is underway for Phase II of the project, which will include curriculum integration and forest habitat enhancements.
- Three surveys were developed to gain input on enhancements and additions to the Windber Area School District's outdoor classroom: one geared toward teachers, another for parents and the community, and the third for elementary students. The surveys will be launched early in 2010.



### **MID-ATLANTIC INVASIVE PLANT CONFERENCE**

On August 11 and 12, the biennial Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Conference was held at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The conference, titled “Complicating Factors in Invasive Plant Management: Circumstances Beyond Our Control,” offered participants the opportunity to hear the latest news and research on this global problem. Organized by the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council (MA-EPPC), the conference included topics such as relationships between invasive plants and browsing deer, impacts of climate change on the spread of invasive species, early detection rapid response initiatives, and management and control techniques for specific species.

Michael Strager, PhD, Professor of Forestry and Consumer Science at West Virginia University, presented his invasive species landscape predictive model, completed for Natural Biodiversity in 2005. Conference attendees participated in a tour of the rooftop native plant garden at the Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center, a project facilitated by Natural Biodiversity in 2008. During the conference, Kristin Sewak, Director of Natural Biodiversity, was named President of the MA-EPPC Board of Directors, opening up new avenues for additional collaboration between the two groups. Natural Biodiversity was proud to assist in organizing the conference, which brought experts and more invasive species awareness to the area. Proceedings from the conference can be viewed at [www.ma-eppc.org](http://www.ma-eppc.org).

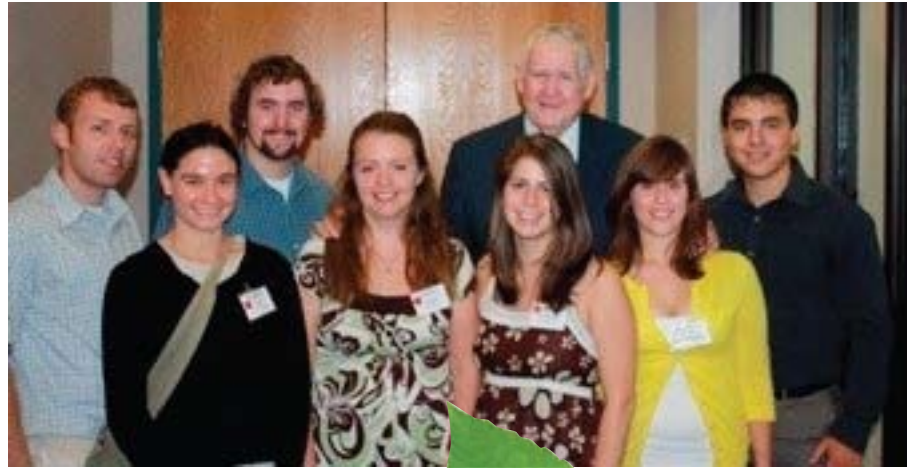
### **NWF ECO-SCHOOLS USA**

Through the assistance of Natural Biodiversity, United School District became the first school system in the nation to become a district wide Eco-School. According to the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) website, [www.nwf.org/ecoschools/about](http://www.nwf.org/ecoschools/about), “Eco-Schools is an internationally acclaimed program that provides a framework to help educators integrate sustainable principles throughout their schools and curriculum.” As a pilot project, Natural Biodiversity is facilitating NWF’s Eco-Schools program with local nonprofit partners. Facilitation will include outreach to local schools and technical assistance to those enrolled.

### **PENNSYLVANIA INVASIVE SPECIES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT**

Natural Biodiversity is developing an invasive species educational supplement for use by educators, environmental education specialists, and the public. The project, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Wild Resource Conservation Program (WRCP) and USDA APHIS, will result in an innovative invasive species curriculum supplement that will fulfill portions of the Pennsylvania Environment and Ecology education standards, as well as science, reading, and math assessment anchors.

*Summer Natural Biodiversity Team with the late Congressman John P. Murtha during the Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Conference*



# Education and Outreach



Advisors, lending their expertise to this project, include representatives from the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council, the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education, state agencies, schools, and nonprofit organizations. An initial meeting of the advisory group was conducted on October 14, 2009 in Harrisburg to discuss the project and gain input on specific components. Responses to a questionnaire enabled Natural Biodiversity to determine the species for inclusion in the supplement, academic standards to be addressed, story elements, and goals of the lesson plans and activities.

In late September 2009, Natural Biodiversity sent a request for proposals to writers, illustrators, and environmental marketers and received 25 proposals from across the United States. After careful consideration, Interpretive Insights, from Houston, TX, was selected for the contract.

Next comes the conceptual development of the characters, stories and lesson plans guided by Natural Biodiversity, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and retired educators acting as volunteers on the project. Once the supplement is in draft form, it will be field-tested in Pennsylvania schools and public settings.

## WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS

Several new features were added to Natural Biodiversity's website, [www.naturalbiodiversity.org](http://www.naturalbiodiversity.org), in 2009. A donations section was created that provides several ways for people or corporations to donate to Natural Biodiversity.

- An online donation page has been added to the Natural Biodiversity website, [www.naturalbiodiversity.org/donations\\_online](http://www.naturalbiodiversity.org/donations_online), which allows donors to give securely online through Network for Good.
- [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) is a shopping site that enables users to donate to Natural Biodiversity at no cost to themselves. Natural Biodiversity receives a portion of each supporter's purchases, made with any of 700 participating online retailers.
- <http://iSearchiGive.com> donates a penny or two to Natural Biodiversity each time this engine is used to search the Internet.

Also, a new volunteer survey, Natural Biodiversity's newsletter, *The Leaflet*, and links to our conservation services and rain barrel programs are now available on the website. Natural Biodiversity also created web pages at: Facebook®, MySpace™, and Principals for Change GreenSpaces, each of which can be accessed from our News and Events section on the website.

The website for Outdoor Heritage Month and Outdoor Adventures, [www.ohmonth.com](http://www.ohmonth.com), was developed by Natural Biodiversity and partners in 2008. Last year this website was enhanced with information on Outdoor Heritage Month and Outdoor Adventures 2010. Online registration forms have been added for schools, exhibitors, event submissions, and for general inquiries. An online donation option also was added to the Outdoor Heritage website, which enables donors to give to Outdoor Heritage Month programming and Outdoor Adventures online through a secure server. Plans have been made to develop a section of the Outdoor Heritage website to include stewardship events and initiatives occurring throughout the year.



Initial drafts of characters for the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Educational Supplement by Tim Hays/Interpretive Insights.

## FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES OUTREACH

During the summer of 2009, Natural Biodiversity personnel met with both congressmen in our service area, the late U.S. Representative John Murtha of the 12th District and U.S. Representative Bill Shuster of the 9th District, to explain our programs and services that are offered to each congressman's constituents.

## Events

Natural Biodiversity's programs directly reached nearly 5,000 people through the following 2009 events:

Outdoor Heritage Month	April 2009
Outdoor Heritage Month Opening Ceremony	April 3
Outdoor Adventures	April 23-24
Back to Basics Workshop: How Families Can Save Money and the Planet Together	April 18
United Eco-Day	May 4
History, Evolution, and Future of the American Garden	May 13
Shade School District Outdoor Activity Day	May 15
Windber Kindergarten – 4 Fun Day Nature Walk	May 22
Green Energy Workshop at Whispering Creek	May 30
Point Stadium Community Day	June 7
Habitat Stewards Training	June 13
Johnstown Area Heritage Association's Children's Museum Grand Opening	June 14
Blair County Homeowner's Conservation Workshop Presentation	June 23
St. Francis University Science Camp outdoor activity	July 7 and 14
Wildlife Habitat Workshop at the Johnstown Area Heritage Association's Heritage Discovery Center	July 18
Exhibit at the Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Conference	August 11-12
Habitat Stewards Training	September 19
Award-winning exhibit at the Ohio River Watershed Celebration	October 1
Natural Biodiversity's Premiere Issue of <i>The Leaflet</i> Newsletter	October 2
REI nonprofit fair exhibit	October 20
Natural Biodiversity's "Haunted" Open House	October 22
Display at the Environmental Learning Network Annual Fair and Meeting	November 12



# Citizen Engagement



Volunteer involvement in community based conservation projects is the basis for several of Natural Biodiversity's programs. Volunteering contributes to the education and enrichment of individuals and families and builds sustainable communities through on the ground projects. In 2009, approximately 200 volunteers provided 3,298 hours of volunteer service, worth \$83,099.

## **SERVICE LEARNING OUTDOORS**

Natural Biodiversity is developing an ongoing service learning program that engages youth in voluntary natural resource conservation as it teaches them about ecological restoration in fun and innovative ways. Because the program instills a lasting conservation ethic in its participants, it contributes to the development of the next generation of conservationists while also encouraging a stewardship ethic within the adult population served by the youth projects. Two pilot projects have included workdays on the proposed Pike 2 Bike Trail, near Breezewood, PA, and the Lower Trail, near Alexandria, PA. A special thanks to REI and USDA APHIS for funding this program that will add life and natural diversity to two major trails.



On National Trails Day, June 6, 2009, Natural Biodiversity and 30 volunteers gathered on the 17-mile Pike 2 Bike Trail near Bedford to inventory and control invasive plants. The Pike 2 Bike Trail is being developed along an original, now abandoned section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, America's First Superhighway, and is the only project of its kind in the nation. The volunteers learned how to identify and differentiate select species of invasive and native plants and about the importance of native species in habitat restoration.



Though rainy, cold weather threatened the second service-learning event on October 17, fifteen resolute Natural Biodiversity volunteers endured the inclement weather to install more than 1,700 plants on the 16 1/2-mile Lower Trail near Alexandria, PA. This site was once overwhelmed by Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) until Natural Biodiversity and other cooperating organizations successfully treated the species on-site. While warming up over lunch following the planting, Natural Biodiversity engaged the volunteers with information about invasive species and provided supplemental educational materials.

A site stewardship plan was developed by Natural Biodiversity for the Lower Trail that identified invasive plant species found on-site, prioritized management of those species, and included native planting goals and interpretive elements. A plan, focusing on invasive plant management and prevention, also was developed for the Pike 2 Bike Trail as a supplement to the Forest Stewardship Plan that was completed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry.

Both stewardship plans include an interpretive plan for each site, together with information on potential strategies to involve the public in the prevention of invasive species. The plans are meant to guide future conservation efforts and obtain help from local students and scout groups.

### “HAUNTED” OPEN HOUSE

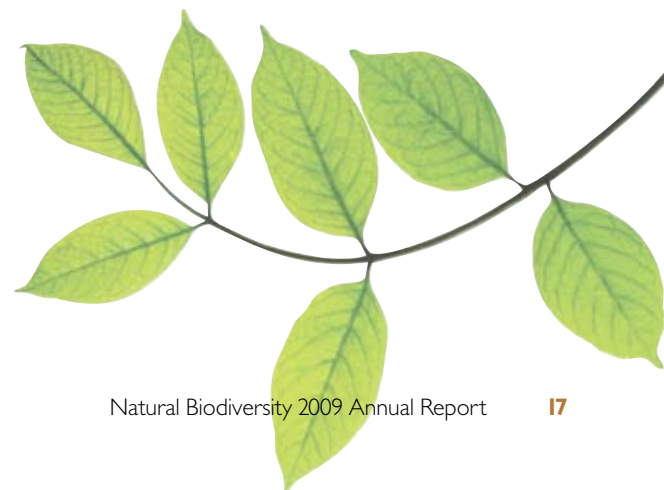
On October 22, Natural Biodiversity hosted an open house in our new Windber office space, to show appreciation to our friends and to introduce ourselves to the Windber community. The Halloween themed event was well attended and included delicious harvest foods and beverages, an “eerily” silent auction of donated goods from local businesses, and fun activities for kids! The Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team received the new Outstanding Partner Award, while Karlice Makuchan received the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Natural Biodiversity’s Volunteer of the Year: Retired teacher Karlice Makuchan received this year’s award. Karlice taught for 33 years – 30 of them in the Conemaugh Township Area School District where she instructed 5th graders. While at Conemaugh Township, she started a school garden project at the Intermediate School. Karlice also is an active board member of Nardecchia Spay Neuter Fund and the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP), a member of the Sierra Club, and a member of the Garden Club of Johnstown. With Ellen Singleton, another active Natural Biodiversity volunteer, Karlice started the Garden Club of Johnstown’s Native Plant Rescue Project. She has been a dedicated volunteer of Natural Biodiversity for over five years and has obtained National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat™ certification for her backyard and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ligonier Valley property. In 2009, Karlice contributed 113 volunteer hours to projects organized by Natural Biodiversity and to her own wildlife habitat enhancement projects.

Natural Biodiversity’s Outstanding Partner: Recognizing a need to acknowledge partners for their outstanding dedication and support of our programs, Natural Biodiversity created an annual Outstanding Partner Award. The 2009 award was presented to members of the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team in recognition of their enduring partnership with Natural Biodiversity on many regional education and outreach initiatives, especially Outdoor Heritage Month and Outdoor Adventures.



*"Karlice Makuchan, Kristin Sewak, and Melissa Reckner at the 'Haunted' Open House.*



# Citizen Engagement



Photograph courtesy of Julia Herbst.

## HABITAT STEWARDS

In 2009, Natural Biodiversity enhanced its existing National Wildlife Federation Habitat Stewards™ volunteer corps. Starting in May, Natural Biodiversity began soliciting the local population, announcing two Habitat Steward training sessions, the first of which took place on June 13 at Whispering Creek Environmental Learning Center near Bedford, PA. Training covered the requirements and benefits of being a Habitat Steward, the importance of using native plants for landscaping, and the value of biodiversity. Also, trainees were taught proper planting techniques through a hands-on demonstration.

The second training session was held on September 19 at the REI Bedford Distribution Center. Landscape designer Julia Herbst of OikOS Design led the training, presenting concepts such as site assessment, plant selection/placement, and landscape design. Stewards then assessed the distribution center property and began drafting initial designs for the site. Also, Natural Biodiversity staff instructed attendees on how to access resources within their communities, covering topics such as funding, volunteers, and public support.

Thirteen Habitat Stewards trainees are participating and working toward fulfillment of the 25 training hours required to become official NWF Habitat Stewards. Once trained and certified, each Steward will contribute a minimum of 50 service hours annually toward local habitat stewardship projects. Habitat Stewards can take the lead on local projects and can also take advantage of service opportunities provided by Natural Biodiversity each year.



# Volunteers

Natural Biodiversity extends our sincerest "Thank you" to everyone whose efforts helped to support our important work in 2009.

Larry Adams	Molly Cover	Beth Garner	Jill and Gabe Latuch	Kara Prentice	Sharon Svitek
Karen Addleman	Roy Crichton	Kaitlyn Garrety	Kay Leighmaki	Bethany Winters	Terry Sykes
Scott Alexander	Malcolm Crittenden	Steve Garrety	Joan Leighton	Jessica Pulliam	Kave Szapka
Laurel Anders	Bradley W. Cunningham	Scott Garrety	Jennifer Lentz Kovacs	Nathan Quist	Jessica Taylor
Travis Anderson	Chris Cutchell	Rodney Geist	Len Lichvar	Kathy Randall	Michael Teeter
Merrilee Anderson	Karen Danes	Hilary Getz	Lisa Lindsey	Melissa Reckner	Tyler Telenko
Deborah Andrascik	Melissa Darling	Jeanne Gleason	Christine Ling	Eric Reghard	Carly Temyer
Rose Arcurio	Anne Daymut	Angel Godik	Angela Lipter	Judy Rhoads	Stephanie Thomas
Susan Bailey	Amanda Deal	Angela Godin	Susan Llewellyn	Bob & Elaine Ritchey	Scott Thomas
Scott Balsey	Deanna Delarosa	Fred Goodman	Susan Lucas	Jackie Ritko	David Thomas
Don Barker	Jim Delesandro	Karen Grainey	Shannon Maciorowski	Dana Rizzo	Rick Thompson
George Barner	Chelsea Delozier	Megan Griffin	Ed & Karlice Makuchan	Pat Roberts	Apryl Toth
Mike Barton	Joseph Diamond	Wendy Griffin	Mike Makufka	Eric Robertson	Clyde Trout
Nola Barton	Vanessa Dollar	Doloris and Rob Griffith	Kylie Maland	Emily Roeben	Chrissy Truxell
Noreen & Richard Beauregard	Ken Dranzik	Penny Grubb	Mark Malicki	John Roeben	Dennis Tubbs
Dallas Beauregard	Tim Dull	John Gustkey	Dave Mankamyer	Cindy Rogers	Tiffany Ulmer
Raymond Beauregard	Brady Duncan	Rose Gustkey	Robert Marks	Kathy Ross	Ray Vandzura
Angela Belli	Chelsea Dunkle	Jamie Hale	Laurin McAndrew	Austin Russell	Lewis Vaighn
Grant Bendick	Debra Dunkle	Steve Hall	Bob McBride	Chris Sawyer	Johanna Venz
Frank Bendick	Kayla Easn	Dan Hall	Chris McCann	Yancey Sayers	Anthony Venzon
Jennifer Bennett	Corey Ebersole	Melissa Harding	Rob McCombie	Dave Scamardella	Andrea Viazanko
Brenda Bequeath	Jim Eckenrode	Julia Herbst	Rosemary McGlynn	Dianne Schultz	Joe Viovich
Anthony Berardi	Clare Eckenrode	Paul Hindes	Stan McKee	Dave, Aedan, & Cassidy Sewak	Steve Volgstadt
Kent Biery	Charles Ellenberger	R.F. Hinkofer	Pam McQuistian	Rick Shaffer	Mike Vonrad
Harry Blackwell	Kristi Emerick	Jay Hoar	Aletha Meade	Ryan Shaffer	Jeffrey Wagner
Marissa Block	John Emery	Thomas Hofmann	Sara Mekis	Darlene Shaffer	Matt Walerysiak
Suzy Bloom	Mary Ellen Farabaugh	Jackie Honeycutt	Shylah Mellon	Monica Shedlock	Lew Walker
Tom Bodenshatz	Allen Farabaugh	Robert & Sue Hook	Ashley Miller	Chris Shook	Mark Ware
Beth Bollinger	Jack Farster	Matt Hough	Sarah Miller	Amanda Short	Bill Watkins
Mason Bollman	Jamie Feather	Susan Huba	Jerry Miller	Donna Shull	Cindy Way
Nadine Bollman	Olivia Felton	Julie Hudak	Mary Mock	Ellen Singleton	Paul Weiss
Tina Bonk	JoAnne Ferraro	Melinda Hughes-Wert	Tina Molski	PJ Sleber	Terry Wentz
Dan Boone	John Ferraro	Rebecca Hugus	Jim Molski	Pamela Sleck	David Westrem
Heidi Boyle	Rod Fisher	Courtney Husinberger	Kevin Morgan	Earl Sleck	Gary Wetterberg
Sean Brady	Donna Fisher	Larry Hutchinson	Ron Morris	Monica Smay	Page Wetterberg
Bill Brant	Madison Fix	Fred Jacobs	Jeremiah Morrison	Miranda Smith	Karmel Whetstone
Annie Bridge	Scott Flanders	Gwen Johnson	Mark Murchie	Jason Smith	Tonya Wible
Marilyn Brown	Hayley Fockler	Melissa Jones	Tom Murray	Christine Snider	Charles Wilcox
Phil Brumbaugh	Marcia Fontenot	Eric Jordan	Johanna Mutti	Christine Snider	Darlene & Ernie Wilusz Family
Randy & Pat Buchanan	Samuel Fontenot	Tom Kakabar	Larry and Ginny Mutti	Jim Snyder	Janet Wisler
Don Buchanan	Forest Hills NASA Students	Taryn Kapcos	Brad Myers	Debbie Snyder	Neil Woffinden
Richard Burkert	Steven Fosbrink	Matt Kaschalk	Deb Nardone	Sydney Snyder	Kevin Wrabley
Mary Byer	Jim Foster	Michael Kelly	Dorothy Naugle	Leah Spangler	Garett Wright
Barbara Cantwell	Fran Fregly	Dave Kemp	Glenn Nelson	George Spangler	Tom Yocum
Al Carnahan	Robert Frisbie	Cody Kerr	Keith Newlin	Dave Spangler	David Young
Jim Carr	Brian L. Fritz	Zach Kerr	Kristi Niekamp	Colton Stanton	Kenny Young
David Cauffield	Vanessa Funyak	Thomas Kielbasin	Joe Niovich	Teddi Renee Stark	Justin Younkins
John Chipchosky	Liz Gaffron	James Kissell	Laura Nulman	Dave Steele	Paula Zitzler
Tracey Chirico	Karen Gainey	Tom Komir	Andy Patterson	Joe Stefko	Melody Zullinger
Becky Christiana	Johanna Gallo	Thurman Kornis	Kathy Penrod	Jim Steward	
Becky Claar	Hannah Ganaty	Joel Kosmac	Denver Pepley	Guy Stottlemeyer	
Brad Clemenson	Matt Ganaty	Lee Kring	Robb Piper	Eva Strang	
Tim Cole	Don Garner	John Lamper	Taissa Pituch	Stephanie Summits	
Tammy Colt		Bob & Elaine Lankard	Ben Plunkett	Dominick Sunseri	
			Tim Pope	Leslie Sunseri	

# Financials

Natural Biodiversity achieved a financial milestone in 2009 by diversifying its funding. Since 2000, more than \$2.2 million have been provided to support the program – most of it through federal earmarks obtained by the late U.S. Rep. John P. Murtha, PA-12th District. Until 2009, earmarked annual appropriations accounted for about 60% of Natural Biodiversity’s operating budget. However, less than 50% of 2009’s financial support came from the earmark – a benchmark for Natural Biodiversity in its ongoing efforts to diversify funding sources. Contractual services accounted for 10% of the revenue in 2009, and state funds were secured for the first time since 2005. Meanwhile, Natural Biodiversity has secured funds from Congress for FY 2010 and has intensive fundraising efforts planned for early 2010.

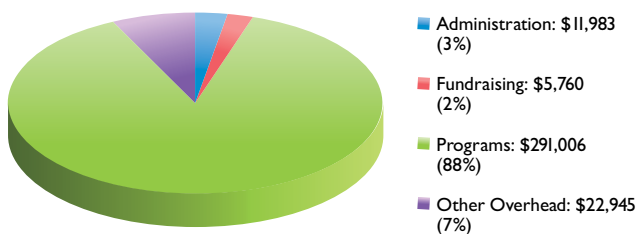
Administrative costs were kept at a record low of 3% in 2009, while a record percentage of the budget – 88 % – was dedicated to program expense. On the negative side, fundraising accounted for only 2% of costs – an insufficient commitment if revenue diversification is to continue. Other overhead costs, including travel, training, office rent, insurance, telephone, and Internet, remain low and should drop further now that Natural Biodiversity has moved to office space that is projected to save about \$6,000 per year, compared to the prior location. Natural Biodiversity also reestablished its partnership with AmeriCorps and obtained one full-time and two part-time members at one quarter of the cost of market rate salaries for comparable positions.

A four-year financial plan has been drafted and will be finalized by the founding board of directors, during the 501(c)(3) application and strategic planning processes. Fee based conservation services have been developed and rain barrels are being sold. Plans also are underway to propagate and sell native plants, with the first sale to take place on May 22, 2010, at the Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center.

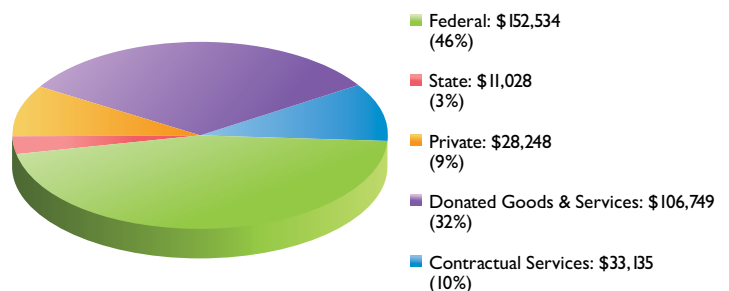
A Natural Biodiversity donor advised fund has been established through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies with a dual-purpose of providing long-term support and financing annual Outdoor Heritage initiatives. Through its partnership with the Community Foundation, Natural Biodiversity established Outdoor Adventures as a Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program, which qualifies corporate donors for state tax credits worth 75-90% of their donation. Finally, a Network for Good account was established, enabling Natural Biodiversity to receive donations online via the newly renovated Donate webpage: [www.naturalbiodiversity.org/donations](http://www.naturalbiodiversity.org/donations).

With the positive direction established in 2009, and the founding board’s guidance, the new organization should continue to move forward fiscally, diversify funding sources, make sound financial decisions, and build long-term capacity.

**2009 Expenditures by Category.**  
Total = \$331,694.



**2009 Revenue by Type.**  
Total = \$331,694.





## Donors

Natural Biodiversity extends our sincerest "Thank you" to all whose generosity helped to make our vital work possible in 2009.

Allegheny Plateau Chapter of  
National Audubon Society  
Allegheny Ridge Corporation  
Allied Milk Producers  
American Eagle Outfitters  
American Eagle Screen Print &  
Embroidery  
Amfire Mining Company  
Anonymous Donor  
Anonymous Donor  
Anthony's Tax Service  
Arcadia Theater  
Douglas Beri, Jr.  
In memory of Margaret J. Conlin  
Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center  
Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell  
Paul Brown  
Bruce Nursery  
Randy Buchanan  
Mike Burk  
Burkett Nursery and Greenhouse  
Richard Burkert and L. Ellen Singleton  
Cambria County Conservation District  
Cambria County Federation of  
Sportsmen  
Cambria County Solid Waste Authority  
James and Marsha Carr  
Carriage House Floral and Gifts  
City Cycle  
Kathleen Clawson  
CME Management LLC  
Conemaugh Township Elementary  
School  
Conemaugh Township EMS  
Conemaugh Valley Conservancy  
Conemaugh Valley Elementary School  
Copies Plus  
CTC Foundation  
Richard A. Dixon  
Dorothy's Greenhouse  
Earthtech, Inc.  
Evergreen Conservancy  
Flower Barn  
Gamesa Energy USA LLC  
Hilary Getz  
William L. Glosser, Esq.  
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters  
Laura Hawkins  
Julia Herbst  
Bob and Sue Hook  
Hurst Media Works  
Mike and Laura Jackson  
Invasive Plant Control, Inc.  
Jean Bonnet Tavern  
Johnstown Area Heritage Association  
Johnstown Johns  
Johnstown Sportsmen's Association  
Just A Moment Photography  
George and Eileen Kerr  
In memory of Martha Horvath  
Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team  
Bobby Jo Klinepeter  
Mike Kuzmin  
Laurel Highlands Therapeutic Massage  
Mark and Lauren Lazzari  
John Linkes  
Loyalhanna Watershed Association  
Andrew Mack  
Edward and Karlice Makuchan  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McGlynn  
Adam Miller  
Mimo's Restaurant  
Mock's Greenhouse  
Mountain Laurel Chapter Trout  
Unlimited  
PA Fish and Boat Commission  
PA Game Commission  
Pennsylvania Humanities Council  
Pine Springs Farm  
Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Main Line  
Canal Greenway  
Plant-It Earth  
William & Gayle Ragley  
In honor of Kristin Sewak  
Ray's Nursery  
Matt and Melissa Reckner  
Recreational Equipment, Inc.  
Rent-a-Tent  
Saint Francis University  
Jerry Seitz  
Dave & Kristin Sewak  
Violet Sewak  
Shaver's Creek Environmental Center  
Monica Shedlock  
Snyder's of Berlin  
Somerset Conservation District  
Somerset County Chamber of  
Commerce  
Somerset County Conservancy  
Charitable Trust  
Somerset Trust Company  
Something Extra Special  
St. Francis University  
Starbucks Coffee  
State Farm  
Stonycreek-Conemaugh River  
Improvement Project  
Stream Restoration, Inc.  
Stuver's Riverside Nursery  
Summer's Best Two Weeks Camp  
Tea Fancies  
The Fly Fishing Show  
Trent-Bakersville - Lavansville -  
New Enterprise Nursery  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Venture Outdoors  
Village Street Café  
Von's United Beverage  
Walmart Foundation  
Wells Creek Watershed Association  
Westsylvania Heritage Corporation  
Westwood Garden Haven  
Wetland Supply Co.  
Wilderness Voyageurs  
Windber Elementary PTO  
Windber Hotel  
Winder Sportsmen's Association

## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS RECEIVED

### Natural Biodiversity

*PA Growing Greener 10th Anniversary Grant* by PA Environment Digest  
*2nd Place Exhibit* by Ohio River Watershed Celebration

### Outdoor Heritage Month

*Resolution No. 173*, declaring April 2009 Outdoor Heritage Month in PA's Alleghenies, by PA House of Representatives  
*Proclamation*, declaring April 2009 Outdoor Heritage Month in Somerset County, by Somerset County Commissioners

### Outdoor Adventures

*Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program* by PA Department of Community and Economic Development  
*Endorsement* by PA Association of Environmental Educators


## HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS GIVEN

Karlice Makuchan, *Natural Biodiversity Volunteer of the Year*  
Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, *Natural Biodiversity Outstanding Partner of the Year*  
Recreational Equipment, Inc., *Outdoor Heritage Outstanding Partner*



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