

# Willow Bend

*environmental education center*

## Annual Report 2010-2011

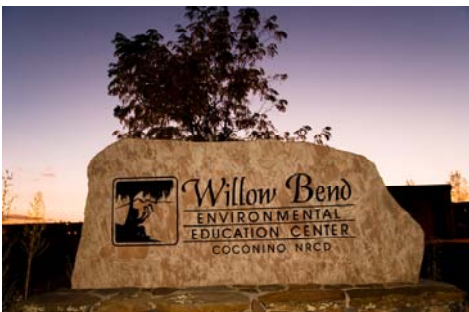
*\*Willow Bend is sponsored by the Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District\**



*Teachers learn about transects at Biodiversity Bootcamp at Hart Prairie.*

**Our Mission:** *To provide educational services that build environmental awareness and an ethic of responsible stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.*

*All of our programs strive to build the kind of world we want to live in - socially, environmentally, and economically; a world we want our children and grandchildren to inherit.*



## Environmental Education for Northern Arizona



*A family searches for eagles at the Eagle Eyes Family Science Event.*

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center has a rich 32-year history of providing place-based environmental education that fosters an ethic of stewardship and responsibility by deepening people's understanding of and connections to nature.

Our educators work with all members of the community to connect local environmental issues to larger environmental science concepts. Our classes engender a passion for nature while cultivating the critical analysis skills necessary to make positive changes in our world. **With each program we teach, we strive to nourish the hearts and minds of our community to create a sustainable and fruitful tomorrow.**



# A Year In Review: 23,203 Community Contacts!



*Elsbeth leads students into Sinclair Wash on a field trip to Willow Bend.*

## Field Trips

Willow Bend hosted 55 on-site field trips, connecting more than 1,223 students to the natural world. In addition, Willow Bend led 40 tours of Flagstaff's recycling facility for more than 870 community members.



*Greg Vaughan and his daughter, Virginia, learn together at Radical Reptiles Family Science Event.*

## Family Science

Families join Willow Bend staff to learn more about nature at our monthly Family Science Events. This year, we reached almost 300 people through these events. Our most popular nights included Family Gift Making, Midnight Hunters, Radical Reptiles, and Amazing Arthropods.



*Flagstaff teachers discover how solar panels work at the Science of Solar Teacher Workshop.*

## Teacher Workshops

Teachers use Willow Bend to learn more about environmental science issues to incorporate into their classrooms. This year, in addition to our regular workshops, we launched the first state-wide Environmental Education Certification Program!



*Ollie is turned into an owl at the Midnight Hunters Family Science Event.*

## Community Events

Willow Bend participated in 39 community-wide events including the Festival of Science, Science in the Park, Earth Day in the Park, and the National Day of the Cowboy. Through these events, we were able to reach over 3,000 community members!



*Councilman Scott Overton and his family help raise "bail" at the Day of the Cowboy Fundraiser/Community Event.*

## Classroom Programs

We taught nearly 570 hands-on classroom programs featuring our local environment to more than 13,600 students in Flagstaff, Parks, Williams, and Leupp. We offer over 50 standards-aligned classroom programs that are place-based and interactive.



*Students learn to identify plants and use dichotomous keys in the Plant Power! Classroom Program.*



# Our Staff



Sapna Sopori  
Director

Kirstie Bickford  
Program  
Coordinator

Andy Ives,  
AmeriCorps Devel-  
opment Assistant

Laura Daum  
AmeriCorps Devel-  
opment Assistant

Elsbeth Inglett  
AmeriCorps  
Instructor

Cassandra Roberts,  
Program Manager

## From the Director:

This has been another fun and successful year! Though economic times are tough, **our community has rallied and loudly proclaimed that Willow Bend is vital to northern Arizona!** While we had many achievements, this year's biggest success was to hire our new Program Manager, Cassandra Roberts. Thank you to all of our donors, volunteers, board members, and staff for working so hard to bring us back to full capacity! **With your continued belief and support, I am confident that next year will yield even more fruitful results.**

*With humility and gratitude - Sapna*

## From the Program Manager:

After volunteering at Willow Bend since 2009, I am very excited to now be a part of the program full-time. **Willow Bend's role in raising environmental awareness and in developing stronger connections between people and the place where they live is vital.** I am thrilled to be working with Sapna and the entire Willow Bend team to continue creating and strengthening this amazing program. *With hope and excitement - Cassandra*

A big thank-you to Kirstie, who ably coordinated the program before joining the Peace Corps: "I loved being a part of something so meaningful and seeing the fruits of my teaching." - *Kirstie Bickford*

## Coconino NRCD Board

John Davison, Chair  
Duane Coleman, Vice Chair  
Mike Macauley, Supervisor  
Steve Drye, Secretary  
Kit Metzger, Treasurer

## Willow Bend Advisory Board

Veronica Hipolito, Chair  
Matt Roberts, Vice Chair  
Andy Gould, Secretary  
Kathy Hayes, Treasurer

John Davison, NRCD Rep  
James Sell, Director  
Bret Carpenter, Director  
Kathy Flaccus, Director

**How You Can Help:**  
**We are successful**  
**because of your**  
**generosity!**

- ◆ Become a *Friend of Willow Bend*
  - ◆ Attend our Fundraisers
- ◆ Volunteer Your Talents & Time
  - ◆ Use our Programs
  - ◆ Adopt our Gift Wish List
- ◆ Support through your Business
  - ◆ Shop at our Gallery



For more information about these options or to create your own way to support Willow Bend, please call 779-1745 or email [info@willowbendcenter.org](mailto:info@willowbendcenter.org).



*environmental  
education center*

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## What People Are Saying:

"Willow Bend is great! I love the way they teach us. **Willow Bend has been a good friend.**" - 4th grader at Thomas Elementary

"As always, **Willow Bend continues to deliver quality science lesson to students in the classroom!** The subject matter is age appropriate and all the students are engaged in the variety of activities they do!" - 2nd grade teacher at DeMiguel

"This is a valuable program, especially for our students because we are so far from anything. This program brings environmental education into the classroom. **If not for [Willow Bend], our students may not get the educational experience.**" - 4th grade teacher at Leupp

"**Both my kids have asked for owl pellets to dissect as a gift!**" - Parent from Midnight Hunters Family Science Event

"Thank you so much for coming! **I learned so much and will be more aware of what I'm buying!**" - 10th grade student at Flag High

"**Everyone talks about sustainability. This organization lives it.** Not only that - they teach the practical side of that life to our future. Kids learn respect for our planet and responsible stewardship of our resources. I have personally seen how they open kids' eyes and minds." - City Councilman Al White



[www.willowbendcenter.org](http://www.willowbendcenter.org)



# Willow Bend

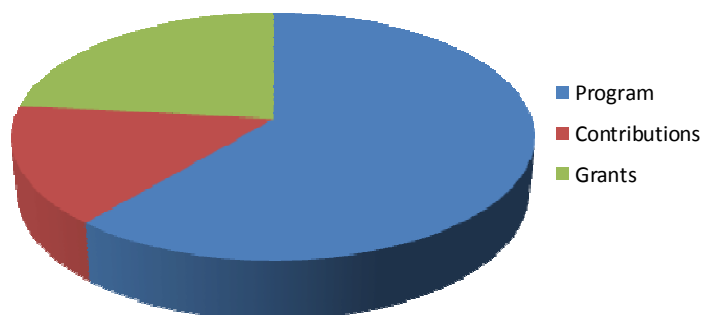
*environmental education center*

## 2010-2011 Financial Report

We have been very fortunate this year with the outpouring of generosity from our community! Thank you to all our business, program, individual, volunteer, and artist supporters! With this amazing foundation, we were able to add over \$36,000 to our long-term reserves! While this success is unprecedented for Willow Bend, we are planning ahead to counteract next year's loss of the Secure Rural Schools Act, which will **deplete funds by \$30,000 each year**. If we hope to meet the community's demand for our programs, **your help is more crucial now than ever!** Please consider becoming a *Friend of Willow Bend* or increase your current donation to the next level **to ensure that environmental education stays in northern Arizona for another 32 years!**

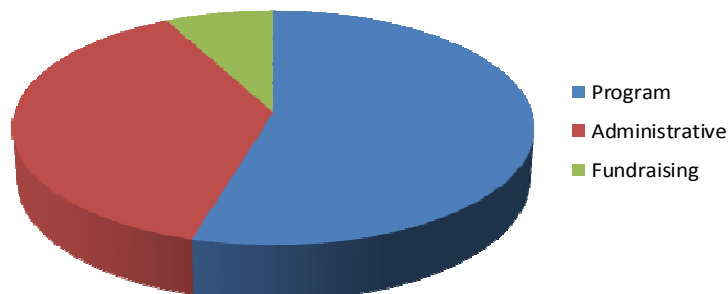
### Income Sources

Total: \$147,000



### Expenses

Total: \$111,000



*Take the pledge to support environmental education in the public schools of northern Arizona!*

# Hooray for our Supporters!

**We would like to thank our top 2010-2011 community supporters:**

Willow Level (\$4,000 and above): Prometheus Renewables, Coconino County Board of Supervisors, Coconino County Superintendent of Schools, Flagstaff Cultural Partners/City of Flagstaff/BBB Revenues, Arizona Forestry Division-Urban & Community Forestry & the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program, and the Charlotte M. Foukal Foundation

Ponderosa Level (\$2,000-\$3,999): Flagstaff Community Foundation

Aspen Level (\$1,000-\$1,999): Elliot Family Fund, Hope Construction, New Frontiers Natural Foods, Flagstaff Sustainable Living Association, and Cottage Place Restaurant

Juniper Level (\$500-\$999): Environmental Fund for Arizona and ReGroup Conservation

Pinyon Level (\$100-\$499): Paul Moore Architect, Kind Vines, Fratelli Pizza, Bigfoot BBQ, Mountain Oasis, Basement Marketplace, and AVEDA Red OTS Salon



## **Thank You to our generous 2010-2011 Program Partners:**

City of Flagstaff, NAU's Water Research & Education Program, National Park Service Flagstaff Area Monuments, the Ecological Restoration Institute, and Rocky Mountain Research Station

## **Thank You to our amazing Artists for Awareness:**

Jana Aukon, Jennifer Brown, Kathy Hayes, Stacy Mark, Toni Prothero, Nathan Renn, Chandra Robinson, Sapna Sopori, and Alex Wisniewski

## **Thank You to our dedicated *Friends of Willow Bend*:**

Annette Avery, Anonymous, Connie & Jeffrey Becker, Margarite Bradley, Jennifer Brown, Phil and Barbara Brunner, Richard and Hanna Cortner, Monisha Crisell, Kathy Flaccus, Otto Franz, Bob Gaylord, Heather and Ryan Gearhart, Ginger Giovale, Tamara Glinski, Andy Gould, Kathryn Hayes, Veronica Hipolito, Marie Jackson, Florence Karlstrom, Karen Kinne-Herman, Norm and Gail Lowe, Kit Metzger, Scott Overton, Matt & Cassandra Roberts, Kathie Satterfield, Jack Welch, Alex Wisniewski, and Joe and Lori Wisniewski (*see website for complete list of all donor levels*)

**Special Thanks to our wonderful Volunteers who donated over 1,000 hours and saved us over \$20,000!!!**