

FY 2011- 2012 City of Troy – Troy Nature Society Partnership



Troy Nature Society Annual Report



Who we are

- 501(c)3 nonprofit organization operating Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center
- Assumed operations from city of Troy in July 2011, presenting public and school nature education programs
- Successfully completed two financial audits
- **OUR MISSION: To provide resources and education to inspire the appreciation and preservation of nature**



Where we operate

Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center
6685 Coolidge Hwy. (at South Blvd.) in Troy



- Building
 - 8,200 square feet with children's play area, classrooms, library, wildlife viewing area and exhibition lobby
 - Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and also during public programs
- Grounds
 - 70 acre nature preserve plus 30 acre farm
 - Propose: TNS to assume control of Farm Area except for buildings and Senior Gardens
 - 2-1/2 miles of walking trails through upland forest, meadows, wetlands and cattail marsh
 - Home to 145 wildlife species
 - Head waters of Rouge River flow through property
 - Trails open year round
 - 8,253 visitors and program participants in 2011 - 2012

What we do



- Seasonal programs and events
 - Families Activities – Maple Syrup Time and Ice Cream Social
 - Elementary & middle school programs - onsite and outreach
 - Preschool Programs – Parent and Tot
 - Adult Education – Woodcock Walk, Moonlight Hike
- Summer camps
 - Week-long programs for ages 6 to 12 years
 - Troy Title 1 school Summer Program – grant subsidized
- Junior Naturalist Club program – donation subsidized
- School field trips – elementary through high school
- Boy and Girl Scout field trips and badge education
- Photo Club activities and contests

Our core values



Make a positive difference in our community providing opportunities for environmental education and recreation in nature

- Offer public interpretive programming for individuals of all ages
- Implement school programming that serves the needs of local schools, educators and their students
- Manage the 100 acres of land as a natural resource so as to preserve the integrity of its plant and animal life
- Expand cooperative programming with other organizations such the Troy Historical Society

Our Environmental Education Programs



- Include learning in the field as well as the classroom
- Incorporate the teaching methods of outdoor education, experiential education, and place-based education
- Are inherently interdisciplinary
- Promote school/community partnerships
- Are hands-on, student-centered, inquiry driven, engage higher level thinking skills, and relevant to students' everyday lives

The difference we make



- Get people outside!
 - Provide alternative to television and computer screens and indoor, sedentary activities – counteract “nature deficit disorder.”
- Benefit children
 - Facilitate greater motor fitness
 - Improve cognitive development
 - Increase sense of wonder, awareness and creativity
- Benefit families and individuals
 - Buffer impact of life’s stresses
 - Create positive environmental ethic
 - Make walking fun and educational

The difference we make



- Promote our community asset
 - Keep programs and building available to the community for outdoor activities
 - Provide education on identification and proper removal of invasive plant species
- Promote stewardship
 - Conduct programs and projects caring for native wildlife, plants, trees and conserving soil and water resources
 - Preserve natural features and spaces important to defining community image and distinctive character
 - Encourage children to be active stewards of the environment

City Partnership Agreement



- Currently: 2 year agreement with one 2-year renewal
- Proposed: Revise to 4-year term with one 4-year renewal
- City retains ownership and is responsible for:
 - Utilities, security, building and grounds maintenance, major capital repairs
- TNS is responsible for:
 - Collections management, volunteer and staff management, all programs and services, marketing, fundraising, information technology

How we will grow



- Recruit new board members skilled in strategic planning, financial management, and education
- Increase membership and volunteer participation in the society's activities
- Expand cooperation with Troy and other regional school districts in support of nature education programming
- Increase participation in Chamber of Commerce
- Continue cooperative programming with Troy Historical Society
- Expand educational programming to encourage appreciation and stewardship of the natural world

Recent Operations Budgets



Fiscal Year Ended June 30

City Operations

- FY 2009/10 \$450,000
- FY 2010/11 \$263,513
- FY 2011/12 \$ 43,700
- FY 2012/13 \$ 33,100

TNS Operations

- FY 2011/12 Actual Assets & Liabilities \$ 54,381
- FY 2012/13 Budget \$120,600

Financial Transition



Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

• Revenue		
– Programs:	\$34,412	
– Donations:	\$35,889	
– Memberships:	\$ 9,200	
– Fundraising:	\$12,365	
Total Revenue:		\$91,866
• Expenses		
– Programs:	\$38,562	
– Fundraising:	\$ 2,567	
– Management/General:	\$27,019	
Total Expenses:		\$68,148
• Change in Net Assets:		\$23,718

Working Together We Will



- Partner with City to support and promote economic and community development
- Continue partnership with City Staff to maintain the Stage Nature Center building and park
- Request the City of Troy provide the following annual financial support:
 - Core Services as outlined in the agreement
 - Operational support of \$50,000
 - Capital maintenance

The Troy Nature Society
Thanks You For Your Support.



Your Partnership With TNS
Makes It Happen!

**TROY NATURE SOCIETY
(a non-profit corporation)**

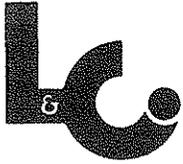
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – MODIFIED CASH BASIS

For the year ended June 30, 2012

TROY NATURE SOCIETY

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Lazzara & Company, P.C.

Certified Public Accountants
Certified Valuation Analysts
Business Advisors & Consultants

"We're in the business of caring"

Michael J. Lazzara, CPA, MBA, CVA
Mary Ellen Taylor, CPA
David A. Lazzara, CPA

David H. Martin, CPA
Randall C. DiFalco, CPA

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Troy Nature Society
Troy, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis of Troy Nature Society (a non-profit corporation) as of June 30, 2012, and the related statement of support, revenue and expenses and changes in net assets – modified cash basis, and functional expenses – modified cash basis for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 2, these financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and net assets of Troy Nature Society as of June 30, 2012, and its support, revenue, and expenses, for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Lazzara & Company, P.C.

LAZZARA & COMPANY, P.C.

August 21, 2012

TROY NATURE SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS – MODIFIED CASH BASIS

JUNE 30, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash		\$ <u>52,745</u>
Property and Equipment		
Office equipment		500
Outdoor equipment		<u>1,106</u>
		1,606
Less: accumulated depreciation		<u>(82)</u>
Total Equipment, Net		<u>1,524</u>
Total Assets		\$ <u>54,269</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Payroll withholding payable		\$ <u>2,224</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		43,943
Temporarily restricted		<u>8,102</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>52,045</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$ <u>54,269</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TROY NATURE SOCIETY

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS – MODIFIED CASH BASIS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public Support and Revenue			
Program fees	\$ 34,412	\$ -	\$ 34,412
Donations	19,709	16,180	35,889
Fundraising	12,365	-	12,365
Member dues	9,200	-	9,200
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>8,078</u>	<u>(8,078)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Public Support And Revenue	<u>83,764</u>	<u>8,102</u>	<u>91,866</u>
Expenses			
Program services	38,562	-	38,562
Fundraising	2,567	-	2,567
Management and general	<u>27,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,019</u>
Total Expenses	<u>68,148</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,148</u>
Change in Net Assets	15,616	8,102	23,718
Net Assets, July 1, 2011	<u>28,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,327</u>
Net Assets, June 30, 2012	<u>\$ 43,943</u>	<u>\$ 8,102</u>	<u>\$ 52,045</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TROY NATURE SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES – MODIFIED CASH BASIS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Supporting Services</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	
Contracted Services and Expenses				
Contract services	\$ 11,321	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,321
Wages	20,242	-	13,913	34,155
Payroll Taxes	897	-	905	1,802
Total Contracted Services And Expenses	<u>32,460</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,818</u>	<u>47,278</u>
Direct Program Expenses				
Transportation	742	-	-	742
Promotion	3,083	712	-	3,795
Supplies	1,310	1,588	-	2,898
Total Direct Program Expenses	<u>5,135</u>	<u>2,300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,435</u>
Administrative Expenses				
Office and postage	-	100	1,798	1,898
Dues	-	-	305	305
Computer expenses	-	-	1,522	1,522
Building and trail maintenance	491	-	-	491
Professional fees	-	-	4,500	4,500
Depreciation	28	-	54	82
Insurance	-	50	2,174	2,224
Miscellaneous	-	75	74	149
Telephone and internet	-	-	1,399	1,399
Training and conferences	-	-	210	210
Bank service charges	448	42	165	655
Total Administrative Expenses	<u>967</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>12,201</u>	<u>13,435</u>
Total Functional Expenses	<u>\$ 38,562</u>	<u>\$ 2,567</u>	<u>\$ 27,019</u>	<u>\$ 68,148</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TROY NATURE SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1 - Nature of Organization

Troy Nature Society (the Organization) is a non-profit corporation located in Troy, Michigan that promotes the knowledge and appreciation of nature areas and wildlife among its citizens and school children. The Organization was formed in order to foster and encourage the understanding and preservation of natural world, green spaces, and wildlife within the City of Troy and surrounding region and to sponsor continuing education programs. The Organization's source of revenue is principally program fees, donations and fundraising events.

The City of Troy has entered into a contract with the Troy Nature Society that allows the Organization to offer various programs, classes and activities at the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center and to operate the Nature Center store (See Note 3 – Contracts).

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Under the modified cash basis of accounting, revenues and the related assets are recognized when paid in cash rather than when earned, and expenses are recognized when paid in cash rather than when the obligations are incurred. Depreciation and amortization are recognized over the estimated useful life of the assets. Inventory is capitalized and recognized on the statement of activities and changes in assets when sold.

Cash

The Organization places its temporary cash investments with high credit quality financial institutions. At June 30, 2012, the Organization maintained cash balances in a regular checking account.

Property and Equipment

The Organization capitalizes property and equipment over \$250 and lesser amounts are expensed when incurred. Purchases of property and equipment are capitalized at cost. Donations of property and equipment are recorded at their estimated fair value. Such donations are reported as unrestricted contributions unless the donor has restricted the donated asset to a specific purpose. Assets donated with explicit restrictions regarding their use and contributions of cash that must be used to acquire property and equipment are reported as restricted contributions. Absent of donor stipulations regarding how long these donated assets must be maintained, the Organization reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service. The Organization reclassifies temporarily restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets at that time. Property and equipment are depreciated using straight-line method over estimated useful lives ranging from five to thirty years. As of December 31, 2012, the useful life of all property and equipment is 5 years.

TROY NATURE SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued

Inventory

As of June 30, 2012 the Nature Center gift shop was not open and had no inventory.

Functional Expenses

The costs of providing program and supporting services have been reported on a functional basis in the statement of activities and changes in net assets. Direct and indirect costs have been allocated between programs and general and administrative based on estimates from management. Although the methods of allocation used are considered appropriate, other methods could be used that would produce different amounts.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Classification of Net Assets

Net assets and revenues and expenses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets are classified as temporarily restricted, permanently restricted or unrestricted. Donor-imposed restrictions that expire with the passage of time and that can be removed by meeting certain requirements, results in temporarily restricted net assets.

Unrestricted Net Assets - This portion of the Organization's net assets is available for general obligations and is not subject to any donor-imposed restrictions. Revenues earned, program services provided, unrestricted contributions and all operating expenses are reported in this category.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets - This portion of the Organization's net assets is limited to use specified by donor-imposed restrictions. When donor restrictions expire, or the nature and purpose of the restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the accompanying statement of activities and changes in net assets - modified cash basis as net assets released from restrictions.

TROY NATURE SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued

Income Taxes

The Organization is a private, non-profit corporation operating in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. At June 30, 2012, the Organization had no uncertain tax positions that qualify for either recognition or disclosure in these financial statements.

Contributed Services

The Organization generally pays for services requiring specific expertise and employs a combination of part-time and full time employees. However, many individuals volunteer their time and perform a variety of tasks that assist the Organization, hence; no amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for donated services.

Note 3 – Contracts

In June 2011, the City of Troy approved an operational agreement with the Troy Nature Society to operate the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center, located in Troy, Michigan, effective July 1, 2011 which allows the Organization non-exclusive use of the property. The agreement expires on June 30, 2013; however, the board feels confident that the contract will be extended into future years. The City of Troy will not be liable for any payments to the Organization for any services provided; however the City of Troy will be liable for all reasonable utilities, maintenance, and custodial expenses and to maintain all buildings and grounds.

In conjunction with this agreement, the City of Troy agreed to provide up to \$20,000 as start-up funding for the purpose of allowing the Troy Nature Society to retain consultants and purchase equipment, supplies, and materials for programs, activities and classes. Payments will be made on an, as needed, basis. For the year ended June 30, 2012, the Society received \$12,111 from the City of Troy as start-up funding, which represented 13% of the Organization's support. As of June 30, 2012 there was \$2,154 available for future reimbursement from the City of Troy.

The Organization's short term goal is to continue to offer nature courses to be held at the Nature Center, in which the course fees should be able to cover the direct costs of the courses, and to hire an executive director. The longer term goals are to expand course offerings and to open and operate a gift shop for the Nature Center while generating a positive cash flow from program fees, donations, and grants.

Note 4 – Concentration of Credit Risk

For the year ended June 30, 2012, 13% of the Organization's support came from one individual donor and another 13% came from cost reimbursements from the City of Troy.

TROY NATURE SOCIETY
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 5 – Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets are available for the following at June 30, 2012:

Educational programs	\$7,502
Volunteer activities	<u>600</u>
Total restricted assets	<u>\$8,102</u>

Note 6 – Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through August 21, 2012 which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Effective July 1, 2012 the Organization hired a salaried part-time executive director to oversee all operations, promote the Troy Nature Society and who reports to the Board of Directors.

Troy Nature Society

October 26, 2012

Jeff Biegler
Recreation Director
City of Troy

Subject: Troy Nature Society (TNS) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012

Fiscal Year in Review

TNS began conducting school and public nature education programs out of the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center beginning on July 1, 2011. The initial operation was launched by hiring Debra Williams as the Lead Naturalist to organize and conduct nature programs. Debra was also responsible for identifying and hiring part time Naturalists to help in the preparation and teaching of the programs. Later, TNS hired Laura Taitt as an Independent Contractor to organize the volunteers to help support the programs and well as staff the nature center with a person at the front desk of the building during open hours.

A website www.troynaturesociety.org was created to publish newsletters of activities that have taken place at the nature center, publish photos that were taken at the park of both activities as well as nature related subjects, program announcements, and service activities. The website also handles program registration and payments to reduce work requirements at the nature center.

A major accomplishment of the year was restoring the Junior Naturalist Club back to the public program schedule. This was accomplished by a generous donation to get the program started and operating for two years.

Additionally, the Maple Syrup Time program was reinstated and was attended by over 600 visitors last March.

In April, 2012 the Board of Directors approved a three year Business Plan and Budget.

Consistent with the Business Plan, the board of directors began the process of hiring a part time Executive Director to run the nature center as well as support the fundraising activities. At the conclusion of the fiscal year, Carla Reeb was selected for the position of Executive Director with a hire date of July 1, 2012.

As part of the TNS responsibility, it was decided to maintain the park beyond just keeping it neat and clear of trash. Park Improvement Projects are now lead by committees for Trail Maintenance (Roger Kowalski) and Invasive Plant Species Removal (Mary Creager). Mary will discuss with Kurt the specific operations.

Financial Audits

TNS has had financial audits completed for each of the last two fiscal years. Each of the audits received unqualified opinions. Attached is the audit for FY 2011 – 2012.

Fundraising Activities

Wine Tasting Fundraising was held in November, 2011 to raise money to support the operation of TNS. The event cleared \$10,219 from a combination of ticket sales, raffle, and silent auction.

There were two major donations received for a total of \$14,000. \$12,000 was received as part of the directed donation of \$25,000 to start the Junior Naturalist Club program in January 2012. A second directed donation of \$2,000 was received to be used to fund the Troy School District Summer School Title One Program activities at the Lloyd A Stage Nature Center.

Program Class and Participation Report

The chart below is a list of the public programs that took place during the fiscal year.

Structured Event	Program/Event	Day	Time*	Fee?*	Staff	Tot. #
July	Summer Ecology Days (6-7yrs.)	M-F	M	Yes	DW/LFr/LB/LT	47
July	Summer Ecology Days (8-10yrs.)	M-F	A	Yes	DW/LFr/LB/LFe	43
July	Preschool Earth Explorers	M-F	M	Yes	DW/LB/LT/LFr	61
August	Peek at the Pond	Sat	M	Yes	DW	18
August	Stirring up Science (5-7 yrs.)	M-F	M	Yes	DW/LB	82
August	Stirring up Science (8-10 yrs.)	M-F	A	Yes	DW/AK	35
August	Work Day w/REI	Sat	M/A	No	TNS/REI	48
August	Creepy Crawlle Critters (P 'n' T)	Sun	A	Yes	DW	6
September	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner		E	No	Laura T.	51
October	General Nature Hike	Sat	M	No	Mary C. (vol.)	7
October	General Nature Hike	Sat	M	No	Mary C. (vol.)	6
October	SIO-Brownies Earth & Sky Try-It	Sat	M/A	Yes	DW	24
October	Autumn Adventures P 'n' T	Sun	A	Yes	DW	6
October	General Nature Hike	Sat	M	No	Mary C. (vol.)	6
November	Full Moon Madness	F	E	Yes	DW	13
November	SIO-Bears Achievement #5	Sat	M	Yes	DW	22
December	Deer Santa - am	Sat	M	Yes	DW	24
December	Deer Santa - pm	Sat	A	Yes	DW	15
December	Holiday Nature Hike	W	A	Yes	DW	14
January	Volunteer Training	Sat	A	No	LT/JR/NP/TP/SJ/DW	30
January	Jr. Naturalist Club (inc. Parent Mtg.)	Sat	M/A	Yes	SF/DS/LF/DW	66
February	Jr. Naturalist Club	Sat	M/A	Yes	DW/SFish/LFr	43
March	Maple Syrup Time	Sat	M/A	Yes	DW/staff & vol.	301
March	Maple Syrup Time	Sat	M/A	Yes	DW/staff & vol.	312
March	Advanced Bird Carving	M	M/A	Yes	Larry P. (vol.)	17
March	Advanced Bird Carving	Tu	M/A	Yes	Larry P. (vol.)	17
March	Advanced Bird Carving	W	M/A	Yes	Larry P. (vol.)	17
April	Spring Break Hike	Tues	M	Yes	DW	13
April	SIO-Webelos Naturalist Badge	Sat	M	Yes	DW & SJ	44
April	TNS Membership Meeting	Wed	E	No	TNS Board	44
April	Live Hawks & Owls	Thur	E	Yes	JRogers(speaker)	64

April	Work Day w/REI	Sat	M/A	No	TNS/REI	50
April	Work Day w/Sierra Club	Sat	M/A	No	TNS/Sierra Club	34
April	Jr. Naturalist Club	Sat	A	Yes	SFISH/SFIX/DW	47
April	Woodcock Walk	Wed	E	Yes	LCampbell(vol.)	14
May	Volunteer Pancake Appreciation Dinner	Th	E	No	LTAITT/DW	39
May	SIO - Brownies Bugs Badge	Sat	M	Yes	DW/SJ	50
May	Wing into Spring - P 'n' T	Sun	A	Yes	DW	9
May	Work Day w/Starbucks	Sat	M/A	No	TNS/Starbucks	30
May	Work Day/Program Athens AP Biology	Thur	M/A	No	JR,DW,LF	45
May	Know Your Feathered Neighbors	Sat	M	Yes	SJ	7
May	Jr. Naturalist Club	Sat	M/A	Yes	SFish/SFix/LFR/DW	37
June	Oakland Audubon Soc. Nature Walk	Tu	E	No	OAS Board	40
June	Jr. Naturalist Club	Sat	M/A	Yes	SFISH/SFIX/LFR/DW	42
June	Summer Ecology Days (6-7 yrs.)	M-Th	M/A	Yes	LFR/SJ/LB/LT/DW	40
June	Summer Ecology Days (8-10 yrs)	M-Th	M/A	Yes	LFR/SJ/LB/LT/DW	34
June	Preschool Earth Explorers	M-F	M	Yes	DW	32
June	Family Fun Night	W	E	Yes	DW	31

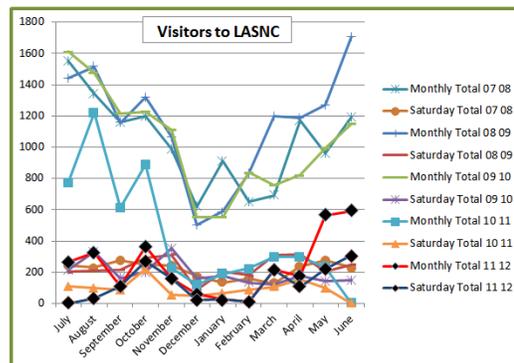
Open Hours Report

The direction from the Board of Directors was that the nature center will be open on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm from March 1 to November 17 each year. The center was also open during the week when public programs were scheduled. The graphs below show, for the past five years, the number of visitors each month and the number of visitors on Saturday. Prior to July 1, 2011, the nature center was open 5 days a week, including Saturday of non-holiday weekends.

Visitor Summary

Month	Number	Saturday
July	263	0
August	324	33
September	111	111
October	363	273
November	160	160
December	62	22
January	25	25
February	12	12
March	213	213
April	176	105
May	566	223
June	591	307
Sum	2866	1484
Average	238.8	123.7

FY 2011 -2012 Visitors



Visitors in FY's 2007 to 2012

Park Support Operations

There were three public scheduled invasive plant species removal programs and one program that was a combination park improvement project and an invasive plant species removal. The three public scheduled programs were sponsored by REI, Sierra Club, and Starbucks with a total of 114 volunteers coming to the nature center and removing 182 bags of Garlic Mustard. This invasive plant removal program was a big success and will allow TNS to proceed next spring with the removal of other

invasive plant species. In May, the Troy Athens Advance Placement Biology classes came over to the nature center to rebuild the Log Life area and remove 30 bags of invasive plants from the park in their morning portion of the field trip program. In the afternoon they participated in aquatic life studies and determining what bugs live in the meadow. This was program was sponsored by the Sierra Club.

The continued support of the Parks Department will be necessary for TNS to continue this operation. TNS has identified areas where the plant Phragmites is growing. Financial support will be needed to successfully remove this plant from the park property.

Major Accessions and Deaccessions

TNS has purchased one computer and two printers and had one computer donated to be used in the office to support the mission of the society.

John Ragan
Board of Directors, President
Troy Nature Society