

ANNUAL REPORT 2006



GALAPAGOS
CONSERVANCY

Saving one of the world's great treasures

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Conservation happens when wild places have meaning for people.”

National Geographic Channel recently launched an impressive three hour series on Galapagos. It is a stunning and imaginative piece, made with great technical skill and clear affection for this extraordinary ecosystem. We were proud to be a part of this effort and pleased that Galapagos is being introduced to a wide and appreciative audience.

The closing chapters of the series expose the viewer to the mounting issues related to the growing human presence in Galapagos and leave us to contemplate the consequence and responsibility of humans in a wild landscape.

Our partners in Galapagos, the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park Service, are facing this reality daily. How can meaningful conservation take place in a system in which people live, work, and recreate?

The Government of Ecuador—which is ultimately responsible for implementing public policy—has explicitly recognized that Galapagos is at risk and that its natural systems are being overwhelmed by growing resident populations and increasing economic exploitation. Ecuador’s President Correa has called for immediate legislative action and policy reform. Through careful work by a number of institutions working in Galapagos, a roadmap is emerging which will guide conservation efforts into the next century. Central to this work is the acknowledgement that people are now part of the Galapagos ecosystem and that their engaged presence will prove integral to the conservation of the biological systems in Galapagos.

Any steps taken to address these challenges must be based on good science. The Charles Darwin Foundation has led the effort to gain a better scientific understanding of how the Galapagos ecosystems function and how we should approach its conservation. We are working with the CDF to broaden its scientific agenda to address socioeconomic issues and to provide information that is essential to sound policy and planning.

Ultimately, conservation requires “connection.” We protect what we love and we come to love what we understand. Galapagos survives today with 95% of its pre-human biodiversity intact. It has fared well because of international focus, scientific prestige, and a dedicated park service and research station. It has survived because people have come to know Galapagos, they understand it, they care about it, they are passionate about it. Conservation happens when wild places have meaning for people. This connection, which cannot be legislated, parsed, quantified, or even adequately expressed, is one of the most powerful conservation tools we have.

In this annual report are a host of projects which you have funded that tackle these issues head on. We thank you for your advocacy on behalf of Galapagos and your passion for its protection.

Sincerely,

Johannah E. Barry
President
Galapagos Conservancy

The 2006 Galapagos Conservancy Annual Report reviews an ambitious and successful year of work under our new name and corporate identity. Formerly known as the Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc., Galapagos Conservancy changed its name in January 2006 to better reflect its single programmatic focus—Galapagos. In this year of change, Galapagos Conservancy has continued to provide significant economic support to the Charles Darwin Foundation and its Research Station in the Galapagos Islands and to our partners at the Galapagos National Park.

Key areas of support included species inventory and ecosystem restoration, institutional strengthening and governance support, socio-economic research on tourism, population studies of key marine species, and marine patrolling and interdiction. In short, our work continued to target the key conservation priorities established by the scientists and managers in Galapagos, as well as by the public institutions in Galapagos which remain deeply concerned about long term conservation in Galapagos.

The situation in Galapagos is of deep concern to the international community. Dr. Graham Watkins, the Charles Darwin Foundation's Executive Director, writes eloquently of the "rapid economic growth, increasing institutional complexity and frailty, and consequent impacts on biodiversity through invasive species, pollution, and over-harvest." This economic growth, coupled with rising immigration, has outstripped the capacity of management authorities in Galapagos. Threats to Galapagos biodiversity are significant and growing, not only in the terrestrial part of the Galapagos National Park, but also in the Marine Reserve. The likely consequences of this assault on the extraordinary Galapagos ecosystems have caused UNESCO and other international bodies to seriously consider the Galapagos National Park as a World Heritage Site in Danger.

As always, we stand with and support our colleagues in Ecuador in their efforts to find lasting solutions to these human-centered problems. We extend our support and best wishes to President Rafael Correa and his cabinet as they move forward to address the challenges of economic growth and environmental degradation. We will continue to speak with one voice on the importance of ensuring that economic activities in Galapagos are appropriate and sustainable, and of pursuing fundamental, island-specific educational reform. Funding the core scientific work of the Charles Darwin Foundation will remain central to our fundraising and advocacy work.

We are grateful for your critical contributions to preserving this extraordinary place.

Sincerely,



William A. Nitze
Chairman of the Board of Directors

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



GALAPAGOS
CONSERVANCY

Saving one of the world's great treasures





Galapagos Conservancy, formerly Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc., focuses all day, every day, on Galapagos. We are a membership-based organization and the largest source of private support for conservation efforts for the Galapagos Islands. Established in 1986 to create a North American support base for Galapagos, our 11,000 Friends of Galapagos are individuals and institutions who care deeply about the archipelago and understand the importance of preserving this one-of-a-kind ecosystem.

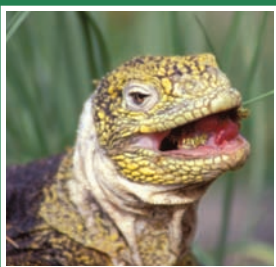
Galapagos Conservancy mobilizes financial and intellectual resources for the lasting protection of the Galapagos Islands through constituency building, education, and fundraising. Our grants support key research for conservation as well as core operations of our conservation partners in Galapagos. Together, we strive to maintain a healthy and sustainable coexistence between people and the endemic wildlife of this extraordinary place.

We seek support primarily from North American sources—the majority of our funding is provided by individual members through various avenues of generosity. Private foundations contribute additional resources. We also partner with travel companies who are committed to protecting Galapagos by educating island visitors about conservation efforts and encouraging them to support the islands' preservation.

Funds raised by Galapagos Conservancy support the important work of the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) and the Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS). Both organizations are based on the island of Santa Cruz in Galapagos and work together to implement the majority of science, research, and conservation projects on the ground in Galapagos. Our grants also play an important role in funding specific projects carried out by other small local organizations in areas such as education, monitoring and control of invasive species, ecological restoration, and conservation management.

Over the years, our members have ensured the success of a number of conservation initiatives, including:

- Project Isabela—the largest and most ambitious ecosystem restoration effort in the world—and other control and eradication programs
- Effective management of the Galapagos Marine Reserve, including monitoring and interdiction efforts of the Galapagos National Park Service
- Establishment of the Galapagos Quarantine and Inspection System, which prevents foreign species from arriving in Galapagos
- Baseline studies and monitoring of native and endemic marine and terrestrial species, including key studies on threatened species
- Gathering critical data on tourism, population growth, and other socio-economic factors to help local and national institutions create and enforce effective management policies



PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN GALAPAGOS: *2006 Achievements at a Glance*

The support of Galapagos Conservancy members and other generous donors resulted in important conservation progress on a number of fronts during 2006. The following are a few highlights of recent accomplishments.

INFORMATION FOR SOUND POLICY AND PLANNING

The Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF), the Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS), the Galapagos National Institute (INGALA) and Galapagos Conservancy have been working to complete the new *Galapagos Report* (see sidebar at right), which will be released during the second half of 2007. The *Report* will be produced each year and will provide information and analyses for political, economic, and social decision making that affects the archipelago.

The goal of this work is to fully understand all factors at play in Galapagos conservation, stretching and better informing what has been a primarily scientific focus to the protection of biological diversity. As an annual mechanism for understanding what Galapagos is, the *Galapagos Report* will also provide hard data on where Galapagos is going.

The 2006–2007 *Galapagos Report* focuses on key features of Galapagos such as energy use, water, the status of flora and fauna, invasive and introduced species, the status of fisheries, the economics of tourism, and local perceptions about institutions. As we move forward, we will focus on a series of issues that will help us answer fundamental questions about decision making, sustainable business development, fiscal policies, and the interconnected nature of social and ecological systems in Galapagos.

COMBATING INVASIVE SPECIES

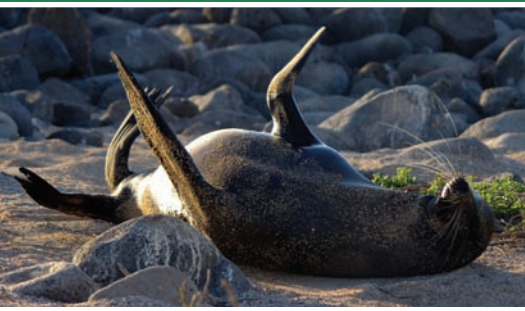
During 2006, the GNPS and the CDF announced an achievement which many experts considered impossible. Project Isabela—the largest island restoration project ever attempted—successfully concluded, having eradicated goats and pigs from Santiago and goats on northern Isabela. These animals, introduced to the islands in the 18th century, had devastated the habitats of giant tortoises, iguanas, ground-nesting rails, and petrels. During the closing months of 2006, the know-how developed on Isabela and Santiago was put to work on Floreana Island, where native populations of plants and birds quickly rebounded with the removal of introduced species. The National Park and the CDF have now set the ambitious goal of completely eliminating goats and other introduced mammals from all of the Galapagos islands within seven years.

To better attack the problem of invasive plant species, the Research Station developed a state-of-the-art risk assessment tool to determine the likely threats posed by different invasive plant species, and a predictive model to compare the costs, benefits, and effectiveness of different eradication methods.

The Galapagos Report

The 2006–2007 *Galapagos Report* begins to draw out the connections between tourism growth, population growth, increasing affluence, training, and education and energy use, invasive species, and overharvest. Understanding these complex relationships is critical for developing policy and implementing changes that result in sustainability and conservation. Some of the main conclusions of the *Report* are:

- 1) During the past 15 years, management efforts in Galapagos have focused on fisheries and finding economic alternatives for fishermen facing overharvests and declining resources. The reality is that fishing is only a minor component (less than 4%) of the overall economy of Galapagos.
- 2) Over the same period, the economic impact of Galapagos tourism has grown at an annual rate of 14% to an estimated \$420 million per year, with only \$60 million of this amount (15%) entering the Galapagos economy. Tourism now represents 65% of the archipelago's economy.
- 3) Through larger ships, more time at sea, and increased land-based activities, tourism continues to grow, despite a freeze on the number of cruise ships. Over the past 15 years, the number of beds on boats has increased by 72%, the number of hotels by 97%, the capacity of hotels by 90%, and the number of boat days on the water by 45%.
- 4) The environmental impact of the rise in the number of residents and visitors in Galapagos is significant. Since 1990, the number of registered introduced species has grown from just over 100 to more than 1,300. 52% of the endemic and native terrestrial species in Galapagos are considered vulnerable, in danger, or in serious danger. 60% of the archipelago's 180 endemic plant species are categorized as under threat.



Continental Airlines has been an important, long-standing conservation partner to Galapagos Conservancy.

Through their generous donation of airfare to and from Ecuador and within the continental United States, Continental Airlines has allowed us to target significant funding directly to conservation priorities in the Galapagos Islands.

The ability of science and conservation staff to travel under these circumstances and to participate in a range of public meetings is critical to our ability to effect long term conservation management and policy.

We are grateful indeed to Continental for their thoughtful and generous assistance.

Researchers have also been working with the Galapagos Quarantine & Inspection System (SICGAL) and public health officials to control *Aedes aegypti*, a mosquito which carries yellow fever and dengue fever, a disease which has been reported in Galapagos. The CDF supervises monitoring of egg traps, supports ongoing public education efforts, and has successfully pushed for more careful examination and fumigation of boats and planes that enter Galapagos.

Working closely with 16 Galapagos-based tour boats, CDF entomologist Lazaro Roque recently completed a study of the effect of ship lights on the dispersal of insects in the archipelago. Boat lights attract insects that can then follow a boat from island to island. A total of 171 insects were collected during the study, a quarter of which are introduced species and more than one half of which are considered a threat to pristine islands, such as Fernandina. The study also determined that simple, inexpensive measures, such as turning lights off for four hours before a ship's departure or using colored lights that are less attractive to insects, can greatly reduce the potential for dispersal.

PROTECTING NATIVE AND ENDEMIC SPECIES

In conjunction with scientists from the Jersey Zoo in the United Kingdom, the CDF began a study on the dramatic decline in populations of the Mangrove Finch. As few as 100 birds remain and they are no longer found in areas where they were once prevalent. This work will help to identify the causes of this decline and determine the potential of rebuilding populations through a captive breeding program.

Studies of sea lion colonies were conducted, with an emphasis on sea lion health and their interaction with the growing number of tourists. The causes of a recently-discovered skin disease and the re-occurrence of a persistent eye infection are being examined.

Research carried out by Dr. David Anderson at Wake Forest University, funded in part by Galapagos Conservancy, has documented a significant decline in Waved Albatross populations in the Galapagos Marine Reserve. The study, published in *Galapagos Research: Volume #64*, contains bycatch data which reveals that significant numbers of birds are being killed by longline fishing being conducted beyond the bounds of the Galapagos Marine Reserve.

STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT OF THE GALAPAGOS MARINE RESERVE

Marine scientists recently completed a synthesis of more than eight years' worth of data on the conditions of sub-tidal areas at 60 sites in the archipelago. The findings will be used for the next round of management planning for the Galapagos Marine Reserve. It is clear that areas that have been designated as no-take zones in recent years are showing a significantly greater abundance and richness of species. In other areas, it appears that the removal of top-end predators, such as lobsters and bacalao, has compromised the recovery process after the strong El Niño of 1997–1998.

Several organizations are working with the CDF to complete a comprehensive species inventory of the last remaining coral reef communities in Galapagos. The study is being accompanied by workshops involving naturalist guides, boat operators, and fishermen to discuss the importance of coral reef systems and ways to ensure their protection. The Research Station is working with the National Park and the tourism industry to establish a network of low-impact moorings at critical visitor sites.

With funding from Galapagos Conservancy and a number of international NGOs, the Galapagos National Park Service was able to complete repairs on the donated patrol boat *Sirenian* and register the boat as part of the GNP fleet for patrolling the Marine Reserve. The boat now operates under the name *Yoshka*.

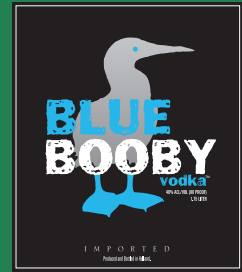
BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY

Core funding from Galapagos Conservancy helped the CDF pursue a range of activities in the area of local capacity building, in collaboration with a number of local and international partners.

Since April 2006, the Colegio Nacional Galapagos Culinary Program has been preparing 30 local students for a career in the hospitality industry. Previously, the tourism industry often relied on workers from the mainland to fill these skilled positions, adding to the rising resident population and inadvertently contributing to the growing unemployment rate in Galapagos. Enrollment keeps increasing, as local students gain competence in cooking, English language skills, food culture, and food presentation. As important, students also learn which local fish can and cannot be sustainably harvested.

Working towards sustainable industries, the fisheries management authority in Galapagos approved an alternative approach to sport fishing, referred to as “experiential fishing” (*Pesca Vivencial*), based on collaboration between CDF, local fishers, guides, the local tourism sector, and the GNP. By gaining experience in managing visitors and generating income from tourism, artisanal fishers can move toward locally-owned and conservation-oriented businesses designed to significantly reduce fishing pressures on the GMR. Ten fishers from San Cristobal have been certified in the first three (OpenWater, Advanced Rescue, and First Aid) of the five courses required to become Dive Masters, a fundamental requirement to participate in dive activities associated with *Pesca Vivencial*. Another ten fishers from the Santa Cruz Island Fishing Cooperative, COPROPAG, began their training in September.

The CDF continues to work with several high schools in Galapagos to integrate environmental education into the curriculum. New learning tools, including textbooks and handouts, have been developed and teachers are being trained in their use. The CDF is also working with local groups on broader educational reform. There is a strong consensus from all quarters that such reform is important, and the challenge is to create the best path to move substantial reform forward. The head of the Colegio Nacional, Maria Lopez, was elected to the CDF General Assembly in 2006, and in 2007, CDF scientists and Galapagos Conservancy staff will be participating in a national conference in Maine on Galapagos as a focus for science education.



Nathan Imports, J&S Distributors, and Galapagos Conservancy have created an unusual partnership in 2006 with the launch of Blue Booby Vodka.

Proceeds from the sale of Blue Booby Vodka will benefit conservation programs in the Galapagos targeting the islands boobies and penguins.

We are delighted to be part of this innovative relationship and are grateful to the producers and consumers of Blue Booby Vodka!



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS

FRIENDS OF GALAPAGOS

Annual Contribution \$25 to \$999

Benefits include:

- ◆ A one-year subscription to our membership newsletter, *Galapagos News*
- ◆ *Galapagos E-News*, our bimonthly email bulletin with updates on Galapagos conservation
- ◆ Invitations to private lectures and other educational events for Galapagos conservation
- ◆ A special gift for members who give \$100 or more

GALAPAGOS AMBASSADORS

Annual Contribution \$1,000 or more

ESPAÑOLA SOCIETY:

\$1,000 to \$4,999

All of the benefits of Friends of Galapagos, plus:

- ◆ Exclusive updates and reports on Galapagos conservation efforts
- ◆ Invitations to special Ambassadors-only events in your region
- ◆ Individual recognition in the Galapagos Conservancy Annual Report

SANTIAGO SOCIETY:

\$5,000 to \$9,999

All of the above benefits, plus:

- ◆ A commemorative Galapagos book signed by the author

FERNANDINA SOCIETY:

\$10,000 to \$24,999

All of the above benefits, plus:

- ◆ Briefings from senior members of the Galapagos Conservancy staff

ISABELA SOCIETY:

\$25,000 or more

All of the above benefits, plus:

- ◆ Personal invitation to the Annual Board of Directors Meeting and Reception

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

In addition to gifts of cash, there are a number of ways individuals can support Galapagos Conservancy and our ongoing conservation efforts:

Gift Memberships

Celebrate a special occasion in the life of a friend or family member through a Galapagos Conservancy gift membership. Purchase one in our website store at www.galapagos.org. Gift Membership recipients receive a one-year Friend of Galapagos membership.

Gifts of Stock

Gifts of appreciated marketable stocks can have an immediate impact on Galapagos conservation while providing an income tax deduction for donors based on the assets' current value.

Estate Planning

There are many mechanisms such as bequests, trusts, and gifts of life insurance or retirement plans, through which donors can have a lasting impact on Galapagos conservation. Call or write legacy@galapagos.org for information about the Galapagos Legacy Society.

Automatic Recurring Contributions

Using a credit card, automatic recurring contributions can now be arranged through www.galapagos.org. We will automatically charge your credit card for the amount and time interval you specify.

Payroll Donations

Many private companies and government agencies also make it possible to support Galapagos conservation through payroll gifts and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) or Earth Share. For more information on these programs, visit www.galapagos.org.

Matching Gifts

Many employers will match contributions to Galapagos Conservancy. Consult with your human resources office to learn if your employer participates in a matching gift program.

Shop AMAZON.COM

When you enter Amazon.com from specific links on our website, a portion of your purchases will be donated to Galapagos Conservancy.



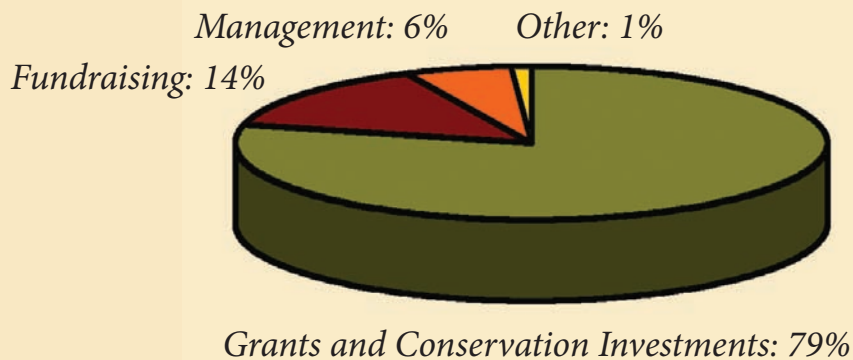


GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2006 (with comparative totals for 2005)

	2006	2005
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT		
Contributions and membership	\$2,598,044	\$2,314,793
Sales	\$18,660	\$8,561
Investment income	\$704,428	\$211,725
Total revenue and support:	\$3,321,132	\$2,535,079
EXPENSES		
<i>Grants:</i>		
Key Species Protection	\$328,256	\$466,150
Grants through Travel Partnerships	\$616,051	\$433,490
Strengthening Local Galapagos Partners	\$128,156	\$15,200
Project Isabela	\$25,000	\$183,155
Galapagos National Park	\$100,000	\$113,000
Marine Policy	\$326,184	\$134,799
Public Policy	\$52,500	—
Restoring Native Ecosystems	\$22,757	\$33,000
Governance	\$100,000	\$82,000
<i>Conservation Investments:</i>		
Darwin Network	—	\$20,290
Allocated Program Costs	\$383,535	\$256,718
<i>Support Services:</i>		
Management and general	\$156,109	\$258,585
Membership development and fundraising	\$357,573	\$319,919
Costs of Goods Sold	\$17,028	\$9,967
Name Change	\$17,126	\$49,636
Total Expenses:	\$2,630,275	\$2,375,709
Change in Net Assets:	\$690,857	\$159,370

GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY FULL-YEAR 2006 EXPENSES



CONTRIBUTORS

We are grateful for the financial support provided by Galapagos Conservancy's 11,000 members whose generosity is at the core of the excellent conservation efforts underway in the archipelago.

We would like to give special recognition to the following Galapagos Ambassadors who provided support of \$1,000 or more during 2006. In addition, we would like to thank the many members who contributed at the Ambassador level, but wish to remain anonymous.

GALAPAGOS AMBASSADORS 2006

Isabela Society: (\$25,000+)

Frances Velay
The Morgan Family Fund

Fernandina Society: (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Anonymous
Maxine Beige
Richard and Colleen Fain
David Ford
James Gallagher
Cleve and Rae Hickman
Henry Kirke Lathrop
Leslie Lenny
John and Adrienne Mars
Forrest and Deborah Mars
Doug and Cindy Miscikowski
William A. Nitze
Frederick and Kathleen Stark
Hans Wachtmeister
The Saladin Family
The Schaffner Family Foundation

Santiago Society: (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Peter and Cynthia Adler
Clifford Burnstein and Sabra Turnbull
David and Judith Craver
Joyce and Larry Dare
Ebrahimi Family Foundation
James and Martha Foght
Ed Frymoyer
Charles Homer
Joseph Messler, Jr.
Gordon and Betty Moore
William Ober
Nan Schaffer
James and Shelley Schallert
Pamela Smith
The Hyde Foundation

Espanola Society: (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Anonymous
The Kenneth and Gabrielle Adelman
Fund
Walter and Irma Allen
Anne and Ramon Alonso
The Amber Foundation
Gayle Anderson
The Address Family Foundation
Edith Andrew
Richard and Nancy Arnoldy
Victor Ashe
Mary Bane
Kim Baptiste
Maurice and Lillian Barbash
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Duncan Brown and Susan Brown
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Ramon and Hazel Cayot
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The Vivian D. DeVries Trust
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Nancy DiMartino and Steve Borghi
Kathryn Donaldson and
Daniel Sherman
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Staffan and Margareta Encrantz
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Ed Franks
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Morton Funger
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Jose Garcia-Ramis and
Julie Ann Garcia
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Richard and Lucretia Georgi
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Ellen B. Godsall
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Liliana Goumnerova
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Ulrich E. and Harriet Meyer
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Stephen and Rebecca Milliken
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Andrew Norris
Jonathan Norris
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Henry Otto and Judy Whaley
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Frances and Sumner Parker
Kay Pauling
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Charles and Shelia Perrin
Heriberto and Frances Petschek
Thomas and Linda Pheasant
Regina Phelps
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Drew Philpott
Elizabeth Pillaert
Rose Polatty
Kornelia Polyak
David and Nancy Posner
Todd and Kate Quaerna
Lynn and Mitchell Ramirez
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Juergen Roennau
 Theodore Rolfs
 Terry and Kathryn Rothermel
 John and Karen Runnels
 The Biff Ruttenberg Foundation
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 Richard and Jill Salwen
 Nelson and Nancy Schaenen
 Kevin Schafer
 Timothy Schaffner
 Contee and Margaret Seely
 Anna and George Shaw
 Larry Shapiro and Heidi Lewis
 Charles Shelby
 The Smith Family
 Hope Smith
 Robert Smith
 Mark Smith and Maxine Harris
 Nevill and Karen Smythe
 Mary Eugenia Snyder and
 Guillaume Georges
 Matt Sommer
 Stephen Speckart and Patricia Forsberg
 Harold and Katherine Spinka
 Gerald and Deana Stempler
 Mary Stewart
 Thomas Steyer and Kathryn Taylor
 Brad Storrs and Vera Meserole
 John and Bonnie Strand
 Leo Strauch
 John and Jennifer Streit
 Jon and Jean Stufflebeem
 Joanna Sturm
 Carolyn and William Stutt
 Doug and Scott Thompson
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 George and Mary Ann Triplett
 Ryohei Tsuchya
 Lee Venolia and John Thompson
 The Porter E & Helen Mae Thompson
 Foundation
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 Henk and Lenita van der Werff
 Peter Van Dyke
 Sarah Vanderslice
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 Mary Chandler Watt
 Morrison and Anne Waud
 Charles and Judy Wheatley
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 Huntington and Vicki Willard
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*How paramount
the future is
to the present
when one
is surrounded
by children.*

— CHARLES DARWIN



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