

Annual Report



HIGHLANDS
BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

2022



Our Mission

*is to stimulate, promote, &
fund biological research
& education in the
southern Appalachians.*

Highlands Field Site students, Kaitlyn Willoughby & Georgeanna Randall, fly drone by Lindenwood Lake. (Note: WCU permission required for drone use on campus). Courtesy Dylan Lytle.

HCCDC child enjoys HBF outreach program about soil. Courtesy HCCDC.

Our Vision

*is to inspire present &
future generations to
preserve & protect the
unique environment of
the Highlands Plateau by
raising awareness through
experiential learning.*

A Message from Our Director:

Living in Highlands, it's a joy to watch the seasons change. As the days get longer and the spring ephemerals rise out of the once frozen ground, excitement builds around the summer to come (Nature Camp, Zahner Lectures, and Salamander Meanders!). Though summer is a very busy time for the Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF), we continue to execute a vast array of public programs throughout the rest of the year. We identified year-round programming as a goal in our last strategic plan and then we took it to the next level - even adding a second full-time educator to meet the demand for our programs! In 2022, we were able to incorporate even more local organizations to our outreach program including the Highlands Community Child Development Center, Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau, and Chestnut Hill of Highlands.



2022 was a banner year for HBF in terms of impact. Our focus on research funding has reached new heights. We again contributed \$100,000 to the Highlands Field Site resident program at Highlands Biological Station which welcomed 15 undergraduate students to Highlands for a full semester of immersive, experiential learning led by Dr. Rada Petric. We funded over \$30,000 in research at the Station, including "Grants-in-Aid" to researchers and support of ongoing research endeavors like the MAPS bird banding project. Another notable event in 2022 was the long-awaited dedication of the new North Campus and John "Sto" Stowers Teaching Pavilion. The North Campus has become a place for the community, built by our community, and is one of the Foundation's greatest accomplishments.

We are incredibly grateful for your support of HBF. With your help, we will fund even more research, host even more programs, and welcome even more visitors to the Highlands Nature Center in 2023. Looking forward to seeing you at the Station!

Sincerely,

CHARLOTTE MUIR | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | HBF

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Balsam Mountain Trust partners with HBF for
Nature Center Night: Owl Prowl program.
Courtesy Paige Engelbrektsson.



2022 Programs Snapshot

\$24,333.34

in grant funding received to
directly support HBF
programs & outreach

8,291

people engaged in our
educational programs



1,388



visitors explored the Nature Center
during "peak week"

also known as

the week
of July **4TH**

6

Local organizations
received regular
programming including
the Gordon Center, the
Boys & Girls Club of the
Plateau, & Chestnut Hill

24

Nature Center program &
event volunteers

1

Full-time
educator

&

3

Seasonal
Naturalists
joined our
education
team

2022 Communications Snapshot

650

Summer program
brochures mailed
to members &
distributed locally

\$12,000

Marketing grant
received to promote
Nature Center
programs!

412

New e-news
subscribers

1,000

Nature Center Rack
Cards printed &
distributed locally

80,968

People reached on
Facebook & Instagram

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Advancing Science Through Generosity

From funding visiting researchers to collective bird conservation efforts, your donor dollars made significant impacts in 2022. Here's to celebrating advances in science and the growth of knowledge about our region through scientific research while acknowledging there is still so much to learn.

HBF-Supported Research by the Numbers

2 grant recipients led "Be a Scientist" programs at the Nature Center, teaching a total of 38 people about their HBF-supported research efforts

\$100,000

Invested in UNC-Chapel Hill's Highlands Field Site program at the Station featuring 9 research projects in 2022. Students studied hemlocks, salamanders, bats, microplastics, & more

\$21,250

"Grants-in-Aid" of scientific research awarded to visiting scholars residing at the Station & studying pollinators, native plants, small mammals, & more

\$16,500

Raised for HBF-supported research efforts on Giving Tuesday + \$3,384 raised for programs & outreach

\$6,000

Supporting the BatPak citizen science project led by Dr. Rada Petric to collect data on bat populations along the Appalachian Trail

\$4,950

Supporting the MAPS bird banding project at the Station in partnership with Blue Ridge Bird Observatory

3

Seasonal Research Assistants joined the Station's team with funding provided by HBF

Nature Center staff led 8 "MAPS Education Station" programs, teaching the public about this bird banding research effort



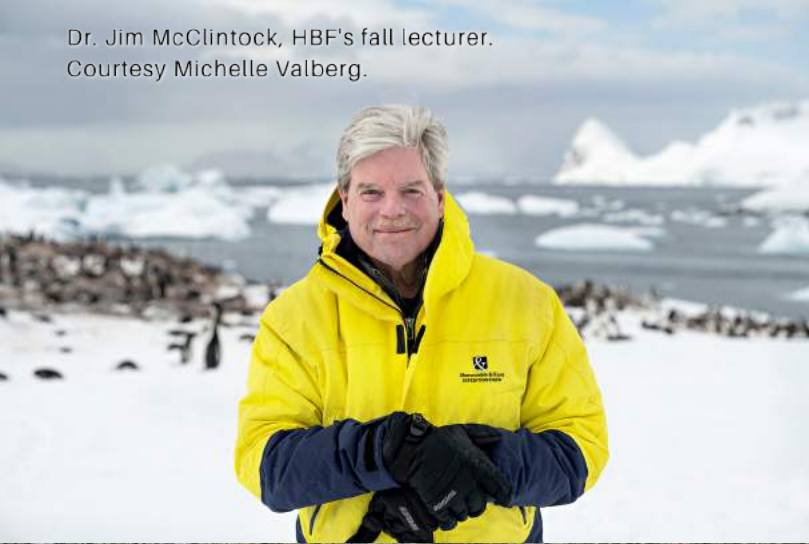
Highlands Field Site student, Hallie Turner, views plant specimen through microscope.
Courtesy Dylan Lytle.



2022 grant recipient Dr. Jorge Santiago-Blay & Kristin Heape, Research Assistant, collect bees around Lindenwood Lake.
Courtesy HBS.



Dr. Jim McClintock, HBS's fall lecturer.
Courtesy Michelle Valberg.



Highlands on the Half Shell
October 2022.
Courtesy Krystal Cohen.



Enchanted Forest -
October 2022.
Courtesy Julia Grumbles.

Special Events & Programs

MACON STEM'S STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT AT HBS

14 Macon County students,
10 organizations, & 1 weekend all
about sustainability & climate science

RAIN CHECK

3 field trips, 28 participants

BEAR SHADOW PARTNERSHIP

Ft. Jamestown Revival,
1 garden tour, & 50 participants.
\$10k donated by Highlands Festivals,
Inc. for HBS Research Assistants!

NORTH CAMPUS DEDICATION

>150 community members
gathered to celebrate!

A RAVENEL SOIRÉE

1 historical home, 200 guests,
& a very Highlands forecast

STO BBQ AT NORTH CAMPUS

130 guests honoring
John "Sto" Stowers

MCCLINTOCK LECTURE

1 renowned climate scientist,
101 attendees, &
1 mountain internet outage

HIGHLANDS ON THE HALF-SHELL

1,000 unlucky oysters, 190 guests

ENCHANTED FOREST

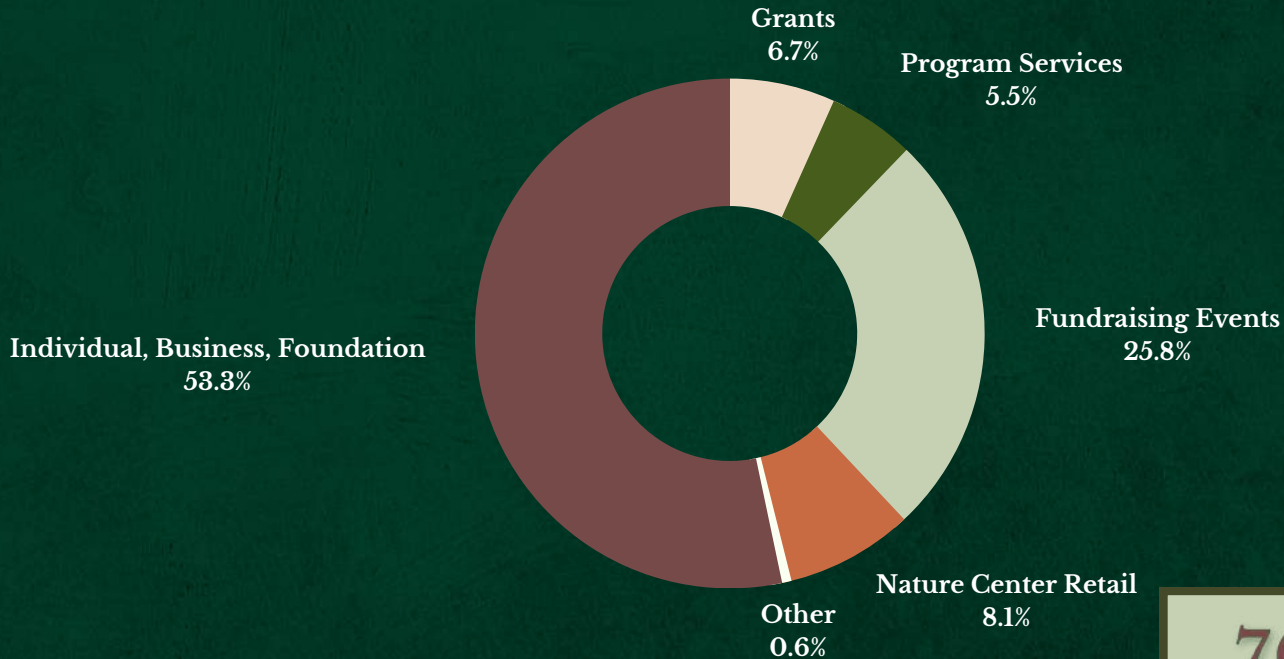
148 trick-or-treaters, 19 volunteers,
& 1 giant salamander

2022 Financial Statement

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

2022 SOURCE OF FUNDS

TOTAL : \$556,467.00



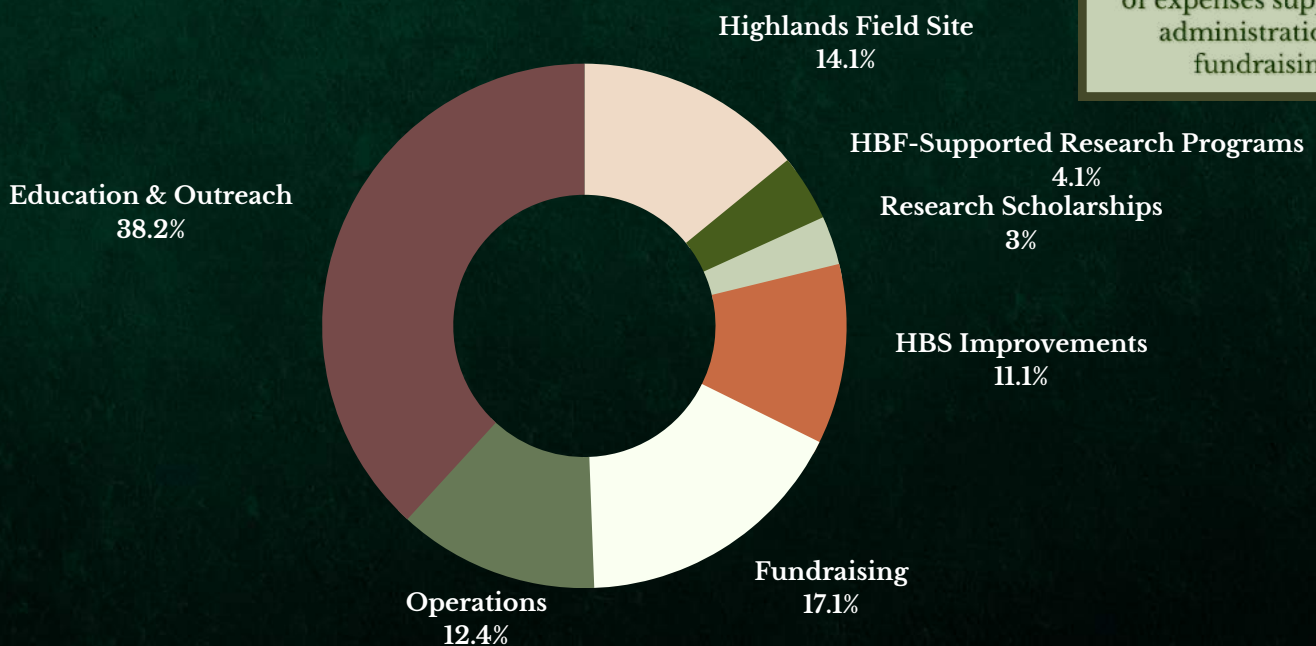
* Totals do not include revenue from HBF's investment funds.

70.5%

of expenses supporting
education & research in
the southern Appalachians

2022 USE OF FUNDS

TOTAL : \$706,666.02



29.5%

of expenses supporting
administration &
fundraising

Pre-audit figures.

* Amount released from restrictions & included in 2022 expenses : \$162,049.86

MANY THANKS TO OUR 2022 SUPPORTERS:

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 The Secret Garden Market



Highlands on the Half Shell
 October 2022
 Courtesy Krystal Cohen.

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North Campus Dedication - June 2022
 Courtesy Colleen Kerrigan.

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A Ravenel Soirée - July 2022
 Courtesy Krystal Cohen.

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2022 ANONYMOUS
DONORS!**

*If your name has been mistakenly omitted or you
would like to change how your name is listed,
please contact us so that we may update our records.*



Ways to Give

There are a variety of ways through which you can support our mission:

- Donate or set up a recurring donation online at highlandsbiological.org
- Mail a donation to:
P.O. Box 580
Highlands, NC 28741
- Call our office to make a contribution
- Send a stock gift
- Contribute through a donor-advised fund
- Introduce your family & friends to the Nature Center & Botanical Garden
- Volunteer at the Nature Center or in the Botanical Garden



For additional giving opportunities or more information, please call 828.526.2221



Leave a Legacy

that will inspire present & future generations to preserve & protect the unique environment of the Highlands Plateau. Please remember HBF in your will.

Camper holding a salamander & Oconee Bell bloom courtesy HBF.



HIGHLANDS
BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

Thank YOU for supporting HBF in 2022!

The Highlands Nature Center and
Highlands Botanical Garden are
part of the Highlands Biological
Station, a multi-campus center of
Western Carolina University.



Cover photo courtesy Colleen Kerrigan.
Back cover photo courtesy Dylan Lytle.



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