

# From the President: Our Financial Position and the Status of the Director Search

Brad Andres. March 1, 2021 :

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Despite the challenges associated with 2020, our board, staff, members and partners were able to persevere, learning the ins and outs of virtual programming and even participating in a few socially distanced events. Your support of the 2020 education programs – which included YouTube presentations, a variety of Zoom classes for children and adults, small group outdoor events and Nature Center visits by appointment – reflected your on-going commitment to the vision and mission of Evergreen Audubon.

## Financial Position

We managed to set donation records for the Virtual Bash, the Alternative Gift Fair, Wreath Sales, and Colorado Gives Day. Many thanks go to Kathy Madison, Lisa Wald, Marilyn Rhodes, Rachel Hutchison, and everyone else who worked to make these fund-raising endeavors successful.

In addition to these annual fundraising efforts, we were honored, and are especially grateful, to receive a very generous gift from the estate of Fran Enright – a gift that reflects Fran’s deep commitment to our mission and goals. This gift has been set aside as the board considers how we can best use it to honor Fran’s legacy.

2020 Operating revenue, not including Fran’s gift, came from six main sources:

- corporations and foundations (8%)
- fees for classes, programs and events (6%)
- the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (10%)
- the Payroll Protection Program – we received a loan from this program which was ultimately forgiven – (9%)

- sales (20%)
- individual contributions (47%).

Of individual contributions:

- 24% were generated through Colorado Gives Day
- 16% by the Annual Bash and Benefit
- 14% through the annual appeal
- 8% through local memberships
- 37% from other donations.

Operating revenue in 2020 was \$138,943. Clearly, your generous, on-going individual support is critical for keeping our current programming viable.

Expenses in 2020 were mainly associated with operating the Evergreen Nature Center (ENC) and programming for school and community groups. Accordingly, our largest expense (62%) was the support for the ENC Director and the Environmental Educator. Exhibits and programs (28%) and general operating expenses (such as insurance, rent, utilities, and technology; 9%) accounted for the remaining expenses. Because programming was necessarily restricted last year, we ended up with a surplus of \$26,300.

Current holdings in the Endowment Fund, established in 2018, are \$45,439. These funds are restricted. We currently receive an annual payout of 4% of the endowment's value.

It is interesting to look back at the history of our finances. When we started developing plans for the Evergreen Nature Center (ENC) in 2007, The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, as we were known, had an annual operating budget of about \$10,000. By 2019, our operating expenses had grown to \$109,413. When we committed to offering year-round educational programming, provided by a full-time director and part-time environmental educator, we extended our reach within our mountain communities and beyond.

## **Education and Outreach Director Search Update**

Before advertising the Evergreen Nature Center Director position, the Board re-vamped the position description and drew up a list of job responsibilities, along with an estimate of the amount of time we would expect our new director to spend on each. We researched similar organizations after quite a bit of discussion, we settled on a new title, "Education and Outreach Director." The position was advertised in February, and by the time we closed the search on the 21<sup>st</sup> we had 35 applicants who met, or in some cases, greatly exceeded expectations. A team is working through the applications this week, and we expect to begin interviews by the second week of March. We hope to have someone on board by mid-April.

## **Thanks!**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Evergreen Audubon in 2020. We have come a long way toward achieving our mission "to conserve wildlife and natural ecosystems, provide citizen science experiences, and inspire and educate our community to benefit people and biodiversity."

If you have any questions or concerns about the budget, the financial state of Evergreen Audubon, or the director search, please contact me at [president@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:president@evergreenaudubon.org). Thank you, again, for your continued support.