



Autrey Mill

Explore | Appreciate | Preserve

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Our mission is to create a destination and educational resource
to inspire exploration, appreciation, and preservation
of the natural environment and local history.

A Message from the Autrey Mill Board of Directors



A message from the Autrey Mill Board of Directors...

What a great year 2018 has been! We are extremely grateful to our partners at the City of Johns Creek for the completion of the Farm Museum renovations. Having a secure building to house and display our collection given to us by the “Old Timers” is a true realization of a long-time dream. We know visitors of all ages will learn from the new displays as our staff, docents, and volunteers continue to work to research and improve the exhibit space.

The year 2018 marked another big milestone being the first time the Mill employed three full-time employees all year. This increase in staff allowed us to better serve the community of Johns Creek with new programs, offering more times the historic buildings are open to explore, improvements to the displays in the Visitor Center, and expand the Animal Ambassador collection. Indeed, 2019 looks very bright at the Mill as we continue the work to support the community in our ability to provide more ways for visitors to Explore, Appreciate, and Preserve.

2018 - 2019 Board of Directors

Pam Sutton - President

Jackie Bass - Vice President

Jason Sutton - Treasurer

Karen Daniel - Secretary

Kathy Reed

Chris Weber

John Herring

Mary Jo Malowney

Lara Maltby

Deisha Oliver-Millar

Janis Hill (emeritus)

Michelle Sienkiewicz

(emeritus)

Judy Webb (emeritus)

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History and Mission

The Autrey Mill Nature Preserve and Heritage Center of today was built under the leadership and vision of the board, its talented staff, and local government officials. Identified as a future nature preserve by Fulton County in 1972 but not purchased, advocates stepped up when zoning threatened the property in 1987. This grassroots effort saved the woodland's unique environment and the site of the old "Autrey" grist mill. It also prevented demolition of the historic buildings on the property. The vital help of generous public and private supporters and the indispensable work of volunteers were key to the organization's success. The group established a tax deductible 501(c)3 nonprofit association and signed their first lease to operate in September 1988.

The Autrey Mill Nature Preserve Association is a nonprofit (501)(c)(3) organization that operates the preserve, historic buildings, and provides all the environmental, heritage and event programming offered to the public.

Upon the incorporation of the City of Johns Creek in 2006, Autrey Mill officially became a city park and preserve. This created a unique partnership that supports the roles of the Autrey Mill Nature Preserve Association, Inc., in development, fundraising, and provide all of the programming, protecting the natural environment, and preserving the history of the area. We anticipate the Johns Creek Parks Bond Referendums help in continuing the improvement of the facilities and contribute to enriching the visitor experience.



Staff



Staff:

Mary Winder - Executive Director
Lauren McDaniel- Operations Manager
Judy Webb- Office Assistant
Alison Kane- Heritage Instructor
Lauren Ackermann- Program Instructor

2018 Executive Director

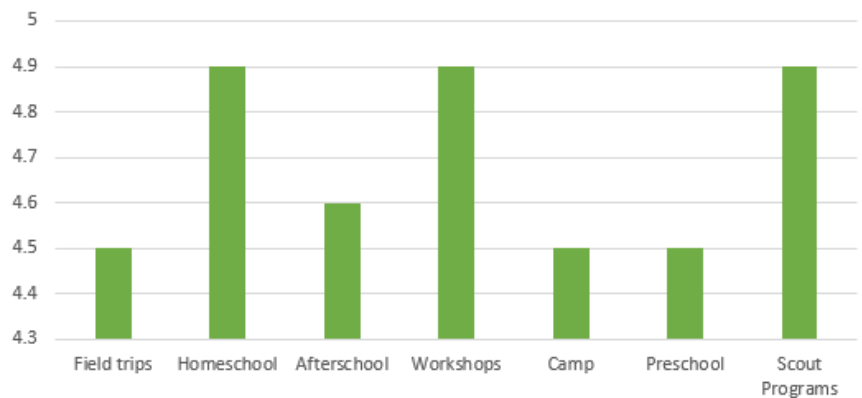
This year, Autrey Mill has promoted one of our own to Executive Director. Mary Tulula Winder has been with Autrey Mill since 2014 as the Education and Program Director.

Mary earned her Masters in the Art of Teaching at Jackson State University with an emphasis in Special Education. She has a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts from Memphis College of Art with an emphasis in Sculpture and minor in Art History. She is a certified teacher for Special Needs K-12 and Art K-12. She has served on the Board of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia as the Web and Database Chair since 2016.

Her love of the outdoors was fostered in her home state of Mississippi, where she spent most of the summers in a creek or river. Prior to moving to Georgia, Mary was a Conservation Educator for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. She has taught Scout Programs, field trips, Hunter's Education, Archery Instruction, and more. In her spare time, Mary enjoys reading, kayaking, and crafting.

Here at Autrey Mill, Mary has oversight of all operations. She teaches most of the programs, hosts most events, hires and trains new staff (camp counselors included), serves as liaison with the City of Johns Creek, creates marketing material, collaborates with the Board of Directors, manages Autrey Mill financials, and works to build community partnerships.

Program Surveys



Program participants rated us on a scale of 0-5. A rating of 5 represents the best experience possible.

Community Offerings

Cost-free Recreational Area

- Free public access to the grounds is available every day from 8am to dusk
- Over 3 miles of trails with bridges, boardwalks, benches, pavilions, and vantage points habitats and historic sites

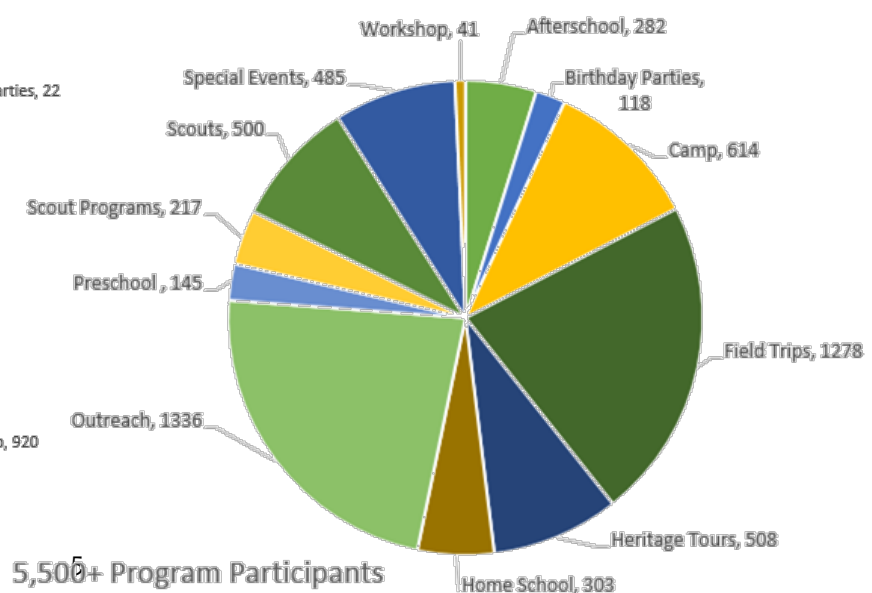
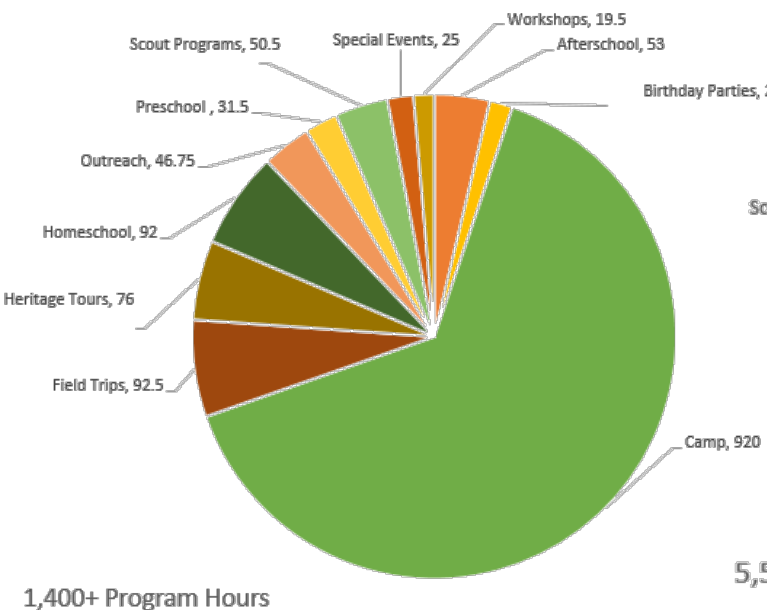
Educational and Recreational Programming

- Adopt a Stream workshops for adults
- Classes for children (includes homeschool classes, Scout badge activities, preschool activities)
- Field Trip destination
- Summer and holiday camps
- Tours of historic buildings
- Guided nature hikes
- Outreach programming (offered off-site to area festivals, schools, libraries, and community groups)
- Annual events (Spooky Mill, Scout Day, Wild Weekend)



Visitor Center and Natural History Museum

- Exhibits of live fish, amphibians, and reptiles native to Georgia, and an African tortoise
- Ducks, rabbits, and chickens in fenced pond areas
- Displays and dioramas of woodland animals, bones and skins
- Living lab for hands-on inspection of nature made possible by the generous donation from the Johns Creek Foundation
- Lending Library of nature-themed children's literature



Heritage Center

- Eight renovated historic buildings from the late 1800s and early 1900s, five of which were relocated from construction sites in Johns Creek
- Exhibits inside and outside the landmark buildings
- Three Heritage Gardens: vegetable, flower, and butterfly. Thanks to the Fulton County Master Gardeners for their continued help and support
- On-going oral history project and research into the inhabitants of this land during the past 400 years

Event Rental Facility

- 1,100+ attendees at over 20 rental events in 2018
- Facilities: Georgian Cottage style 1800s farmhouse, Mid-1800s church, Large pole barn, and Amphitheater

Farm Museum Renovation

In 2016 the Autrey Mill Nature Preserve Association requested that the City of Johns Creek take on some repairs and renovations to the Farm Museum. The building was constructed in the 1960s as a garage for the DeBray family. Prior to renovation, the condition of the structure and interior air quality was poor, largely due to excessive moisture and associated rot. While the building was used to house our agricultural collection, we were unable to bring people into the building due to the deteriorated condition.

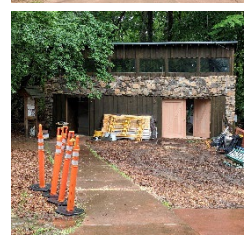
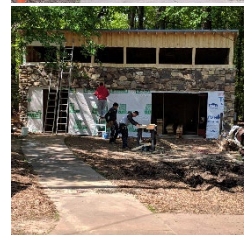
The project funding was approved in 2017, and following a design phase spearheaded by board member Jaqueline Bass, while the City of Johns Creek hired Peachtree Construction Services in Spring of 2018 to complete the project. They demolished, raised, and replaced the roof, as well as installed new wood framing, interior finishes, fixtures, lighting, windows, and doors. The exterior stone was cleaned and repaired, and the existing flooring was painted. They also installed new electrical and mechanical systems.

The Johns Creek Foundation provided a grant to develop interpretive panels for the museum, and Sawnee Foundation donated funds from Operation Roundup for a display case to exhibit the more delicate objects. Autrey Mill staff, board, and volunteers are currently working diligently to complete the interpretive displays for the museum. Autrey Mill staff and board are so grateful to everyone who helped make the Farm Museum building renovation a reality in 2018.

Smoke House Addition

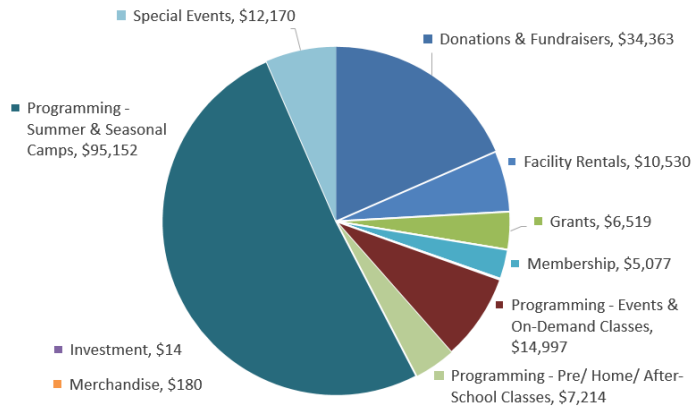
In late 2018, the City of Johns Creek moved the Taylor Farm smokehouse from the historic farm property to the Heritage Village. The building was rehabilitated and dedicated on February 5, 2019.

Located in Johns Creek, the Taylor Farm property, historically known as the Bell/Taylor homestead, was given as a wedding gift from Great-Grandfather Bell to Albert Matthew Bell and Sara Frances Bell. The newly married Bells moved into the farm's one-room "cotton house," which was once used to store picked cotton until it was ready for ginning elsewhere on the property. Over the years, the Bells and their descendants added onto the house and surrounding property. In the early 1900s, they had a small, wooden smokehouse built near the main house. In 1952, the main house was renovated and the smokehouse was relocated to the farm pasture for use as a storage shed. It is possible that the interior floor, still in existence, was installed at that time. The building remained in the pasture until its relocation to the Autrey Mill property.

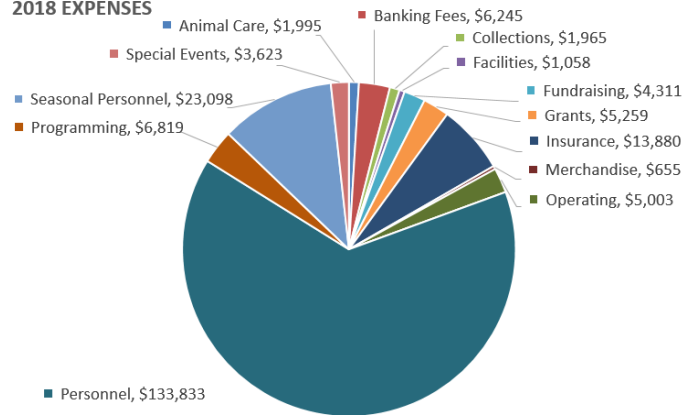


Financial Overview

2018 REVENUE

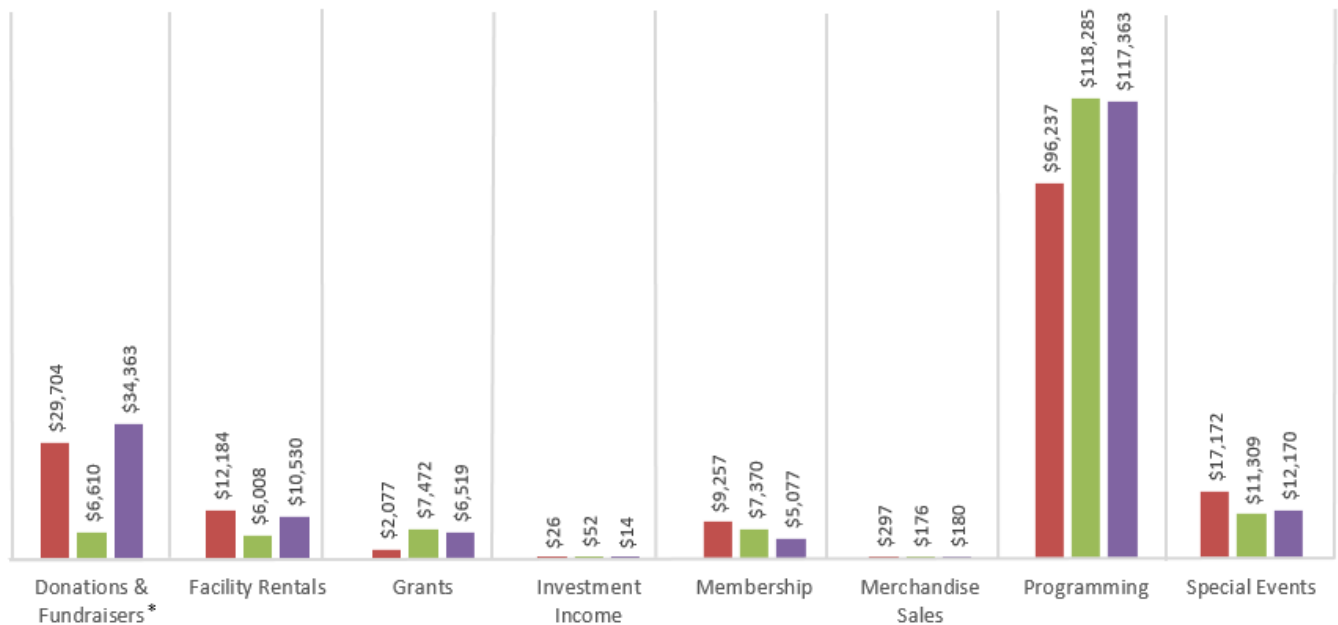


2018 EXPENSES



3-YEAR REVENUE HISTORY

2016 2017 2018



Financial Supporters

\$750 and above



HONDA

- Christine Burns
- Endres Family

- Karen Daniel
- Lynne Riley

- North Fulton Master Gardeners

- Sutton Family

\$250 - \$749



- Christopher Weber
- Coughlin Family
- Fred And Irma Fernandez

- Jacquelin Gillis
- Joan Compton
- Mary Malowney

- Nancy Bivins
- Robert Webster
- Steve Broadbent

\$100 - \$249



- Aditya Prabhakar Photography
- Alison Kane
- Annette Hendrickson
- Brian Takes Photos
- Cindi Fortmann Photography
- Don Schoenl
- Earthfair
- Elaina Palincsar
- Emily Finn

- Essential Oils
- Hugh Kerr
- Jacqueline R Bass
- Judy Bergman
- Just Bartee Photography
- Kevin Isom
- Maltby Family
- Lisa Dolny Photography
- Lori Kessler

- Mary Winder
- Niamh Hannon
- Party Tree Photography
- Pikes
- Richard Murray
- Robert Black
- Pack 199
- YMSL North Fulton
- Zhengxuan Feng

\$99 and below

Alexander Kerr
Alisa Polli
Allison Kappler
Ana Shepard
Anusha Naidoo
Ashley Mobley
Barbara Gries
Ben Bierbaum
Beth Glavosek
Beth Rausch
Beth White
Catherine Beneat
Catherine S. Long
Catherine Sinotte
Chris Rooker
Christin Deloach
Christina Tracy
Christy Loop
Cynthia Clark
Claudette Clapper
Courtne Dieteren
Dana Hostetler

Darnita Johnson Laborde
Demetra Gore
Denise Rivkin
Dreams To Kings And Queens
Erica Murray
Gemma Matrille
George Sayers
Hadar Hazay
Janis Hill
Janna De Bruijne
Jennifer Andrews
Jennifer Chancy
Jennifer Chapman
Jennifer R Worrel
John Carol Herring
Judy Webb
Julie Barrett
Julie Johnson
June E Price
Karen Tostenson
Karen Wilson

Katherine Melioris
Katherine Olsen
Kathy Greco
Katrina Ragusa
Kavita Purushothaman
Kelley Hundt
Kim Macconnell
Kimberly Barr
Kimberly L Novak
Kimberly Woods
Kirk Franz
Kristen Yarbou
Lenny Zaprowski
Leslie Ludlow
Lieselotte P Cuya
Lindsay Wilson
Liron Ohana
Liz Paulk
Lori Fleischer
Louise Winder
Lyn Mardant
Mackenzie Rae Keintz

Mary Beth Bierbaum
Matthew Bowman
Megan Barrow
Meredith Greene
Michael Leonard
Micheal Barnhill
Mingjie Wang
Monica Gerhardstein
Mylinda Mitchell
Greenwell
Na Li
Nancy Wolfson
Naomi Akita
Nomi Shmerling
Patricia Kush
Peter Stefanovits
Rai M Meenakshi
Raina Rafla
Renee Jansen Van Rensburg
Reva Kumari
Ricardo Hleap

Robin Estrada
Ruth Longstreth
Ryan Hicks
Sarah Zidaru
Shailaja Mahagaonkar
Sher Ghouchani
Simone P Mendez
Sonya Mcmichael
Soon Jung
Soumya Dunworth
Srividya Narayanan
Stephanie Stewart
Susan Brogden
Teresa M Kelly
Tim Weaver
Valerie Blaisdell
Vanessa Goggans
Victoria Stahl
Virginia Mallard
Wade Chandler
Wendy Coletti
Ying Xiong

All levels above include monetary support plus value of in-kind tangible donations

Community Supporters



The following companies and organizations deserve special recognition for the donation of their volunteer time:

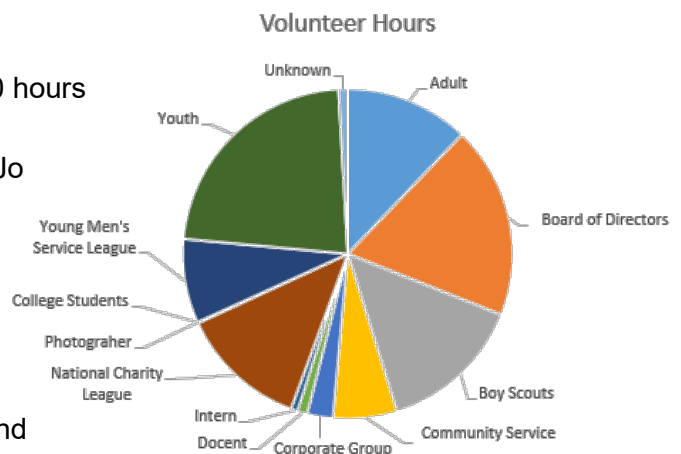
- Alcon
- Beta Club
- Boy Scouts of America
- Capital One
- Calvert High School
- Centennial High School
- Chattahoochee High School
- Girl Scouts of America
- Grubby Farms
- Holy Innocents Episcopal School
- Honda
- InnoVant
- Jacqueline Bass Preservation, LLC
- Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
- Johns Creek High School
- LDS Missionaries
- LexisNexis Risk Solutions
- LG Electronics
- National Charity League
- North View High School Beta
- New Directions
- Riverwatch Middle School
- Verizon
- Wilson and Reed Academy
- Young Men's Service League

Ongoing Partnerships

- The City of Johns Creek
- Johns Creek Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Johns Creek Chamber of Commerce
- Arts Alliance of Johns Creek
- Boy Scouts of America
- Johns Creek Historical Society
- North Fulton Master Gardeners
- Fulton County Schools
- Heritage Sandy Springs
- Keep North Fulton Beautiful

Community Engagement through Volunteerism

- 10,603.9 Total Volunteer Service Hours in 2018
- 25 Scout Service projects completed, contributing 3000 hours in 2018
- Our Heritage Docents: Janice Millner- Lock, and Mary Jo Malowney contributed over 100 hours in 2018
- Fulton County Master Gardener's- Linda Beanblossom and Dianne Short lead a team of dedicated volunteers who tirelessly care for the beautiful Summerour Garden.
- So many volunteers work together to keep Autrey Mill what it is. We are lucky enough to have some year-round weekly volunteers like Bill Yacola who have not only given their time over and over again but do so with a smile every week. Other special volunteers include Abdur-Rahman Khwaja and Tim Weaver. Both spirited individuals who donate substantial time to us.
- Organizations that have been our guardian angels include NCL and YMSL. Their support has been truly priceless to us. We appreciate all the great leaders in those organizations, including Megan Ross, Jill Coco, Tracie Morse, Annette Hendrickson, and Kristin Weger.



A squirrel is perched on a wooden bird feeder, eating from it. The feeder is hanging from a tree branch. The background is a soft-focus green forest. The text is overlaid on the image.

Testimonials from a Few of our Visitors

Mary is AMAZING! This is my second time bringing a troop for a Girl Scout experience at Autrey Mill and the girls truly come away from the experience prepared to take on significant environmental issues for their Silver Award. Thank you Mary!

Thanks for a great end of the year!

Great place to take the family and get out doors and see nature. Plenty to do here and spend a few hours.

Autrey Mill is a gorgeous, quiet place to hike. It had amazing views and there is even a place where they have rabbits, chickens, and ducks near the visitor's center to look at.

Uniquely special place for several reasons; the ecological value and rare plants, the accessibility of their farm and other animals (including a tortoise, turtles, and chickens), hiking trails, and preserved beautiful rustic old buildings.

Lauren at the Center is so helpful, informative, and very friendly! Since we happened to be by at feeding time, we got to feed some of the turtles and even held one! The trails are nice and well maintained; the lookout we went to is lovely and secluded. Such a treasure. We look forward to returning!

Thank you for offering this place to the public. Came with another mom and our six kids- all four and under. Everyone had a great time and the staff was friendly, informative and helpful.