

# Animals As Intermediaries

Bringing Nature, Animals & the Arts to People

Celebrating  
25 Years

SPRING BULLETIN

SPRING 2008

*ANIMALS AS INTERMEDIARIES is a non-profit organization that brings nature-based programs to people with limited access to the natural world. Founded 25 years ago, Animals As Intermediaries connects individuals with nature's capacity to heal and to teach.*

## Dear Friends,

Spring is here! It was still March when Program Coordinator Kate Crosby spied witch hazel blooming outside her door and excitedly cut branches to bring to children at Boston's Hope and elders at a Natick senior center. Song birds have begun their mating calls and reports of spring peepers inspire us to share, not just the beauty of blooms, the softness of rabbits' fur or the taste of maple sap, but the sounds of spring as well.

This year, Animals As Intermediaries celebrates twenty-five years of bringing nature, animals and the arts to people—a long history. As the season of change emerges, new things are happening at AAI too. Over the next

five years our vision and goals include doubling the number of people impacted by our work, strengthening our presence in our community and beyond, and perhaps most significantly, changing our name. Finding the right name is a process undertaken with great care. We look forward to introducing, later this year, a simpler name that better reflects the work of AAI.

Meanwhile, offering hands-on nature programs that teach and heal remains our central focus. And while serving those most in need—elders, people with disabilities, and youth at risk—we seek

*continued on page 2*

## Volunteers Share Skills and Enthusiasm

At Animals As Intermediaries, volunteers are vital to our mission to bring nature indoors to people in need. Featured below are two long-time volunteers.

Nancy Savage first heard about Animals As Intermediaries when she read an article in *The Boston Globe*, in April 2000. "I didn't have time to volunteer then, but I clipped out the article, put it in a drawer, and said 'someday'. Two years later, I called."

"I love making that connection with people who respond to an object or animal, and they open up and tell stories. Bringing animals and nature to people who don't have access to it is so powerful," she emphasizes. "I'm still amazed how leaves fall, and buds come in." Nancy has helped deliver programs at the Bedford V.A. Hospital, Cambridge Elder Service Plan, and Mass Hospital School. More recently, she has coordinated printing and artistic projects for AAI.

With a B.A. in Human Services, Nancy was formerly a social worker with elders and people with disabilities, in housing projects in Dorchester. A watercolorist who has created botanical illustrations and designed notecards for AAI, Nancy also serves on the board of the New England Society of Botanical Artists. She is a mother of three children, and active in the League of Women Voters and community theater.

AAI Volunteer  
Nancy Savage

Andy Savage



Carol Keane



Children and adults alike delight in close-up views of Great Horned and Snowy Owls, and a hooting lesson. Eyes on Owls Benefit for AAI, Concord MA.

Orlando Claffey, courtesy of The Concord Journal.



*Concentrating on the senses, a student learns about spring bulbs at Walden Street School.*

*Twice each month, AAI delivers programs at Walden Street School, a residential program in Concord, Massachusetts. Walden Street School empowers young women to create growth and lasting changes within themselves.*

### Current Program Sites

Boston's Hope of The Home for Little Wanderers, Dorchester  
 Boston Medical Center's Intensive Residential Treatment Program  
 Cambridge Hospital's Elder Service Plan, Central Square  
 Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, Bedford  
 Katherine Kennedy Senior Center, Natick  
 Massachusetts Hospital School, Canton  
 Minute Man Arc for Human Services, Concord  
 Walden Street School, Concord

### August 2007 – July 2008

#### Board of Directors

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 Sophie Wadsworth,  
*Development and Outreach Director*  
 Jude Aronstein,  
*Program Coordinator*  
 Kate Crosby, *Program Coordinator*  
 Jules Fiske, *Office Assistant*

#### AAI Newsletter

Leslie Hartwell,  
*Graphic Designer*  
 Orlando Claffey,  
 Sue Huszar, Carol Krauss,  
 John Leonardini, Andy  
 Savage, Bryan Windmiller  
*Photographers*

Printed on recycled paper

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### Dear Friends . . . continued from page 1

to share and explore the natural world with all. In February, AAI sponsored Eyes on Owls, a presentation by naturalists Marcia and Mark Wilson featuring seven live owls. The event drew a standing room only crowd to the Alcott School, and was met with great enthusiasm. This May, Animals As Intermediaries and Bryan Windmiller will lead an exploration of Concord's Great Meadows (see page 4.) We anticipate offering many more opportunities for you to join us in learning about the natural world and experiencing the rejuvenation it can bring.

I hope to see you at future explorations and assure you — our friends and supporters — that no matter what our new name will be, we will continue to embrace and honor the words of founder Sarah Seabury Ward, "We may regard plants as teachers; rocks, rivers, clouds as messengers; and animals as intermediaries."

Sincerely,

Janey Tallarida, *Executive Director*

### Volunteers . . . continued from page 1

"When people ask me about volunteering at Animals As Intermediaries, I tell them there's no other place like this. I get back as much as I give, and I love knowing all the staff. I'm going to keep doing it . . . forever."

"The thing I love about working with kids is hearing their questions, and seeing the interest in their faces," says Heidi Caro, who has volunteered for AAI for seven years. ". . . You get to know the kids and see that they look forward to your coming; they'll ask right away: 'What did you bring today?'" Twice a month, Heidi helps to bring nature programs to foster children at Boston's Hope, of The Home for Little Wanderers in Dorchester. Many of these children have had little exposure to nature. "What makes the Boston's Hope program special is that it's an inner city environment. We'll bring in snow and they'll make a snowball in their hand: they are impressed that they're allowed to hold and manipulate the materials, given permission to explore them," Heidi explains.

Learning about the seasons through hands-on exploration, these children develop confidence in themselves and learn about the environment. In a recent program focused on protective layers, Heidi showed the children plants and animals' modes of self protection: a tree trunk cross section has tough outer bark, a live tortoise stays safe under its hard shell, and Jet, one of AAI's therapy dogs, has a layer of fur to protect her.

Having trained in Occupational Therapy at McGill University, Heidi has worked with developmentally delayed children, and children with autism. "I have always had an interest in animals. For the past 5 years, I've fostered two chinchillas, "Venus" and "Mars". I never knew what one was until I joined AAI!" "Volunteering here enriches my life: we're all working together and interested in [therapeutic and educational] issues. Everyone can contribute their skills—and there's continued excitement from both kids and administrators at the sites."





*Studying a beaver chewed branch at Walden Street School (Concord, MA) where AAI blends therapy with science.*



*Winter survival up close: Walden Street School students study rabbit, snow, and antlers.*

Susan Huszar

Susan Huszar

**Thanks and Appreciation to our most recent Grantors:**

Harpley Foundation  
 Massachusetts Cultural Council  
 Red Acre Foundation  
 Robbins-de Beaumont Foundation  
 The Sudbury Foundation

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 Mireille Nicolson, graphic design  
 Martha Rounds, writing  
 Pete Slonka, computer support  
 Codman Farm, Littleton Farm, Gaining Ground, program animals and natural materials  
 The Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts

**Volunteers 2008**

Heidi Caro, programs and animal care  
 Joanie Caruso, programs and events  
 Marcia Chertok, events and animal care  
 Dee Clark, research  
 Dyan deNapoli, programs  
 Michele DuBois, programs  
 Lisa Dubois, programs  
 Susan Fraser, administrative support  
 Stephanie Finegan, graphic design  
 Kathy Glasberg, programs  
 Amy Harlow, events and outreach  
 Lee Ann Horner, administrative support

Christina Huggins, administrative support  
 Margo and Iris Kimball, animal care  
 Joan Kimball, administrative support  
 Laura Laughlin, programs and events  
 Sara Lefsyk, programs  
 Jane Lothian, administrative support  
 Janet Lovejoy, programs  
 Bob Lotz, photography  
 Mike Maynard, research  
 Monday Night Band, music  
 Bruce Morgan, events  
 Luisa Nazzaro, events  
 Jane Olson, administrative support  
 Guy Paquin, events  
 Justin Paquin, events  
 Max Payne, artistic support  
 Deedee Perkins, publicity  
 Rebecca Pike, administrative support  
 Nancy Savage, events and artistic projects  
 Jack Scotnicki, programs  
 Andrea White, programs  
 Martha Wood, programs and events

**Our Appreciation to Supporters of the Janis Ian Benefit**

Cambridge Trust Company  
 Concord Cheese Shop  
 The Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts

**To our Many Generous Individual Supporters and To our Devoted Volunteers . . . Thank you!**



massculturalcouncil.org

*We have made every effort to be accurate and complete. Please accept our apologies and call us with corrections at (978) 369-2585.*

*Yes, I can help bring nature, animals and the arts to people!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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- \$75     \$150     \$300  
 \$500     \$1,000     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to help AAI by:**

- Volunteering  
 Applying for a Matching Gift from my employer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your donation to:**

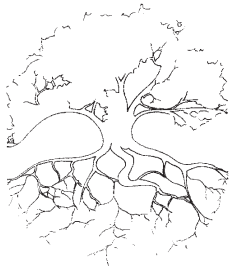


Animals As Intermediaries  
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*Animals As Intermediaries, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.*

**Wish List**

- High quality color /b&w Photocopier (please call for details)
- High quality business phone, with speaker and hold button
- DVD Projector & Screen (please call for details)
- Table lamp with shade
- Flat sheets, dark green or brown



## *Animals As Intermediaries*

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US Postage Paid  
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Bryan Windmiller

*Hatchling wood turtles*

### **Turtle Walk with Bryan Windmiller**

**Saturday, May 10, 10:30 am-12:00 noon  
Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge  
Concord MA**

Explore with AAI and Bryan Windmiller as we look for live turtles and enjoy the fascinating nature of Great Meadows!

A professional wildlife ecologist since 1987, Bryan Windmiller's research interests include the impacts of residential construction on vernal pool amphibians, and the conservation of Blanding's turtles. Walk is free.

Meet at Great Meadows, end of Monsen Rd.  
off Rte. 62.

## *Calendar*

### **Janis Ian in Concert to Benefit Animals As Intermediaries**

**Saturday May 17, 2008**

**8:00 pm concert / 7:00 pm reception  
Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts  
40 Stow Street, Concord MA**

Witness one of the great singer/songwriters of the past 35 years. Reviewers have called Janis's live performances "overwhelming to the spirit and soul", and "drenched with such passion, the audience feels they've been swept up in a hurricane." Tickets: \$30 General Admission / \$100 Premium seats & Artist Reception.

### ***Bring Me The Ocean* Art Exhibit**

**Month of June**

**Opening Reception, Monday, June 2, 5:00-7:00 pm  
Gallery at Concord Free Public Library  
129 Main Street, Concord MA**

Animals As Intermediaries is honored to bring together the work of sculptor Sarah Ward and photographer Alan Ward, whose nature-inspired art complements each other, and the photography of Susan Huszar who has faithfully chronicled our work for over a decade.

### **Friends & Neighbors Night: AAI Annual Meeting**

**Thursday June 26, 6:00-7:30 pm  
Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts  
40 Stow Street, Concord MA**

A great opportunity to learn about our nature programs, meet our staff, volunteers and board, and get to know friends & neighbors.