



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Jill Bauer

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Prepared by

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Executive Director

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# Letter from the Executive Director



## Amber Lea Kincaid

Executive Director

Dear Friends,  
Another successful year has come and gone for the Wildlife Research Alliance. In 2025, we launched our education program, providing sea turtle conservation classes to over 200 students in New England. We also helped provide living wages for interns with the Cedar Key Dolphin Project. We surpassed last year's income and had our second successful wildlife photography contest and silent auction fundraiser. I presented research

on unpaid internships at the Animal Behavior Society annual meeting in Baltimore, which was well received and sparked several important conversations.

This year also brought big challenges, namely with a massive reduction in funding opportunities by the federal government. It has been a scary time for science, with many international researchers feeling unsure about their place and safety in the U.S. It is easy to get lost in despair, and I'd be lying if I said I hadn't done my fair share of doomscrolling, wondering if our work will be possible in the future. I serve on the board of the Animal Behavior Society's Conservation Committee, and every time we meet to discuss new research or grant funding, I am reminded that there are good, smart, committed people all over the world who are working tirelessly to safeguard our planet and its inhabitants. Community is key to overcoming the challenges we face, and I want to thank you all for being part of this community. Each time you donate, read our newsletter, or like an instagram post, you help keep us going. Thank you for supporting us, and here's to a great 2026!

Sincerely,

Amber Lea Kincaid

Founder and Executive Director

# Company Overview



William Buchheit

## Mission

Our mission is to advance the field of conservation behavior and guide it to an equitable and diverse future by conducting innovative research in a variety of species and ecosystems while providing fully funded internship opportunities to individuals from underrepresented minorities and communities.

## Vision

By 2028, the Wildlife Research Alliance will be a leader in conservation behavior research facilitation. We will have paved the way for equitable internship opportunities in animal science, with a proven record of fully funded interns from a variety of backgrounds. We will demonstrate that a fair and diverse future for science is possible.

# Fundraising

We held our second annual wildlife photography contest and silent auction fundraiser from September 22 - November 1. This year's event was even more successful than last year's with 239 photo submissions and 18 silent auction items being sold! We raised \$3,682 from the fundraiser, including sales of our 2026 wall calendar.

We also received \$2,737.04 in individual donations, far surpassing last year's total of \$984.82.



Winning photos from the  
2025 Wildlife Photography Contest

Top left: Bearfoot in the Snow by  
Shelby Hamblin (Professional)

Top right: Brown Pelican by  
Tony Britton (Amateur)

Bottom: Ruby Throated  
Hummingbird in Flight by Ivan L.  
(Youth)



	2025	2024
→ Entries	239	182
→ Auction Items	18	10
→ Total Raised	\$3,682	\$2,057

# Fundraising

The photography contest was sponsored again this year by Tekscope, a managed IT services provider in New York. Their sponsorship helped us provide prize money and buy advertising on Facebook. We are grateful for their sponsorship and belief in our mission.



The top 12 photos were featured in our 2026 wall calendar, which was given to each photographer featured, as well as some volunteers, and it is for sale on our website.



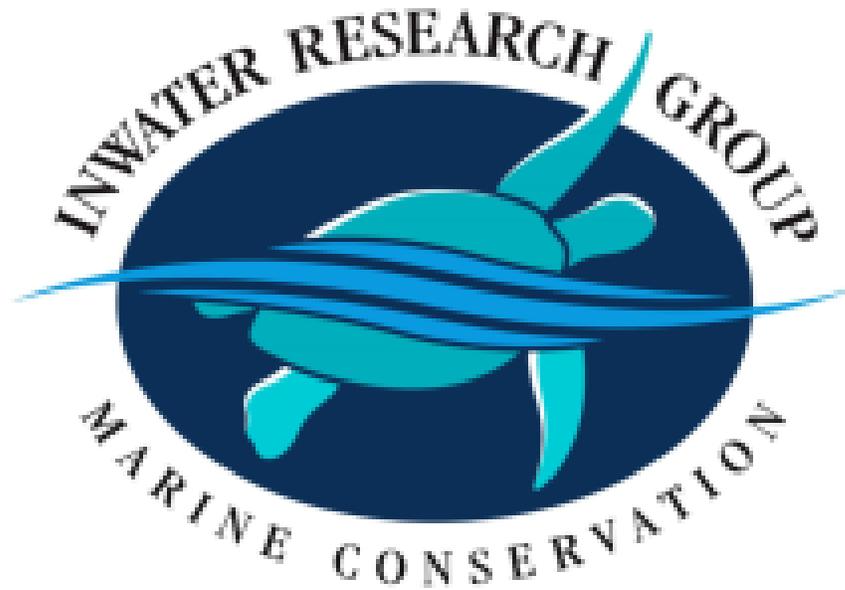
# Grants

We continued to utilize the Google Ad Grant, which gives up to \$10,000 per month in free advertising to eligible non-profits. We utilized \$13,699.55 worth of ads, and we will continue to maximize this grant in the coming year. We also received a grant from the K.M. Shimano Family Foundation to fund 12 sea turtle education programs.



The Google Ad Grants logo, featuring the word "Google" in its multi-colored font followed by "Ad Grants" in a dark grey font.

# Featured Partner: Inwater Research Group



This year, with the help of our donors, we purchased a Turtles To Go Trunk from Inwater Research Group (IRG). IRG researches sea turtles and provides conservation education programs and resources around the world. The Turtles To Go Trunk provides materials and lesson plans for K-12 sea turtle conservation education, which we provide free of charge to New England schools. This year, we conducted six programs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine, reaching over 200 students!



Turtles To Go Trunk program at Peak's Island Elementary School in Portland, ME



A student with a leatherback sea turtle skull replica at the Turtles To Go Trunk program in Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, CT

# Financial Statements

## 2025 ACTIVITIES STATEMENT

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 28,535.74</b>
Grants and contracts	\$20,034.55
Gifts	\$3,469.04
Fundraising	\$4,993.02
Interest Paid	\$39.13
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 26,830.58</b>
Supplies	\$ 2,703.44
Services	\$ 1,657.90
Fundraising	\$ 16,085.01
Merchandise	\$ 1,270.33
Intern Support	\$1,000.00
Membership Fees	\$ 85.00
Travel	\$ 1,675.40
Conference Registration	\$ 505.00
Executive Director Stipend	\$1,847.00
Bank Charges and Fees	\$ 1.50

### Assets

**\$7,439.78**



### Liabilities

**\$0**



# Future Outlook

## 2026 Goals:

- Conduct research on sea turtle sightings in the Long Island Sound via social media posts
- Conduct 12 Turtles To Go programs at New England schools
- Present research at the Animal Behavior Society annual meeting
- Secure 1-3 new board members
- Continue to expand the wildlife photography contest fundraiser, including gaining sponsorship to compensate judges and host website
- Continue to raise capital and apply for grants to fund program and operational costs



Amber Lea Kincaid presenting at the 2025 Animal Behavior Society annual meeting

# Contact Us

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*Cathy Boedtke*

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