

March 12, 2008

Dear Sibley Nature Center Members:

Welcome! We are most pleased to report another successful year of operations at the Sibley Nature Center. We have experienced another incredible year of growth in programs, services, and visitations. Fiscal year 2008 holds the promise of enormous growth, once again, with the construction of over one-million dollars in improvements to the Learning Center and the Nature Trail. As many of you are aware, we have successfully raised funds, \$630,500, for Phase I improvements and are confident that we will succeed in raising the balance of the funds that we will need to complete the entire project.

We have formed new relations with the Region 18 Education Learning Center and are now certified to provide required continuing education courses for our region's public school teachers. We are also working with the University of Texas of the Permian Basin to provide a focal point for their Department of Education for training new teachers. We also proudly serve as a center for Campfire USA's after school program, and we're working with the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, the June Leland Wildlife Foundation, and Mott Creek Ranch to deliver new and innovative programs. Needless to say, doors are opening everywhere for us. We also started the Sibley Academy in 2007. The academy provides an eclectic series of classes for constituents that have interests in flora, fauna, human history, photography, outdoor skills classes and many other fields of interest. There is so much more happening at your center. Please take time to peruse the enclosed information to see just some of it!

The Sibley Nature Center Board of Directors and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, our valued Sibley family, for your continued support of the Center. An agency is only as strong as those that support the programs and services of that agency. Since we became a 501(c)(3) in February of 2005, we have been privileged to build a growing relationship with you, our loyal members.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jan Artley—President, Sibley Nature Center
Board of Directors

Management - The Sibley Nature Center added two new board members in 2007. David Crum first came to the center as a volunteer and member with a special interest in the Lesser Prairie Chickens. As Executive Director of the June Leland Wildlife Foundation, David has a special interest in the Llano Estacado and has been a great addition to the board.

David Eyler also became a Sibley board member in 2007. David is an independent geologist with a lot of experience in the sciences and in fundraising contacts. David has shown a genuine interest in the expansion of programs and services of the center. Both new board members have become a real asset to the Sibley Nature Center.

Dr. Vincent Bash rotated off of the board in 2007 but continues to support the center. Our sincere thanks go out to him.

The Sibley Board of Directors are an invaluable asset to the center. They personally donated \$26,500 to the trail development project and have been recognized by the nonprofit community as one of the most dynamic groups in the area.

Burr Williams continues as the Executive Director of the Sibley Nature Center. Burr has been at the agency since its inception. The center added Richard Galle as a full-time employee and named him as the Operations Director. Richard had worked as a contractor for the center for some time. Michael Nickell continues to provide expertise in research and development of displays and programs for the center. Michael works 25 hours a week for Sibley and proves his worth in the beautiful panel displays in the auditorium, the interpretive signs on the phytosaur display, and in the habitat panels featured in the Llano Room. Michael is involved in many of the programs and services in the center, as well. Mark Webb has contracted for Sibley for several years. His expertise is in horticulture, computers, and construction. Mark completed the construction of Sibley's greenhouse and maintains the grounds both near the Learning Center and on the trail. He also volunteers as a leader with the Junior Master Gardeners. Mark has, by default, become Sibley's computer expert, which he does very well. Beverly Wise came on with the Sibley staff as a part-time worker to organize the Library. Beverly volunteered many hours, as well. Beverly brings years of experience to her job and is near completion of the entire cataloging of books. Eric Siegmund continues his excellent work in maintaining the Sibley website. Burr and Eric designed the website and it has become a major asset in the mission of the center.

Membership - The Sibley Nature Center has grown from slightly over 100 members to 261 memberships in the last 18 months. Members have continually supported the center financially, in the participation in events, as volunteers, and as good-will ambassadors for the agency. Members are the backbone of our center. They provide not only financial support and support through their participation, but they also provide impetus for the board and staff to continue the development of the agency. We want to thank our members for their belief in the mission of the Sibley Nature Center and for their unwavering support!

Grounds – Sibley Nature Center’s “Plant Propagation Area” or greenhouse was completed in 2007. The 40 by 60 foot greenhouse was constructed by horticulturalist and staff member Mark Webb along with volunteers Frank Gray and Larry Hall. The greenhouse immediately went into production. By year end over 300 plants had been propagated including jasmine, Kerville phlox, buffalo currant, Galena sage, yellow blooming red yucca, and purple verbena rigida. In 2008 a plant sale will be held along with year-long plant sales.

Capital Trail Improvement Project – In December of 2007 fundraising was completed for Phase I of the Sibley Nature Trail capital improvements. The entire two-phase project will eventually cost \$1,027,000. Phase I represents \$630,500 of the entire budget. The board and staff of the center began fundraising in 2007 and soon learned that the State of Texas was contributing a challenge grant of up to \$500,000 toward the completion of the project. Through the generosity of several foundations, the City of Midland, and many individuals, the final funds for Phase I were secured by the end of fiscal year 2007. Major contributors were the City of Midland, the M.S. Doss Foundation, the Dora Roberts Foundation, the Helen Greathouse Charitable Trust, the Duncan Foundation, the Sibley Board of Directors, the Abell-Hanger Foundation, and the State of Texas.

The improvements will include a wildlife viewing area overlooked by a new viewing area that will be attached to the existing Learning Center, an acequia water feature, a teaching pavilion complete with a fire circle for evening programs, new habitats, shelters, a new entryway into the facility, various garden displays, interpretive signage, shelters, the rehabilitation of the existing pond, and many new features that will greatly enhance the capability of the center to provide quality programs and services to its members and the general public. The board and staff of Sibley are confident that the remaining funds to complete the project will be raised in 2008.

Collaborations – The Sibley Nature Center is networking with several groups and organizations to broaden the center’s ability to provide services. Sibley has continued the relationship with the June Leland Wildlife Foundation, providing trips to the Texas panhandle to view prairie chickens. The center also is working with the University of Texas of the Permian Basin to provide a focal point for education majors in the fields of biology, science, and history. The center also became certified to provide courses for required teacher continuing education courses through the Region 18 Education Center. Classes are planned this summer in collaboration with the Sibley Academy to give teachers experiences in archeology through another partnership with the Mott Creek Ranch in Motley County. Sibley is also in collaboration with Campfire USA by providing facilities for a daily after school program. The center also continues its partnership with the Junior Master Gardener’s program, the Master Naturalists, the Master Gardeners, the Midland Archeological Society, the 4-H group, Mustang Woodcarvers, the Environmental Professionals, and many other groups of like interests.

Revolving Displays – The board and staff of the Sibley Nature Center are currently working to both construct, in-house, and bring in new displays and programs to provide an ongoing variety of attractions to the center. Management understands that, in order to maintain interest in the Sibley Nature Center, changes must be made.

Quarterly member events and an ever changing Learning Center and trail is of utmost importance.

The Sibley Academy - In the Summer of 2008 the Sibley Academy will announce new classes to be offered to its membership and the general public. Classes in art, human and natural history, photography, and outdoor skills will be featured attractions to the Academy.

Sibley Website – Over 36,000 different computers have now logged into the site. Over 2,000 people a week visit the site to research 425+ essays, and 100+ photo essays with over 2,500 photographs. The most popular locations are the recommended day trip section, followed by the essays, and then the animal behavior photo essays. School children visit the website's Virtual Trails that correspond with their visits to the center. The Sibley website has become a great tool in the arsenal of programs offered at the center.

The Sibley Academy – In 2007, the center kicked off an effort to provide a variety of continuing education classes for the public. The classes included art, the study of flora, fauna, and human history, photography, natural native dyes, and many other areas of interest that dovetailed with the mission of the Sibley Nature Center. A total of 57 individuals took 82 individual classes at the Academy. The Academy will continue with classes in the Summer of 2008.

Visitations – In 2007, almost 13,000 visitors attended programs (an increase of 2,000 people from 2006). The center provided 443 programs, the most ever, to visitors. Sibley staff gave 318 of the programs. Member events on bats and snakes of West Texas were attended by 110 people. Programs for school children were attended by students from Midland, Odessa, Garden City, Pecos, Greenwood, Andrews, and Whiteface. Private schools included Hillcrest in Midland, St. Johns in Odessa, the Midland Academy, and Ambleside from San Angelo. Several home school groups also attended programs at the center. Daycare operations from St. Lukes, United Methodist, Awanas, Peppermint Plantation, High Sky Children's Ranch and the YMCAs also attended programs. Students from Midland College visited several times, as well. In September over 100 people attended a program at the Scarborough-Linebery House that Burr Williams arranged. Civic groups included Rotary clubs in Odessa, Midland, and Big Spring, the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Midland Women's Club, and the Society of University Women also enjoyed presentations from the center. Programs for senior citizens included monthly programs at Manor Park, visits to Chevron Retirees, the Midland Retired Teachers, and the Cimarron House. The Region 18 Education Service Center presented a water education program to teachers at the Sibley Center. Overall, visits grew in 2007, indicating a growing interest in the center overall.

The Permian Basin Outing Club – The Sibley Nature Center's affiliate outdoor club took 11 trips in 2007 including a canoe trip through Big Bend National Park's Mariscal Canyon, the Guadalupe mountains, the South Fork of the Llano River, as well as many other interesting "high adventure" locales. The club grew in 2007 to well over 100 individuals.

Displays – Six new habitat displays were completed in 2007 with 6 panels for each habitat being constructed. The phytosaur display case and interpretive signage was also added. Michael Nickell also performed curatorial services on the mounts of specimens in the library and auditorium by cleaning the specimens and removing insect infestation. He also began research on an interpretive sign to be placed at Midland's Wadley Barron park. This was accomplished with a \$2,000 grant to Sibley provided by the City of Midland.

New Sibley Calendars, Note Cards, and Coloring Books - Through a grant provided by the Arts Assembly of Midland, Sibley artist Ronna Porter painted 12 depictions of flora and fauna for each month of the year. These were, in turn, further designed into calendars, coloring books, and note cards for sales to benefit the center. Ms. Porter volunteered her services in this great project!

Sibley Nature Center

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2007

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Petty Cash

258.44

TexStar Bank

Greathouse Fund

1,926.41

Hispanic Library

612.50

Permian Basin Area Foundation

19.61

Two Bros. - Special Event

124.34

TexStar Bank - Other

15,200.86

Total TexStar Bank

17,883.72

TexStar Certificates of Deposit

41,878.27

TexStar Money Market Account

86,378.63

Trail Improvements CD

102,524.33

Total Checking/Savings

248,923.39

Other Current Assets

Money Market - Operations

38,629.34

Total Other Current Assets

38,629.34

Fixed Assets

Camping Equipment

5,258.39

Computer Equipment

6,339.19

Furniture and Equipment

6,252.83

Total Fixed Assets

17,850.41

TOTAL ASSETS

305,403.14

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

Payroll Liabilities

1,010.92

Sales Tax Payable

71.00

Total Other Current Liabilities

1,081.92

Total Liabilities

1,081.92

Equity

Retained Earnings

264,210.46

Net Income

40,110.76

Total Equity

304,321.22

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

305,403.14

Volunteerism - The yearlong project of cataloguing the Sibley Library is almost complete. Enid Davis and Mary Rulla helped Beverly Wise do a superlative job. The Monday morning crew of Larry Hall and Frank Gray not only kept the trails clean of trash, but helped in construction of many projects including Sibley's new greenhouse. Ronna Porter created the Natural Calendar artwork and over 20 people contributed photographs to the Sibley Nature Center website. The following is an accounting of the man hours of work done solely by volunteers for the center!

Larry Hall - Maintenance and Construction	322
Frank Gray - Maintenance and Construction	322
Enid Davis - Library Work	66
Beverly Wise - Library Work	60
Lauren Maddox - Phytosaur Display and Panels	130
Mark Maddox - Phytosaur Display	75
Bailee Hennis - Panels	120
Michael Nickell - Art Work	12
Nick Hartley - Maintenance	7
Mary Rulla - Library Work	38
Samantha Richards - JMG Volunteer	23
Richard Galle - Outdoor Club	220
Don and JoAnn Merritt - Providing Programs	4
Chris Cherry - Greenhouse, Photography	34
James - Secretarial	40
Kian Stipp - Collating Information	10
Andrew Franks - Sibley Kids Program	25
Ronna Porter- Natural Calendar Design	190
Margaret Peterson Family - Greenhouse	12
Clara King - Secretarial	3
Debbie Pelham - Secretarial	40
Board of Directors - Management	218