



Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve—the start of another decade



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From the President & Executive Director

Dear Friends,

FY 08 marked the beginning of the second decade of Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve's existence. And what a beginning it was!

With the help and support of members and friends, Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation was able to broaden both the recreational appeal and the educational impact of the preserve. With the help of community partners and volunteers, we were also able to benefit the abundant population of resident and migratory wildlife that depend on the preserve for food and shelter.

While the foundation continued many established programs, this was a year of important "firsts." Thanks to the Beazley Foundation, we launched our kayak program, which attracted large numbers of first-time visitors throughout the summer. For the first time, we collaborated with Christopher Newport University to learn and to teach about fish species in Hoffler Creek. And, finally, we broke ground and began construction of our foundation's new headquarters building, our first real office at Hoffler Creek!

The foundation's board of directors and staff are proud of the progress made during FY 08, and we are grateful to hundreds of donors and volunteers who contributed to it. Of course, improving the quality of life in our community requires on-going commitment. We trust that those who value a clean, healthy environment will continue to support our mission to conserve the natural resources at Hoffler Creek for education, research, and recreation that is consistent with good stewardship.

As you read this report, please think of how many people and how much money it takes to operate the preserve as a regional attraction. Those individuals, businesses, agencies, and institutions who contributed money, goods, and services during the year deserve the sincere appreciation of all who benefit from this special place in our community, this place where learning comes naturally and wonders never cease.

Randi Strutton

Randi Strutton, Executive Director

Richard E. Wentz

Richard Wentz, President



Planning

HCWF's board of directors and staff planned to expand operations and to increase recreational appeal of the preserve. As a result:

During the year, close to **3,000 visitors** enjoyed life at Hoffler Creek.

HCWF began construction of the new **Headquarters Building** scheduled to open in the fall of 2008.

With a grant from the Beazley Foundation, HCWF bought kayaks and constructed a dock to launch a **boating program** at the preserve. Visitors can now paddle up the creek for wildlife sightings not possible from the shore.

Grant money from the Department of Forest and the Portsmouth Community Foundation enabled the foundation to stem shoreline erosion at the creek and to eradicate *Phragmites* around Lake Ballard. HCWF is prepared to **restore critical habitat** at the preserve.

Publicity

During the year HCWF worked to publicize and promote the preserve as a community resource. As a result:

The Elizabeth River Project recognized HCWF as a **Model River Star** for implementing green technologies and principles.

Portfolio Weekly issued its first green list featuring Randi Strutton as one of **25 Top Environmental Leaders** in Hampton Roads.

The Virginian Pilot listed Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve as one of **Portsmouth's Top 5 Attractions**.

HCWF established **web links** to CNU and ODU, expanding public access to information gleaned at Hoffler Creek.

Partnerships

HCWF expanded community outreach efforts throughout Hampton Roads. As a result:

Christopher Newport University's Professor Jessica Thompson and her students began the first phase of a research project focused on determining the value of intertidal marsh habitat to small fishes.

Park View Civic League used HCWF's nationally recognized curriculum, **Planting Seeds for a Healthy Watershed**, to teach all the 4th graders at Park View Elementary School about the connection between plants and water quality.

CNU and Master Gardener Water Stewards worked at the creekside lab during **Creek Critter Days** to introduce children and their parents to creatures living in Hoffler Creek.

Hundreds of **community volunteers donated \$40,404.69 worth of in-kind services** to build and maintain facilities at the preserve.

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS & CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2008

RECEIPTS:	
Restricted Grants	125,713.00
Memberships & Donations	25,203.77
Capital Fund & Unrestricted Grants	63,300.00
Fundraising	9,364.17
Other Receipts	9,112.64
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 232,693.58</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:	
Salaries & Wages	71,797.44
Construction & Capital Projects	35,434.48
Other Programmatic	1,669.29
Payroll Taxes	5,691.10
Office Expense	4,102.66
Insurance	4,979.73
Maintenance & Repairs	1,146.06
Newsletters	1,576.99
Other	2,939.45
Training & Travel	1,224.69
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 130,561.89</u>

NET RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS 102,131.69

BEGINNING FUND BALANCES:	
Restricted Grant Fund Balances	81,773.11
General & Capital Fund Balances	66,449.50
	<u>148,222.61</u>

ENDING FUND BALANCES:	
Restricted Grant Fund Balances	191,503.03
General & Capital Fund Balances	58,851.27
	<u>\$ 250,354.30</u>



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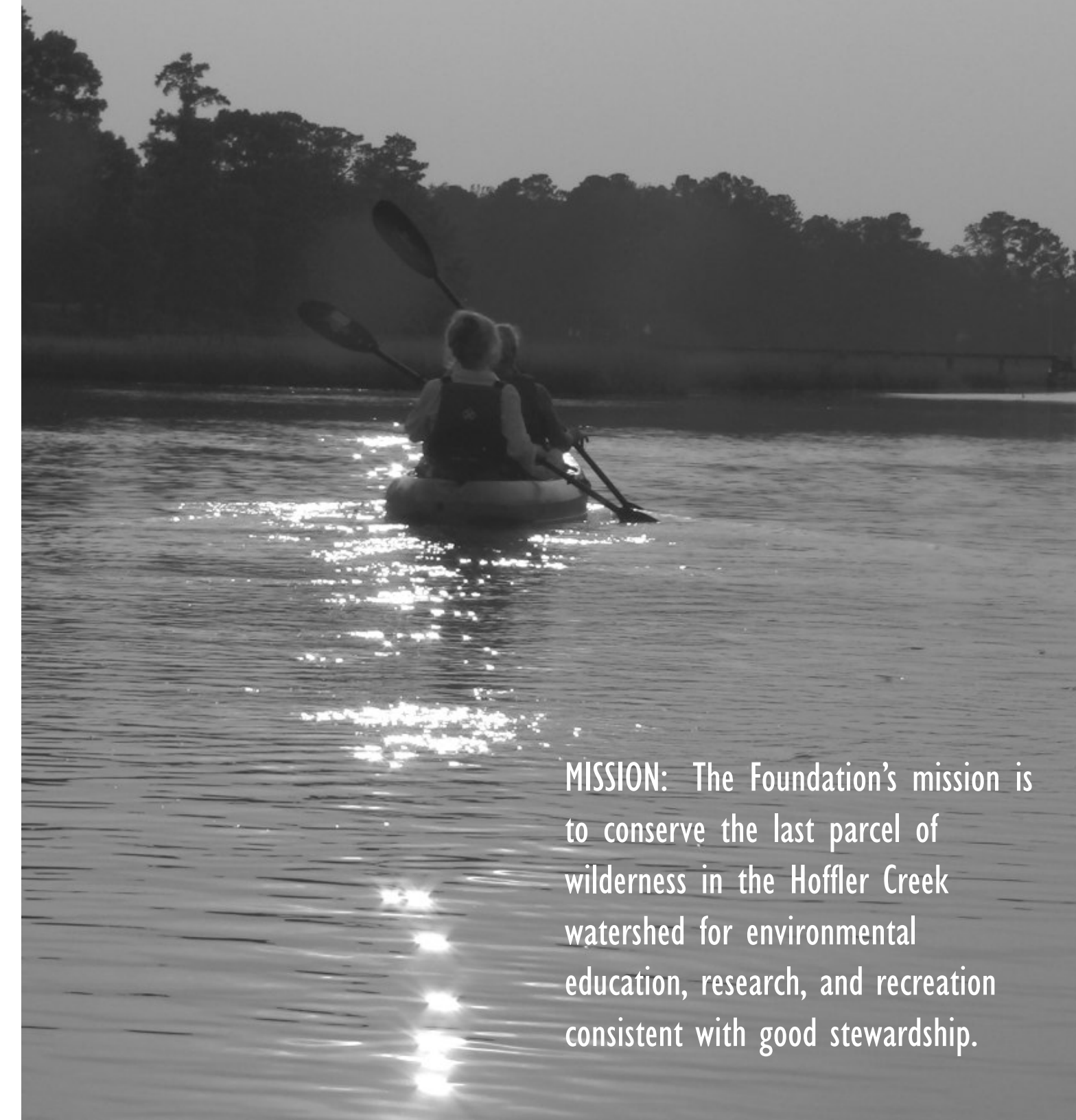
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Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation Annual Report 2007-2008



MISSION: The Foundation's mission is to conserve the last parcel of wilderness in the Hoffler Creek watershed for environmental education, research, and recreation consistent with good stewardship.