

Response to our December membership letter has been great and almost half of our members have already submitted their 2015 donations. Remember that our membership year is now the calendar year, rather than starting in May.

At our January meeting, Treasurer Hilaire Thomas presented our proposed 2015 budget. The budget is a conservative one with slight increases in a few areas. 2014 was a very successful year that saw us almost \$15,000 in the black. This gives us a head start on any potential land acquisition fundraising for the new year, as well as money for land stewardship.

The board is beginning work on events for 2015. We will take part in the Community Center's Village University in the spring and plan to hold another cairns walk at Wolfrun Natural Area. We are also creating a new brochure to showcase our work.

The survey work on the Gateway boundary has been completed and we expect to finish marking the lines in the spring. In other land stewardship news, a Wingate resident has created a one-mile cross-country ski loop at Kikas Valley Farm. The trail is named 1% but that doesn't mean it's only for the elite. Rather, the trail markings are blue bottle caps from 1% milk.