

2023–2024
Gratitude Report

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Looking Forward

Two years of growth, two years of success, two more years of meeting our mission with your help.

Flanders environmental education programs continue to reach thousands each year, with significant growth experienced in our Next General Science Standards-aligned field trips and related programming to over 25 towns and cities in the Greater Waterbury region. The numbers from 2023 and 2024 clearly indicate that Flanders is one of the most sought-after field trip locations in Connecticut.

With this growth, we are now focusing our attention on our campus buildings and accessibility needs. Much has already been accomplished with major projects yet to come.

It's an exciting time at Flanders!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. LaFontan'.

Vincent D. LaFontan, MHA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



With Excitement

After completing several exciting building projects this past year, including our first open-air pavilion and the creation of a stunning art gallery, Flanders is far from resting on its laurels. Our board and staff have dedicated considerable time and energy to strategic planning, and the future of Flanders is looking bright. Our upcoming plans include an agricultural education pavilion at the North Barn and the development of an accessible trail on our Van Vleck campus. These initiatives will help Flanders remain a destination of choice for all members of our communities, regardless of limitations.

We are committed to continuing and expanding our efforts to engage Connecticut's children with nature and environmental education. We are also excited to welcome more people to the Flanders campus and to continue preserving land for future generations. On behalf of the Flanders Board of Directors, I am deeply grateful to our partners who have supported us with their expertise and financial assistance and look forward to their continued collaboration as we bring our vision to life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jodi'.

Jodi Wasserstein
BOARD PRESIDENT

FLANDERS MISSION

To provide opportunities to appreciate nature’s wonders and preserve land, inspiring lifelong learning about our natural world.

FLANDERS VISION

To be a leading resource and destination of choice for environmental and outdoor education, research, land preservation and stewardship, farm experiences and arts activities, reflecting the needs of our changing and inclusive communities and evolving partnerships.

A Destination of Choice

Guided by the 2022–2024 Strategic Goals, Flanders has strengthened and accomplished much in these key areas providing momentum for the future.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS:



Accessibility

Prioritizing inclusive and barrier-free access to ensure all visitors can enjoy the natural wonders of Flanders.



Partnerships with Schools

Collaborating with schools and science teachers so children can experience first hand how to observe, measure and affect the environment



Research in Land Management

Conducting research to inform effective land management practices and ensure resilience of CT’s preserved properties with changes occurring in the natural world



Educating about Sustainability

Demonstrating alternative ways to generate renewable energy for CT homes and farms

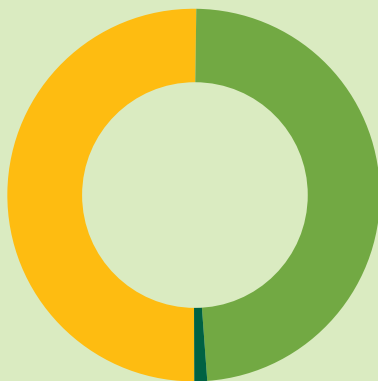
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023



ASSETS

Land Held in Trust	\$7,509,441
Unrestricted Cash & Investments	\$1,814,467
Restricted Cash & Investments	\$2,100,347
Buildings & Equipment	\$801,761
TOTAL ASSETS	\$12,226,016



LIABILITIES

Liabilities	\$149,011
Net Assets Undesignated	\$5,936,202
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$6,140,803
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$12,226,016



GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING Our 2023–2024 Donors

\$250,000+

David, Helen & Marian
Woodward Fund

\$150,00–\$249,999

Estate of Lucinda Hunt-Stowell
Estate of Pam Goss

\$50,000–\$149,999

Anonymous
Estate of Daniel Stowell

\$25,000–\$49,999

Estate of Ann Lilley
Northwest CT Land Conservancy

\$15,000–\$24,999

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*“The thing I marvel at is the passion and commitment
from the volunteers at Flanders. It’s unique!”*

– LARRY SMOTROFF, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**FLANDERS MAKES
a Difference**
PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY DAY
CAMP SINCE 1964

600
campers aged 3 to 13 attend
each summer

70+
different week long programs
to suit many interests

45
Average number of campers who
come free of charge thanks to
camperships*

**DIVERSITY
ASSURED!**
camper populations are from
small towns and cities

56%
of camperships in 2024
were given to children from the
BIPOC community

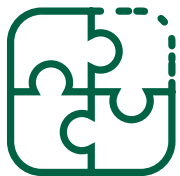
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DONORS MAKE
a Difference
REMEMBERING THEIR LEGACY

As the grateful recipient of substantial legacy and intentional gifts in 2023–2024, Flanders remembers Pam Goss, Ann Lilley and Lucinda Hunt Stowell. These strong and capable women were generous in their volunteer life as in their legacy plans. They helped build up Flanders, bringing together this community and now, through their parting gifts, strengthens us for perpetuity.

CONSIDER PLANNED GIFTS to the organizations that matter most to you, both in your lifetime or in your will. Non-profit organizations need these donations now, more than ever, to carry us well into the future. There may be important tax benefits to you when you donate in your lifetime. Please reach out in confidence to Jeannette Purdy, Director of Development at 203.263.3711 x 15 or via email jeannette@flandersnaturecenter.org.



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 Ralph Williams
 Daniel Wood
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 Woodbury Pewter, Inc
 Pat Wright
 Jennifer Wyzykowski
 Young's Nursery
 Sharon & Peter Zilahy

This list is comprised of cash, equity or in-kind donations of \$100 or more made in either 2023 or 2024, or in both years. We are also grateful for the many donations of under \$100 as well as the countless hours of volunteering given to Flanders by hundreds of individuals.

In case of omission or error, please call our office at 203.263.3711 x15.



VOLUNTEERS MAKE a Difference

MICHAEL CARLO
2023 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Mike Carlo came to us in 2014 within a year of retiring after a long career with Union Carbide and Praxair. A long-distance runner, an avid hiker and kayaker, he knew more about the rest of Connecticut and New England than about his own back yard at the time, and was deliberate in his desire to learn more about Woodbury.

Mike began to volunteer first with the trail maintenance team, which led him to be involved with special projects, one of which was the Marzahl Bridge. Today, Mike is the lead Boundary marker for all of Flanders' 56 properties, an important responsibility that takes him out every few days for hours at a time to bushwhack, mark, document the boundary and shore up signage. Mike has been most helpful in implementing GPS technology in marking these boundaries.

Not only does Mike Carlo handle this responsibility well, but he goes about quietly with it, coming and going a bit like a "Ranger of Flanders." Flanders is so grateful for volunteers like Mike Carlo, whose contribution to land management and preservation of open space is incalculable and invaluable.

*"... take a walk into the library of
Nature and pause to read its many books."*

— EXTRACT FROM TOM NICOTERA'S POEM ABOUT THE WHITTEMORE TRAILHEAD

