

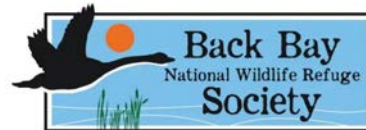


2022

*Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Society
Annual Report*



“Our purpose is to promote and support the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in its mission to conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources through projects, advocacy, outreach, education, fundraising, diverse membership and volunteerism for the betterment of the Refuge.”





Letter From The President

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Society, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation to all the members, partners and donors who supported us this past year. Without your help we couldn't have accomplished our goals or initiatives!

From projects to community events the Society has been able to bring awareness, involvement and support for Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Thank You!

This annual report celebrates what was made possible in the year 2022 and the following are a few of the highlights accomplished through membership involvement and contributions.

- Designated a National Recreation Trail, the first on a National Wildlife Refuge in the state of Virginia.
- Selected to host a mentor workshop that brought in top experts from around the country to provide insight, guidance and support for the Society.
- Maintained the pollinator garden for local pollinators that "buzz" around the Refuge.
- Created a monarch waystation to help assist and nourish monarch butterflies as they migrate south.

- Partnered with local businesses that helped support and bring awareness to the Society and its endeavors.
- Increased revenue 50% through individual donors, business contributions, donor advised funds, grants & in kind donations.
- Launched new Society website with automated membership and volunteer forms.
- Supported Osprey nest habitats and banding of fledgling chicks.

Advocacy, Outreach and Education for the betterment of the Refuge ... aspirations the Board of Directors for Back Bay NW Refuge Society take to heart.

We have a lot of work ahead this year and are confident it will be accomplished, both within the community and the Refuge, with your support and dedication.

Thank you for being part of this journey and inspiring us to continue in our works for the Refuge.

Wishing all the best in 2023,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Ford
President, BBNWR Society



Projects

- Monarch Waystation garden established
- Osprey nesting platforms installed and repaired
- Pollinator garden maintained
- Assisted refuge with trail maintenance
- Tool shed repair
- Collaborative outdoor classroom project launched





Programs

- Osprey nestlings banded
 - Refuge sea turtle conservation
- Members assisted with*
- Turtle patrols
 - Nest protection
 - Hatchling releases



- Refuge Environmental Education Program
- Members assisted with*
- School visits to the refuge
 - On-site school visits
 - Developed interactive educational games
 - Educational videos in production
- Assisted Refuge Staff in recruitment of volunteers





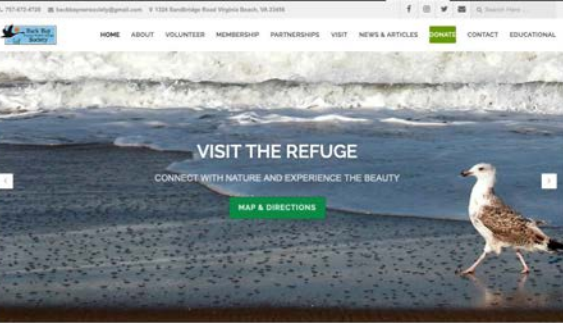
Event Participation

- National Recreation Trails ribbon cutting
- Earth Day fundraiser
- Beach Girls Rock! VBCPS event



Member social held at New Realm Brewery





Make A Donation

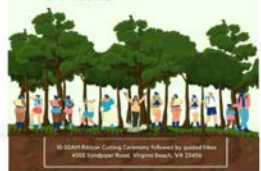
Help protect the refuge wildlife and their habitats by making a contribution to the Back Bay NWR Society. Support our advocacy, outreach, and education for the betterment of the Refuge.

DONATE



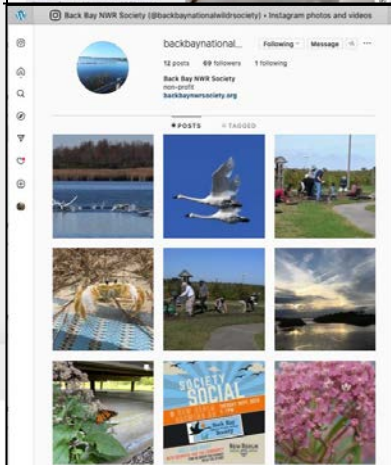
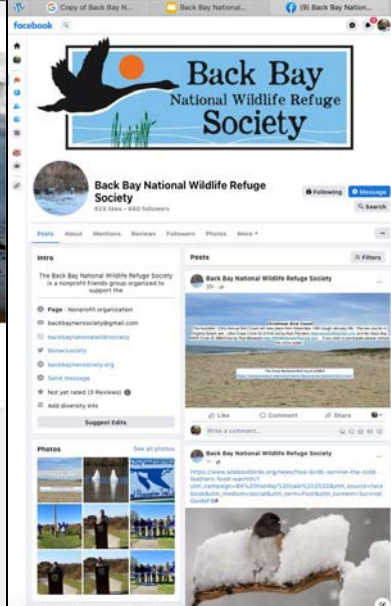
National Recreational Trail System Celebration

17 NOVEMBER 2022
National Recreation Trails



BACK BAY NWR SOCIETY
1324 Sandbridge Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456

DONATE



Society Communication

- New website launched
- Expanded use of social media platforms
- Articles published in area periodicals
- Newsletters and annual report published
- Business brochure created





Volunteer of the Year 2020



Volunteer of the Year 2021



2022 Wildlife Advocate Award



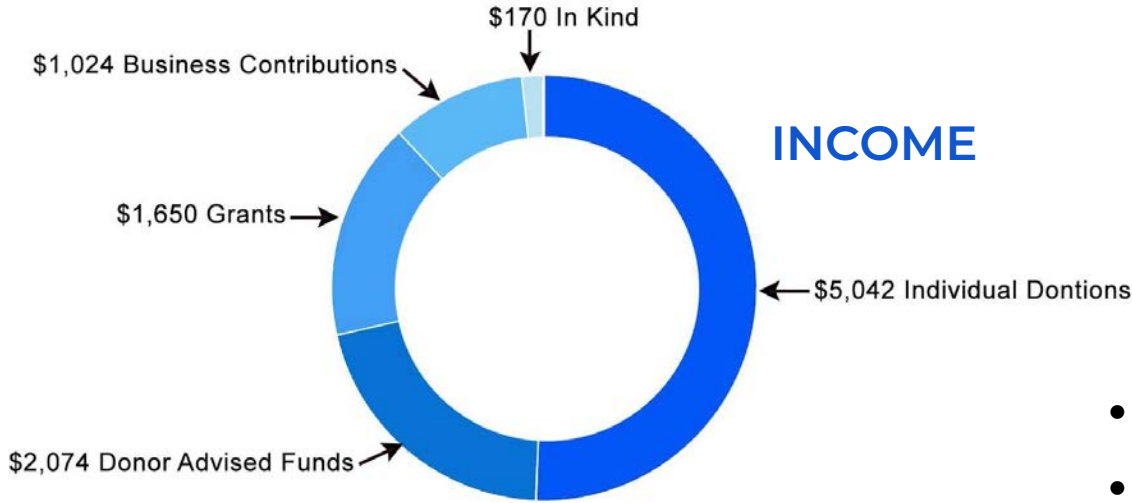
Accomplishments

- BBNWR trails designated National Recreation Trails
- Monarch garden grant written and awarded
- Members received refuge outstanding volunteer and advocacy awards
- Members served as guest speakers
 - Bird lectures
 - Monarch garden lecture



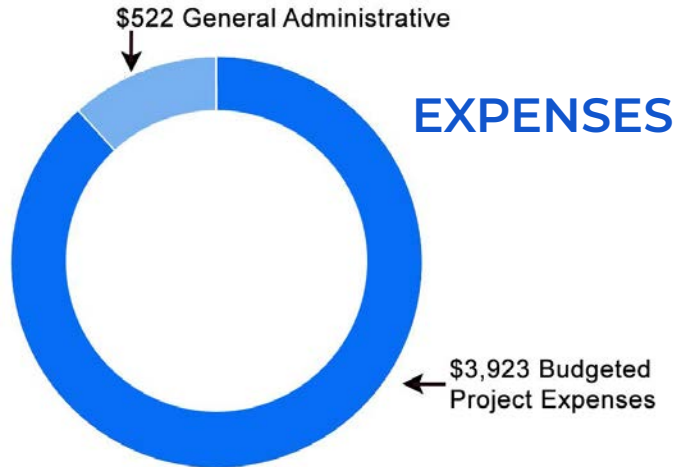
2022 Financials

INCOME

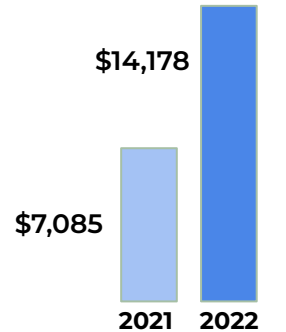


- 50.6% Individual Donations
- 20% Donor Advised Funds
- 16% Grants
- 10% Business Contributions

EXPENSES



- 88% Direct project expenses
- 12% Administrative expenses



YEAR END BALANCE



2022 Donors

A special thank you to the following individuals

Lee/Laura Beller

Elena Bersani

Colleen/Richard Doering

Courtney Dyer

Richard Dyer

Barry Erdeljon

Larry Gary

Carol Gentry

Lea Grigsby

Barry Kurzer

Stuart McCausland

Michael Montgomery

Mickie Nance

Cheryl Pettigrew

Carrie Rice

Adrienne Ryder

Matthew Smith

Jennifer Steinhurst

Jane Stille

Loretta Sylvia

Karen Thumb

Shannon Totud

Bernice Williams

Beth Williams

Kathy Woodward

Grant funding

HRSD Grant for Monarch

Waystation Garden



Friends Mentoring Society Areas of Focus

- Member Engagement & Involvement
- Outdoor Classroom Project
- Urban Program






2023

Looking to the Future

Outdoor Classroom

Urban Program

Community Partnerships

And more



Outdoor Classroom

- Regional educational outreach
- Society sponsored events
- RBA Architects, primary partner
- 3 student interns from the Environmental Studies Program of VBCPS





Urban Wildlife Refuge Program

- National Wildlife Refuge Association
- Connecting people to nature through dynamic outreach
- Refuge, VBCP Environmental Studies Program, and select elementary schools Partnership
- Hands-on lessons at elementary schools by Environmental Studies Program students
- Field trip to the refuge





Keynote Speakers	Photo Contest	Birding Challenge	Workshops	Exhibit Hall	Trips & Excursions	Wildlife Advocate Award
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Upcoming Events

Member Involvement

Winter Wildlife Festival Jan 28- Feb 5
Exhibit Hall Saturday Jan 28 10 - 3

Fundraiser at Wasserhund Brewing Co.
Tuesday Feb 28 5 - 10 pm





2023 Board Members

- Richard Dyer
- Chris Elam
- Charlie Ellin
- Barry Erdeljon
- Chris Freeman
- Daniel Ford
- Barry Kurzer
- Reese Lukei
- Laura McMahan
- Catherine Miller

Officers 2023 Term

- Daniel Ford – *President*
- Chris Freeman – *Vice President*
- Barry Kurzer – *Treasurer*
- Chris Elam – *Secretary*

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors please email us at backbaynwrsociety@gmail.com



Community Partnerships





“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

~Margaret Mead



Installation of the Monarch Garden Volunteers