



GEORGIA
NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2022–2023



Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

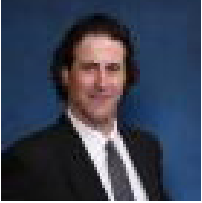
As I write this letter, I am truly amazed at what we have been able to accomplish this year at the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation. In my first six months as Chairman of the GNRFBord of Directors, we had another record year at Weekend for Wildlife followed by our first annual fundraising concert in Atlanta. As a member of this board, I am so proud to be part of the work this wonderful organization carries out.

Created in 2010, the GNRFB is a Georgia non-profit corporation that supports the work of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with funds raised through private individuals and corporate sponsors. The GNRFB awards these funds directly to divisions within DNR through its directed giving and grants programs. Since the GNRFB's inception, we have awarded grants and directed giving dollars exceeding \$1.4 million to DNR programs and initiatives, along with raising over \$19 million through Weekend for Wildlife for wildlife conservation. As someone who has attended Weekend for Wildlife for many years, I can truly say our 2023 event was unlike any other I have been a part of. Through our generous sponsors and attendees, we were able to raise nearly \$2.5 million for wildlife conservation! Not only does your support provide critical funding for conservation, we are proud of the projects we have been able to support through the grants we give to our Law Enforcement Division, Coastal Resources Division, Wildlife Resources Division, and State Parks & Historic Sites Division. We were also able to raise nearly \$160,000 for the All-Terrain Georgia program. This program gives people with mobility impairments the ability to explore and enjoy the beauty of Georgia's natural resources at state parks in the metro-Atlanta area.

As we look toward 2024, I am excited to continue the great work and mission of the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation in supporting the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. I am pleased to present the 2022-2023 Annual Report to provide you, our valued partners, with a snapshot of what your generous donations and support have done to enhance the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Chris Albrecht
Georgia Natural Resources Foundation Chair

Board of Directors



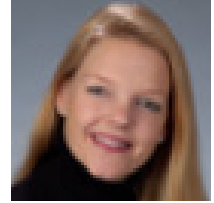
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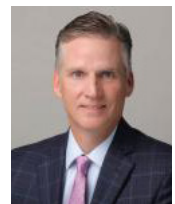
Chris Riley



David
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Glen
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William
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BALANCE SHEET

2022–2023



Balance Sheet

period ended **June 30, 2023**

	Foundation Total	Smithgall Woods Total	Weekend for Wildlife Total	Grand Total
Assets				
Cash	\$804,140.88	\$130,662.49	\$2,186,579.23	\$3,121,382.60
Interfund (Division WFW Reimbursement)	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	\$804,140.88	\$130,662.49	\$2,186,579.23	\$3,121,382.60
Liabilities				
Interfund Payable (Lifetime License)	\$4,077.94	-	-	\$4,077.94
Total Liabilities	\$4,077.94	-	-	\$4,077.94
Fund Balance				
Profit/(Loss) Current Year	\$800,062.94	\$130,662.49	\$2,186,579.23	\$3,117,304.66
Total Fund Balance	\$800,062.94	\$130,662.49	\$2,186,579.23	\$3,117,304.66
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$804,140.88	\$130,662.49	\$2,186,579.23	\$3,121,382.60

Statement of Revenues & Expenditures

period ended **June 30, 2023**

	Foundation Total	Smithgall Woods Total	Weekend for Wildlife Total	Grand Total
Revenues				
Contributions & Donations (Restricted)	\$451,682.63	-	\$2,326,815.93	\$2,778,498.56
Interfund Receivables	\$42,450.00	-	-	\$42,450.00
Other Revenue	\$1,841.73	-	\$14,432.26	\$16,273.99
Prior Year Reserves Carry Over	\$1,035,092.82	\$210,162.49	\$1,622,403.46	\$2,867,658.77
Carry Over/TRANS FROM FB	(\$13,390.65)	-	-	(\$13,390.65)
Total Revenue	\$1,517,676.53	\$210,162.49	\$3,963,651.65	\$5,704,881.32
Expenditures				
Supplies & Materials	\$42,129.41	-	-	\$42,129.41
Rents OTRE (Meeting Rooms)	\$8,927.56	-	-	\$8,927.56
Other Operating Expenses	\$105,131.41		\$430,250.39	\$535,381.80
Personal Liab. of Employees	\$4,531.62	-	-	\$4,531.62
Mail/Express	\$93.79	-	-	\$93.79
Printing & Publication	\$915.08	-	-	\$915.08
Per Diem, Fees, & Contracts	\$87,140.63	-	-	\$87,140.63
Per Diem, Fees Board Member	\$166.07	-	\$241.60	\$407.67
Per Diem, Fees, Reimbursable Exp.	\$1,074.93	-	-	\$1,074.93
Grants	\$97,395.99	-	-	\$97,395.99
Equipment (Machinery)	\$42,355.25	-	-	\$42,355.25
Transfers Out	\$315,649.89	\$79,500.00	\$1,346,580.43	\$1,741,730.32
Personal System	\$952.98	-	-	\$952.98
Centralized ACCTG System Fees	\$1,148.98	-	-	\$1,148.98
Tuition & Scholarships	\$10,000.00	-	-	\$10,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$717,613.59	\$79,500.00	\$1,777,072.42	\$2,574,186.01
Profit / (Loss) Current Year	\$800,062.94	\$130,662.49	\$2,186,579.23	\$3,130,695.31



PROJECTS FUNDED

2022–2023



Georgia DNR Career Academy

The Georgia DNR Career Academy is a new initiative to address employee recruitment. Through a rigorous application and interview process, 23 high students were selected to participate in the second annual Career Academy. In July 2023, the students spent a week at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and on Jekyll Island where they were fully-emersed in all four Divisions of DNR and experienced firsthand the important work the agency does for the state of Georgia. After the camp ended, several students reached out to sign up as volunteers and interns with the Department.

This year the camp was largely funded through a grant from the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation and through donations from DNR and Foundation board members. We look forward to continuing this partnership and impactful initiative for many years to come.





State Parks & Historic Sites Division

In FY 2023, the State Parks and Historic Sites Division received \$10,000 in funding for an ADA kayak launch project at Vogel State Park. Since receiving the grant, significant progress has been made towards the purchase and installation of the ADA kayak launch. The kayak launch that best suits the project requirements came with a final estimated cost of \$44,843. We are actively working on obtaining competitive bids and have commitments for the additional amount largely from our invaluable Vogel Volunteers.

Substantial strides have been made in this endeavor and the new ADA kayak launch should be completed by the end of 2023. This is an exciting step forward in our journey to enhance accessibility and inclusivity at Vogel State Park.

The ADA kayak launch at Vogel State Park will be a critical addition to our park's amenities. Not only will it provide access to the tranquil waters of Lake Trahlyta for individuals with disabilities, but it will also serve as an essential element in making our park more inclusive and welcoming to all visitors.

Furthermore, this project aligns seamlessly with another exciting development at Vogel State Park—the construction of the new Visitor Center. As the Visitor Center project is now underway, the nearby ADA kayak launch will complement this new facility beautifully. Together, these enhancements will elevate the overall visitor experience and make Vogel State Park an even more attractive destination for nature enthusiasts, families, and individuals of all abilities.

Wildlife Resources Division

\$10,000 for Angler Recognition Programs

This year the GNRf grant to WRD supported the Fisheries Management Section's (FMS) Angler Recognition Programs. In order to promote the great fishing opportunities across Georgia, FMS operates an angler award program for youth and adults and recognizes state record catches.

Funds from the FY2023 GNRf grant allowed WRD to purchase supplies, reward items and cover postage costs for anglers that received an Angler Award in calendar year 2022. All items were ordered and mailed during FY23. A total of 298 anglers made the 2022 Angler Award list. Each angler received a t-shirt, a personalized certificate, and a personalized embroidered ball cap.

The Angler Award program provides an opportunity to recognize those that catch fish which meet or exceed a predetermined weight or length. The program supports the retainment objective of FMS's R3 plan to current anglers (experienced or new) by giving positive reinforcement to fishing activities. By highlighting the excellent fishing opportunities in Georgia, this program also helps encourage new anglers to pick up fishing.





Law Enforcement Division

In FY 2023, the Law Enforcement Division used their GNRF grant funding to purchase giveaway items to promote safety and to guide citizens to the LED website. These items serve as tools so that Georgians and visitors to our state may obtain information on hunting, fishing, and boating laws, and on hunter and boating education, and Ranger Hotline. The items purchased included:

- glasses cases
- drawstring bags
- phone grip holders (pop sockets)
- beverage holders (koozies)
- coffee mugs
- golf towels
- floating keychains
- neoprene sunglass straps



Additionally, the grant funded the 10th Annual Game Warden Awards Banquet. The event was held on August 19th at Idlewilde Event Center at Indian Springs in Flovilla, Georgia. The 82 attendees had dinner, and 11 awards were presented including Game Warden of the Year and the James R. Darnell Award.





Coastal Resources Division

College of Coastal Georgia Summer Intern (\$4,400)

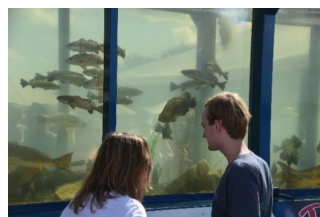
For many years, the Coastal College of Georgia has offered an internship through the Coastal Resources Division. This scholarship is funded through a grant provided by the GNRF. Through a partnership with the Coastal College of Georgia, Victoria Gordon was selected by CCGA faculty as the 2023 GNRF summer intern to CRD. Over a 10-week period, she assisted in culvert assessments for fish passage by collecting data according to the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) protocol. Victoria is pictured assessing bridge flow (right) with CRD technicians on the field.



Coastfest 2022/2023 Support (\$5,600)

One of DNR's largest outreach events, CoastFest, returned as an in-person event this cycle. Originally slated for October 2022, Hurricane Ian pushed CoastFest to Earth Day in April 2023. Still, the event in Brunswick remained popular with a turnout of more than 6,000 people.

The Georgia Natural Resources Foundation funds one of the most eye-catching draws at CoastFest each year: a 5,000-gallon mobile aquarium known as the "Hawg Trough." This one-of-a-kind attraction provides CoastFest visitors of all ages the chance to see popular sportfish species, including the state saltwater game fish, the red drum, as well as other favorites like spotted seatrout, flounder, and tripletail. CRD biologists are on hand to talk to the public about these species and explain life history, habitat, and conservation efforts.



CoastFest will return to Mary Ross Waterfront Park in Brunswick on Oct. 5, 2024.



WEEKEND FOR WILDLIFE

2023



Weekend for Wildlife

Weekend for Wildlife is one of the nation's most successful conservation events, raising more than \$19 million in thirty-five years to conserve Georgia's prized natural resources. With the help of our sponsors and individual donors, we were able to raise a record \$2.4 million in critically valuable support for the DNR Wildlife Resources Division's Wildlife Conservation Section, which greatly depends on fundraisers, grants, and direct contributions to support its vital mission of conserving nongame species.

We are grateful for the many state and local leaders who attend Weekend for Wildlife. In 2023, we were thrilled to welcome Governor and First Lady Kemp, along with their daughters, for the weekend. Under their leadership and through their support, Weekend for Wildlife continues to enjoy great successes and record breaking fundraising.

Throughout the course of the weekend, attendees have the opportunity to go on excursions with DNR staff to learn more about the Georgia coast and our natural resources. These one of kind trips are key to conveying our mission teaching attendees about what they can do to support conservation.

Through careful planning and a devoted team of hard-working experts, Georgia DNR has remained committed to the management and conservation of Georgia's natural resources. We are so proud to be able to support the mission of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and look forward to another successful WFW in 2024.



DONORS

2022–2023

\$200,000+ Donors

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\$100,000+ Donors

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