



# WOLDUMAR nature center

*Mission: "To Educate People About The Natural Environment"*

## 2016-17 Annual Report



# Letter from Board Chair, Zachary Behler

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As this year's Chair of the Board of Directors, I have the pleasure of announcing that 2017 was a great year for Woldumar. This year we were able to continue to make progress towards the goal of growing Woldumar into a premier location for science and nature education in the Greater Lansing area. Just as in 2016, we experienced increased program participation and charitable giving. We also were awarded grants and rented our facilities out for more functions. Further, we have been able to increase some programs after our scale back in 2015, which is very encouraging.

Looking forward, we can make 2018 even better if we can continue to grow our membership. So, if you have a friend or family member who would like support our environmental education and preservation efforts think encouraging them to become a member of Woldumar. Also, please consider contributing to the Woldumar Endowment Charitable Trust which provides a reliable and enduring source of income to support Woldumar's programs. 100% of a \$1000 life membership payment goes into the endowment, so not only do your member benefits last for your lifetime, the benefit to the Woldumar community will last for the lifetime of the organization as well.

It has been a pleasure serving as this year's Chairperson, I look forward to seeing you all at Woldumar again in 2018!

## Thank You Andria and Frank!

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The staff and Board of Directors would like to recognize the service of Andria Ditschman and Frank Tegge, who will both be leaving the board having reached the limit of their terms.

Frank started on the board in 2009, and served as Secretary in 2016. Frank's experience at Wells Fargo helped steer the organization into a better financial position, and his sense of humor and easy-going nature made him a pleasure to work with on the board.

Andria began serving on the board in 2008 and during her time with the organization served as Secretary and Chair. As a local attorney and nature enthusiast, her insight, guidance, and leadership on the board was extremely valuable. Andria and her family has helped on a variety of projects and events at Woldumar.

We hope that Frank and Andria will continue to stay involved at Woldumar, continuing to help out in a variety of ways wherever they can!



# Letter from the Executive Director

It's said that the only constant is change, and you don't need to spend much time in nature to see the truth in that (admittedly cliché) adage. As each season plods steadily into the next, life cycles race to keep pace. Times of plenty are spent preparing for times of want, disturbed areas give way to new growth, and even the places and things with which we are intimately familiar take on new attributes.

The past year has been a year of growth and change at Woldumar. Some of those changes occurred through faithful execution of our plans. Other changes have been somewhat less expected. Overall, I'm proud to report that the year has changed the organization for the better!

One major change was a new face in our critical Program Director role. Brittney Mulka, who served in that position for two years, left to pursue an opportunity out of state. While Brittney's impact was great and she will be missed, we had ample time to recruit and train highly-qualified Daniel Auer, who came to Woldumar full of ambition and years of experience in outdoor education. Dan and Brittney were able to work together to facilitate an amazingly smooth transition.

2017 saw the creation of a new program staff position too. As an experienced Program Coordinator, Lori Wrobel has been assisting Dan in the execution of our educational programs, facilitating a variety of programs from camp to field trips and teambuilding.

Our success in 2017 is also due in great part to the commitment of our current board of directors, who engaged in volunteer work, formed active committees, planned special events, attended programs, helped raise funds, and served as great advocates for Woldumar.

With an energized board and a new program team, I'm excited to get 2018 underway. The new year will focus on growth. We'll take a hard look at the things we already do well and we will do them better. We will reach even more children with our mission efforts of camp and school field trips. We'll provide more opportunities for the community to be involved in classes, events, and volunteer opportunities.

We envision a Woldumar that is not a *place* to visit, but a *cause* and a *community* to be a part of. We endeavor to continue changing Woldumar into Lansing's premier resource for science and nature education services, providing unique educational and recreational opportunities to everyone in our local community.

*Kevin Wernet*  
Executive Director

# 2016-17 Volunteers



UPS—Gardening



WLNS—River Cleanup



General Motors—Outdoor Classroom



Emergent Biosolutions—  
Gardening and Trails

Volunteer Social



**Thank you to these volunteers and many more!**

*For information about volunteering as a group or individual,  
Please email [naturalist@woldumar.org](mailto:naturalist@woldumar.org)*

# A Year of Volunteering

**Total Volunteers:**

**205**

132 in 2016

**Total Volunteer Hours:**

**1462.5**

2,845 in 2015

## Online Presence



**Email Subscribers: 2,769 (2,002 in 2016)**

**Facebook: 4,505 (3,811 in 2016)**

**Twitter: 315**

**Instagram: 154**




**Google Searches  
for "Woldumar"**







  
**WOLDUMAR**  
for the naturally curious





# Letter from the Program Director

As 2017 comes to a close, I begin to look back on the amazing journey I have had this year. I began my time at Woldumar in April. I hit the ground running and haven't stopped yet. My first week on the job was Spring Break Camp. What a wonderful and crazy way to start my time here! I was able to experience what

makes this place so special right from the beginning--the wonderful youth we get to work with at this beautiful place. I want to take a moment to highlight some of this year's successful programs.

Woldumar Nature Center works with 5,000 learners throughout the year in a variety of programs. Field Trips, or field studies as we like to refer to them, get students out of the classroom and into nature. Traveling Naturalist programs bring the excitement of nature to local schools and classrooms. Green, a partner program with General Motors and Earthforce, focuses on water quality testing with middle and high school students. Annie's Big Nature Lesson is a program in which Woldumar staff collaborates with teachers to fully immerse students in nature for five days. Finally, Camp Discovery provides the perfect blend of education and recreation in the fun and relaxed summer day camp setting. Though the scope is wide, our programs focus on making positive environmental education experiences to all the learners we reach.

This is all made possible by the extremely passionate and supportive program staff. I am truly blessed to be able to work with every day. I cannot thank them enough as they upheld the high standard Woldumar holds in the community. A special thank you goes to our new Program Coordinator Lori Wrobel, who is helping take Woldumar to the next level of excellence.

The future is bright and green here at Woldumar. Community support is thriving with hardworking volunteers, and new connections with MSU students and staff are opening new doors for opportunities.

Now is the time when you, our members, can be the change you want to see here at Woldumar Nature Center. Talk to a friend or family member about your amazing experience at Woldumar. Take a moment with your student's teachers to talk about the benefit of outdoor education. You are our greatest resource and without you, we cannot be successful in our mission to educate people about the natural environment.

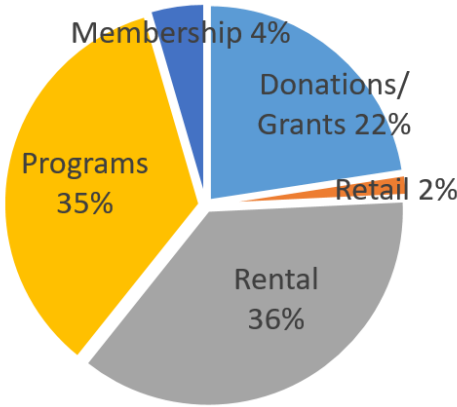
*Daniel Auer  
Program Director*

# Woldumar Programs

## BY THE NUMBERS

Program Name	Description	Total Participation	Revenue
Field Trips	On-site and off-site environmental education programs with schools	3843 students in 155 classes	\$14,394.40
Camp Discovery	Nine weeks of summer day-camp, spring break and winter break	379 campers + 2 contracted camps	\$77,215.40
Annie's Big Nature Lesson	Five days of nature programs with schools	Approximately 750 students in 25 classes, over 14 weeks	\$10,850.00
Teambuilding Ropes Course	Businesses, teams, and classes work on communication and creative problem solving	5 groups	\$2,225.00

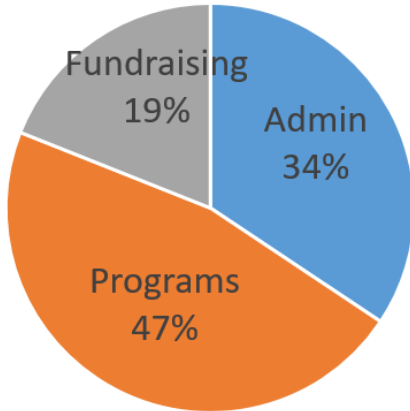
# Treasurer's Report



## Revenue\*

Donations/ Grants	\$69,448.69
Retail	\$5,128.77
Rental	\$112,242.00
Programs	\$106,974.80
Membership	\$13,915.08
Events	\$9,873.19

**TOTAL \$307,709.34**



## Expenses

Admin.**	\$114,010.28
Programs	\$154,875.03
Fundraising	\$62,982.71

**TOTAL \$331,868.02**

\*Does not include endowment activities (included on other revenue statements).

\*\*Includes \$22,000.08 depreciation (non-cash) expense.

# Endowments

<b>WECT Balance:</b>	\$627,869.62
<b>CRCF Balance:</b>	\$14,705.49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$642,575.11</b>

# Woldumar Nature Association Board of Directors

## **Chairperson**

Zachary Behler, JD,  
*Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.*

Jason Wilkinson,  
*Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency*

## **Vice-Chairperson**

Irene Bashore,  
*General Motors Co*

Frank Tegge,  
*Wells Fargo Advisors*

Andria Ditschman, JD,  
*Andria Ditschman Law, PLLC*

## **Treasurer**

Julie Pfeifle, CPA,  
*Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC*

Lisa Ermak  
*Delta Dental*

## **Secretary**

Gail Vander Stoep, Ph.D.,  
*Michigan State University*

## **Endowment Trustees:**

Steve Cessna  
*Bank of America (Ret.)*

## **Member-At-Large**

Anne Garwood,  
*Michigan Department of  
Environmental Quality*

JB McCombs  
*State of Michigan*

Gary Pike  
*Multi Packaging Solutions*

# Woldumar Staff

**Executive Director:**  
Kevin Wernet

**Program Director:**  
Daniel Auer

**Program Coordinator:**  
Lori Wrobel

**Hospitality Manager:**  
Victoria Churchill-Barner

**Office Manager:**  
Sally Austin

**Groundskeeper:**  
Kevin Feldpausch



2017 Summer Camp Staff

# Membership Matters

The Woldumar Nature Association is a private, 501(c)3 non-profit organization managed by its members for the benefit Greater Lansing Community.

The staff and board of directors would like to challenge our membership to share Woldumar with a friend, family member or colleague this year. By inviting them to attend a program, volunteer their time, become a member, make a donation, or send a child to camp, you will help us achieve our strategic goals to help our community experience, understand, and appreciate the science of the natural environment.

