

Welty's Mission Statement

To provide leadership in environmental education by equitably engaging the diverse residents of the Stateline region with activities that foster an appreciation of nature and promote environmental stewardship.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Director's Report—Brenda K. Plakans



Every month I attend several meetings around town that gather non-profits, business leaders, and City staff to discuss issues concerning Beloit. We often hear about folks outside the Stateline who are impressed with how well the various sectors in town cooperate. It heartily agree! If I see an interesting grant, I can text a couple of non-profit leaders to see if they want to figure out a proposal or, vice versa, Welty's community collaborations are often the kind of project that funders are interested in supporting. It is these creative partnerships that have helped us grow Welty's capacity to serve and be an environmental leader in the Stateline region. *(see p. 3 for a full listing of partners)*

2021 was no different, even with the pandemic. We were able to design several late-spring field trips for the Even Start Family Literacy program with a teacher's grant from Nature Net that the Alliant Energy foundation later supported for the 2021-22 school year. We continued our summer field trips and overnight with Stateline Boys and Girls Club and Community Action, Inc. funded by the Stateline Community Foundation. We also embedded an intern at SBGC for part of the summer and hired a college student to deliver afterschool programs once a week at their new location with a Col. Robert Morse Foundation grant.

This collaborative spirit is a reason the Nelson Institute at UW included Welty in its National Science Foundation GEOPATHS grant. We could gather our network of schools, organizations, and Beloit College together to help engage students in the geosciences. It's an honor to be at the intersection of these relationships, and it helps Welty reach that many more Stateline residents. As we get back up to speed in 2022, it will be exciting to see how these partnerships continue to develop and grow!

Welty Environmental Center Staff

Brenda K. Plakans, Executive Director; Aaron Wilson, Program Director; Darien Becker, Environmental Educator; Birdia McAlister, Office Assistant

2021 FWEC Board Members

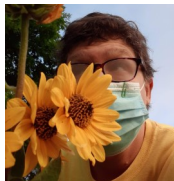
Executive Committee

Mark Spreitzer, President; Kirk Berridge, Vice President; Kevin Larson, Treasurer; Heidi Andre, External Secretary; Jan Knutson, Internal Secretary

At-Large Directors

Dave Bendlin, Tony Bosco, Doug Elfstrom, Ken Forbeck, Jane Fossum, Yaffa Grossman, Cindy Laube, Kaelyb Lokrantz, Harry Wiersgalla

Thank you to Outgoing Board Directors, Yaffa and Ken



Our 2022 annual meeting, held March 14, was virtual and we streamed our Zoom meeting on Facebook Live. One item of business was to thank Yaffa Grossman and Ken Forbeck for their time on the Board. Yaffa's keen eye for numbers and management sensibility has helped us optimize budgets, fine-tune our mission statement, and create a fantastic strategic plan. Ken was a big help with our social media campaigns when the goat herd visited in 2019. Best wishes to you both!

If you'd like to watch a recording of the meeting go to: <https://fb.watch/bMp3HgXnTq/>

WELTY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT (PAGE 2)

Program Director's Report—Aaron Wilson



2021 had a slow start, but the year picked up and became very successful. As busy as we are now, it is difficult to remember that 2021 started completely virtual. Schools were virtual or hybrid until June and I had reduced my time to four days a week. We continued to reach students and the community through pre-recorded video field trips and programming. By spring, we were testing the waters by taking weekly preschool programming, Welty's Wild Ones, to the Beloit Public Library. We also worked with Megan Scott and McGregor Mayse, Beloit Memorial High School students, to film the 5th grade ecology field trip. We also started taking monthly outside programs to Head Start. Meanwhile, we were making preparations for Welty's first full-summer camp (11 weeks), which included posting for a part-time Environmental Educator.

Welty was lucky to find and hire Darien Becker (B.S. Environmental Biology and M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Resources) at a time when demand for our programming started to increase (*more from Darien on p. 3*). We also employed many young people during the summer, giving them valuable experience as camp educators and interns. Workforce readiness is an important complement to in-class education, and Welty was able to offer such opportunities this year. I would like to thank all our staff for a wonderful experience:

- **Camp Educators:** Ava Dabek, Duke Ding, Ellie Heyerdahl, Andrea Hubard, Karla Martinez, Raven Regenold, Eamonn Rougvie, Addison Vlastnik, Hanna Wolf
- **Jr. Camp Educators:** Elena Calvagna, Ava Dabek, Romeo Kvistad
- **Interns:** Duke Ding, Georgia Fanthorpe, EmmaLynn May, Addison Vlastnik

We also could not have had such success without our wonderful programming volunteers. They help us split large groups into smaller ones, so we can provide the best experience during our field trips. A big thank you to: Dave Bendlin, Bruce Cawkins, Deb Fallon, Chuck Goldstein, Sandy Kallas, and Elizabeth Meek.

Our amazing staff and volunteers served **5,504 people** (4,371 children and 1133 adults) in 2021, which was not quite the pre-pandemic levels of 9,000 in 2019 but impressive considering the restrictions we all were working with. What a year—I can't wait to see what 2022 brings!



Aaron worked with preschoolers from the Even Start Family Literacy program at their space at Brother Dutton school. Their spring trips were paid for by a grant from Nature Net.



We were so happy to be back in person for field trips this fall. 4th graders from Cunningham Intermediate learned about the fur trade in Wisconsin in the 1800s.

WELTY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT (PAGE 3)

Environmental Educator's Report—Darien Becker



According to Staniforth and Fawcett, there are three critical components that make environmental education successful: awareness, understanding, and action.¹ Our campers became **aware** of their environment and their connections to it by hiking the trails of Big Hill Park and getting their hands (and occasionally the rest of themselves) dirty. We didn't simply state that there were insects living in the creek and move on to the next thing; rather, we gave them hip boots and told them to go find some insects to show the rest of the group. Most of these animals were new to the children, and at the end of the day, they knew whether an organism was associated with high or low water quality.

One of my favorite quotes is "Tell me and I will forget. Teach me and I will remember. Involve me and I will learn." No joke: if you tell a child that acidic soil has a low pH and can influence plant growth followed by telling them to taste the soil, they'll never forget that acidic soil tastes sharp like citrus and will **understand** that soil pH affects plants. They also understand that we have a role to play as environmental stewards and **act** through fun activities such as trail maintenance and trash clean-up because we know that we have to minimize our impact.



The SCF Bookmobile visited Big Hill in July, and each camper got to choose a book to take home. From 8-5:15 every weekday in the summer, we had campers out at Welty for a full day of nature-based fun.

We (including 2 full-time staff educators, 6 part-time camp educators, and 3 volunteer junior camp educators) are very grateful for the 57 campers who came through our doors in the 2021 summer camp season as they made each of the 11 weeks unique. They not only learned about the environment, but they learned about themselves (how to define their limits and try new things) and made plenty of memories with old and new friends along the way. We know we can always improve, which is why we use parent feedback when developing our summer camp curriculum. We are so excited to see what the campers will discover in 2022 (and what they will teach us)!

¹ Staniforth, Susan & Leesa Fawcett. (1994). *Metamorphosis For Environmental Education: A Core Course Guide for Primary / Elementary Teacher Training*. The Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver, BC/ UNESCO.

2021 Program Partners

Aram Public Library, Beloit College, Beloit Heritage Days, Beloit Public Library, City of Beloit, City of Beloit Parks and Leisure, Clinton Public Library, Community Action, Inc., Even Start, Head Start, Janesville YWCA, Merrill Community Center, Merrill Community Garden, Nature at the Confluence, Nygren Wetlands, Remake Learning Days, Rock County Christian School, Rock Prairie Conservationists, Rock Prairie Montessori, School District of Beloit, School District of Beloit Turner, School District of Elkhorn, Skype a Scientist, Stateline Boys and Girls Club, The Lincoln Academy, the Wisconsin Science Festival, Wolf Haven International. (see p. 7 for photos of some of these programs)

WELTY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT (PAGE 4)

Board President's Report—Mark Sprietzer



When I wrote last spring, Welty had finished a difficult and COVID-impacted 2020 with a budget surplus, a growing endowment, and a sense of optimism about the return of in-person programming in 2021. I am pleased to report one year later that despite continued COVID-impacts, 2021 was indeed a very good year for Welty both in terms of our programming and our finances.

We ended the year in 2021 with another modest budget surplus, and more importantly grew our total assets by nearly \$180,000 helped by generous endowment donations, strong support of the summer appeal and the fall annual appeal, and good stock market performance. In the process, we were able to expand our staffing and increase staff compensation both in terms of salary and paid time off, to ensure that we are able to support and retain the amazing staff that serve our mission every day. For 2022, the board approved a balanced budget with a modest surplus that will allow for the possibility of further expanding our programming opportunities as the year goes on.

With your support, we are optimistic about another strong year for Welty, with great staff, great programming plans, and a strong board that is committed to the long-term success of the Welty Environmental Center.

2021 GRANT ROUNDUP

\$1500 Ecolab Foundation

Field Trips for SDB 3K classes

\$2000 Alliant Energy Foundation

Even Start Family Literacy 4K field trips

\$4700 Stateline Community Foundation

Summer field trips for SBGC, CAI

\$5000 Col. Robert Morse Foundation

Welty intern at SBGC for summer day camp, teen programming

\$14,200 National Science Foundation

GEOPATHS grant (per year for three yrs)

\$15,715 CARES Act 2021

PPP Forgivable loan

Finance Committee Report—Kirk Berridge



In late summer of 2021, based on a recommendation from the Finance committee, Welty made a change in the way it is investing the operating cash that is available to run the organization. In the past, these funds were kept in checking and savings accounts, and CDs. This used to be a fruitful place to hold reserves but, recently, the return on these investments has been near zero. Our new strategy is to still keep ample cash in the checking and savings accounts to manage day-to-day needs, but we will invest the rest in 14 blue-chip stocks that have dividends between 2.34% and 9.41% with an average return of 4.3%.

The 2021 dividends from these stocks produced \$515 in income after five months' investment; 2022's full-year income is expected to be \$4,600. There are no fees associated with either the purchase or sales of these stocks. All of the investments are appropriate for Welty's investment as they score highly on the ESG—Environmental, Social, Governance—ratings. No more than 14% of the funds will be invested in any single stock, and the investment is spread across a large spectrum of the economy. At any time, these investments can be sold to supplement the funds in our checking and savings accounts. This new strategy gives us more flexibility with how to budget staff time, because we can offer programming that doesn't generate income or require a grant to be affordable. We are pleased to have a better option for investing our savings, in addition to our endowment funds.

WELTY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT (PAGE 5)

2022 Budget (approved 2/14/22)

2021 Budget vs. Year-End Actual Amounts

Budget Item	2021 Budget	Actual	Over Budget
Program Income	\$42,000.00	\$41,303.30	-\$696.70
Miscellaneous Income	\$25.00	\$201.30	\$176.30
Special Events	\$10,500.00	\$4,241.81	-\$6,258.19
Contributions, Unrestricted	\$50,000.00	\$55,301.37	\$5,301.37
Contributions, Restricted	\$2,000.00	\$370.00	-\$1,630.00
Contributions, Corporate	\$150.00	\$99.33	-\$50.67
Investment Income	\$1,600.00	\$1,894.36	\$294.36
Grants, Restricted	\$28,422.35	\$13,200.00	-\$15,222.35
PPP loan	\$15,715.65	\$15,715.65	\$0.00
Ordinary (Operating) INCOME	\$150,413.00	\$132,327.12	-\$18,085.88
Insurance	\$3,070.00	\$2,717.96	-\$352.04
Credit Card Fee	\$1,300.00	\$1,281.13	-\$18.87
Office Expense	\$1,000.00	\$1,110.80	\$110.80
The Warbler Pub & Distrib	\$250.00	\$226.15	-\$23.85
Membership Dues in Other Orgs	\$600.00	\$270.00	-\$330.00
Special Events Expense	\$2,400.00	\$77.91	-\$2,322.09
Fundraising Expense	\$1,700.00	\$1,336.95	-\$363.05
Website	\$600.00	\$450.00	-\$150.00
Telephone	\$1,880.00	\$1,769.50	-\$110.50
Land Management	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	-\$2,000.00
Salaries-All Staff	\$109,016.15	\$97,529.47	-\$11,486.68
Mileage	\$700.00	\$618.80	-\$81.20
Grant Expense	\$3,500.00	\$1,882.91	-\$1,617.09
Program Supplies	\$2,950.00	\$2,387.72	-\$562.28
WEC Program Advertising	\$500.00	\$0.00	-\$500.00
Payroll Taxes	\$7,590.28	\$6,957.13	-\$633.15
Accounting Fees	\$825.00	\$1,029.00	\$204.00
Legal fees	\$20.00	\$75.50	\$55.50
Professional Development	\$1,100.00	\$270.00	-\$830.00
Ordinary (Operating) EXPENSE	\$141,001.43	\$119,990.93	-\$21,010.50
Ordinary (Operating) INCOME	\$150,413.00	\$132,327.12	-\$18,085.88
NET Ordinary (Operating) INCOME	\$9,411.57	\$12,336.19	\$2,924.62
Other Income			
Unrealized Gain/Loss on Investment		\$67,699.28	\$67,699.28
Endowment Donation	\$21,800.00	\$91,800.00	\$70,000.00
Endowment Income	\$0.00	\$12,842.00	\$12,842.00
Total (Other) INCOME	\$21,800.00	\$172,341.28	\$150,541.28
Other Expense			
Investment Fees/Expenses	-\$2,200.00	\$2,569.01	\$369.01
Total (Other) EXPENSE	-\$2,200.00	\$2,569.01	\$4,769.01
Net (Other) INCOME	\$19,600.00	\$169,772.27	\$145,772.27
NET 2021 INCOME	\$29,011.57	\$182,108.46	\$148,696.89

Budget Item	2022 EXPECTED
Program Income	\$46,890.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$100.00
Special Events	\$5,000.00
Contributions, Unrestricted	\$70,000.00
Contributions, Restricted	\$8,250.00
Contributions, Corporate	\$100.00
Investment Income	\$13,725.00
Grants, Restricted	\$29,000.00
Ordinary (Operating) INCOME	\$173,065.00
Insurance	\$2,150.00
Credit Card Fee	\$1,500.00
Office Expense	\$1,800.00
The Warbler Pub & Distrib	\$300.00
Membership Dues in Other Orgs	\$500.00
Special Events Expense	\$1,500.00
Individual Fundraising Expense	\$1,300.00
Business & Foundation Fundrais	\$500.00
Website	\$600.00
Telephone	\$1,800.00
Miscellaneous	\$25.00
Salaries-All Staff	\$132,305.00
Paid Presenter	\$500.00
Mileage	\$700.00
Grant Expense	\$3,500.00
Program Supplies	\$4,500.00
WEC Program Advertising	\$500.00
Payroll Taxes	\$9,557.10
Accounting Fees	\$1,350.00
Legal fees	\$50.00
Professional Development	\$1,200.00
Ordinary (Operating) EXPENSE	\$166,137.10
Ordinary (Operating) INCOME	\$173,065.00
NET Ordinary (Operating) INCOM	\$6,927.90
Other income & expenses	
Endowment Donation	\$13,300.00
Net Other Income	\$13,300.00
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$20,227.90

Year-End Balance Sheet	2021	2020
Checking/Savings Accounts*	\$ 68,456.10	\$ 105,142.28
RJ Rent Endowment	\$ 137,203.38	\$ 120,832.67
RJ General Endowment	\$ 368,494.69	\$ 216,892.06
RJ Money Market Account	\$ 5,154.69	\$ 40,152.16
Fidelity Investments	\$ 85,985.02	\$ -
Investment held at SCF	\$ 45,789.26	\$ 44,271.75
Advia Credit Union (CDs, savings)	\$ 22,419.52	\$ 27,129.86
Fixed Assets (equipment, fixtures)	\$ 91.89	\$ 316.89
*this amount includes large donations that were eventually deposited into the Gen Endowment		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 733,594.55	\$ 554,737.67

2021 WELTY DONORS AND MEMBERS

Donations were made in Honor of:

Catherine Anderson, Dave & Stephanie Dobson, **Daphne Fautin**, J. Carl & Susan Welty

Donors of \$5,000 or more

Erik Berridge, Frank E Berridge, Jr. **Kirk Berridge**, Dave & Jean Bradford, **Dave & Stephanie Dobson**

Donors of \$1,000-\$4999

Alliant Energy Foundation, Col. Robert Morse Foundation, **Ecolab Foundation**, Bob Hunter, **Nancy Johnson & Jim Van De Bogart**, Jan & Dave Knutson, **Dennis Murphy**, James Rougvie & Brenda Plakans, **Stateline Community Foundation**, John & Becky Wong, **Zeeland Farm Services**

Donors of \$500-999

Robert Buddemeier, Bill & Missy Henderson, **Dave Mezger**, Dick & Shirley Newsome, **Ken & Lois O'Tool**, Catherine & Leo Pilachowski, **Gary & Teresa Sommers**, Richard & Carole Spreitzer

Donors of \$250 - \$499

Larry & Karen Arft, Dave & Barb Bendlin, **Ann Davies**, Ken & Sandy Gold, **Yaffa Grossman**, Charles & Prudy Harker, **Kevin Larson**, & **Nicolette Meister**, Cindy K. Laube, **Kaelyb Lokrantz**, Connie Matusiak, **Phillip & Victoria Melzer**, Stacey & David Rougvie, **Mark Spreitzer & Phillip Gorman**, Joe & Dawn R. Stadelman, **Randall Upton**, Carol Wickersham, **Henry Woodard**

Donors of \$100 - \$249

Norman & Carol Aulabaugh, Randall and Jaime Benedict, **Charles & Joy Boardman**, Bette Carr & Ralph Irvin, **Mary Anne Carroll & Ron Watson**, Darrah Chavey & Peggy Weisensel Chavey, **Bonnie Cunningham**, Neil & Kay Deupree, **Paul Dionne & Jennifer Esperanza**, Roger Dutcher, **Doug Elfstrom & Brittany Keyes**, Eric & Willie Ericson, **Tom Evert & Bette Lang**, Marge Fizzell, **Ken Forbeck**, Pamela Halverson, **Mary Alice Harris**, Marline & Tom Holmes, **Oya Horoguchi**, Marty & Marlene Howe, **Steve & Mary Howland**, Katie Johnson, **Thomas & Rosemary Kautz**, Tamara Ketabgian, **Timothy Krause & Elizabeth Babler**, Alice I. Lamont, **Jeannine Langoussis**, Diane Lichtenstein & Steven Diamond, **Jingjing Lou**, Jack W. Maegli, **Carol Mankiewicz & Carl Mendelson**, Adrienne Massel, **Maribeth Miller**, Charles & Helen Mortensen, **Dick & Joan Niemiec**, Mary Norman, **Larry & Alice Olsen**, Fran & Jacquelyn Patch, **Dean & Jayne Paynter**, Gwen Pennington, **Arlene J. Peterson**, Barbara S. & Andrejs Plakans, **Barbara Porter**, Daniel Schoof & Alyssa Whitney, **Thrivent**, Katie & Andy Udell, **John Urish**, Gene & Connie Van Galder, **Steve Vavrus & Sue Swanson**, Sandra Voie, **Stephen & Mary Waddle**, Anna Marie & Thomas Warren, **Jim & Marianne Wilson**, Michael & Polly Wolfe, **Quentin Yoerger**, Tanya Zastrow

Lifetime Members

Heidi and Richard Andre, Erik Berridge, **Frank E. Berridge Jr.**, Kirk Berridge, **John & EunYung Boardman**, Dave & Jean Bradford, **Robert Buddemeier**, Sonja Darlington, **Neil & Kay Deupree**, Dave & Stephanie Dobson, **Richard & Val Dunagan**, Tom Evert & Bette Lang, **Jane Fossum**, Pat Freeman, **Sylvia Welty Geer**, Ken & Sandy Gold, **Charles F. Grose MD**, Bill & Missy Henderson, **Bob Hunter**, Nancy Johnson & Jim Van De Bogart, **Sandra Kallas & Roger Crary**, Penny Kennedy, **Jan & Dave Knutson**, Neil McLaughlin, **Dave Mezger**, Charles & Helen Mortensen, **Dennis Murphy & Barbara Seguin**, Dick & Shirley Newsome, **Karen & Sam Niehans**, Jane Noble, **Catherine & Leo Pilachowski**, James Rougvie & Brenda Plakans, **Will Pollock**, Carol Schwaegler, **Mark Spreitzer & Philip Gorman**, Gerald A. Westphal, **John & Becky Wong**

**Bold has no significance, other than to make this list easier to read*

(Cont'd p. 7)

2021 WELTY DONORS AND MEMBERS (cont'd)

Other Gifts & Membership Renewal

Susan Adams & Gregg Schneider, Den & Judy Adler, **Tony & Marlene Bachim**, Rick Barder, **Daniel Barolsky**, Tony Bosco, **Nancy Boutelle**, Elizabeth Brewer, **David Burwell & Gloria Mathews**, Betty Jo Bussie, **Dawn Byrnes**, Cynthia Caldwell, **John and Margie Carroll**, Bruce & Lora Cawkins, **Jeanne Chernick-Krueger**, Amrish Chourasia, **Kelea Christians**, Andre & Carmen DeKok, **Jim & Sheri Disrud**, Allen (Butch) & Nancy Dix, **Michael & Deborah Fallon**, Lee & Marilyn Fassett, **Bill Flanagan**, Carol Rae Fox, **Mary F. Frederick**, Mary Ellen Fuentes, **Pamela Garland-Gjestson**, Tom & Nancy Garrett, **Merideth Glosemeyer**, Janet & Roy E. Hahn, **Peter Halverson**, Gary R. & Darcy L. Hess, **Kim Hovland**, Jacqueline Dougan Jackson, **Carol Josh**, Catherine D. Karlshoej, **Colleen Keating**, Ana Kelly & Rick McGrath, **Kristine Kennedy**, Paul & Kathleen Klespis-Wick, **Tom & Theresa Kluber-tanz**, Christine Kopec, **Dr. Kathleen Lindaas**, Deborah Sapp Lynch, **John & Carol Meland**, Jinjer & Christian Miller, **Darlene Nelson**, Richard K. Ott, **Gerald & Sarah Parsons**, Lisa Peterson, **Michael Piette**, Shelley Plakans, **Steve Pollock**, Celestino Ruffini, **Joan Salzberg**, Loren & Diane Sass, **Kendra Schiffman**, Tracey & Upal Sengupta, **Wanda Sloan**, Richard Stenstrom, **Nadine W. Stoner**, Connie & Jerry Sveum, **Pablo Toral**, John & Janet Verhaar, **Westley Weidemen**, Kelly Winterland

**Bold has no significance, other than to make this list easier to read*



More Partnerships (clockwise from top): South Beloit Boys and Girls Club visits Big Hill Park; BMHS National Honor students help clean up; School District of Beloit 4k families came out for weekend enrichment; SBGC kids took a field trip to Beckman Mill in June.



I want to provide support for Welty Environmental Center's operations! Welty has 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt status and is solely a private, non-profit educational organization. Dues and contributions may be tax-deductible. Please accept my gift to continue these important environmental education efforts in the Stateline area.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please accept my one-time annual gift:

- ☐ Senior/Student (\$20) ☐ Individual (\$30)
☐ Family (\$45) ☐ Life Member (\$1000)

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

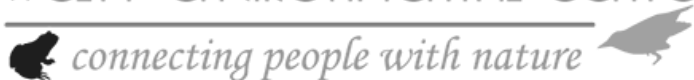
TOTAL \$ _____

Check made payable to Friends of Welty Environmental Center. Please mail to: FWEC 1201 Big Hill Ct. Beloit, WI 53511

Credit Card option also on our website: <https://weltycenter.org/support-us/>

----- Detach and send to FWEC 1201 Big Hill Ct. Beloit, WI 53511 -----

WELTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



1201 Big Hill Court Beloit, WI 53511

TO: