

# Savory Center *Annual Report*

## 2002 Accomplishments

The year 2002 was a dynamic one for the Savory Center. To make the most of the opportunities at hand, we focused intensively on developing our Training Programs and Implementation Projects both in the U.S. and in Africa and enhancing our organization's development capacity.

### Education & Training Programs

Thanks to a grant from the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture, Research, and Education (SARE) program, we had a very full North Central Certified Educator Training Program in 2002. Our Ranch and Rangeland Manager Training Program also ran for its second year offering land managers in-depth training and hands-on experience at exceptional ranching locations. To strengthen our international training programs, we were pleased to add Dr. Constance Neely to our staff as International Training Programs Director. She will assist with our Certified Educator Training Programs in Africa, Mexico and elsewhere and with planning and growth for the Dimbangombe College of Wildlife, Agriculture, and Conservation Management at the Africa Training Centre.

### U.S. Implementation Projects

Our U.S. Implementation Projects focused on our two new learning sites: The La Semilla Cooperative Field Station in Albuquerque, New Mexico and The David West Station for Holistic Management near Ozona, Texas. In December, 2002, we signed a 75-year lease with the New Mexico State Land Office for 1,667 acres on the edge of the city. The Savory Center will manage and restore the land while developing a Cooperative Field Station for agricultural education, research and hands-on experience in range rehabilitation, ranching, dry land farming, native tree/grass/vegetation cultivation, wildlife habitat enhancement, and sustainable building/living practices. We look forward to building a state of the art "green building" to serve as both an educational center and as our new international headquarters on this property.

We have also increased our activities at the David West Station for Holistic Management in Texas. While awaiting final distribution of the estate, the Savory Center has been retained to manage the ranch, to initiate educational programs for the local community, and to collaborate with researchers who wish to conduct studies on the property. We have begun substantial improvements to the ranch's infrastructure and building with the services of Peggy Maddox as Director of Public Relations and Education and Joe Maddox as the Ranch Manager.

### Africa Implementation Projects

In 2002, we launched the Dimbangombe College of Wildlife, Agriculture and Conservation Management at our Africa Centre near Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. One of our first courses offered hands-on training for game scouts, and we are offering internships for area villagers seeking jobs in the ecotourism industry. These programs will grow under the guidance of our new director for the college, Zimbabwean Alan Sparrow, who has broad experience throughout the region and extensive connections with international and African wildlife agencies and organizations.

Through our years of steadfast work in the area, we were able to

bring an additional 13,000 acres under the management of the Africa Centre and available for the Dimbangombe College. Settlers on these new lands have agreed to combine their herds with the Africa Centre's herd (comprised of owned cattle and cattle provided by drought-stricken villagers) to create one large herd of 1,000 animals. We have enhanced the infrastructure (water points and lion-proof kraals) sufficiently to launch two grazing management pilot projects to achieve better results on the land and for the health of the stock.

Through the enthusiastic volunteer help of Jeff Fadiman, a faculty member from San Jose State University (California), we began an internship program for marketing students who provide their skills to the Africa Centre. Lastly, our Village Banking Project expanded to include 10 new banks, bringing the total to 20 banks with a sustained loan repayment rate of 100 percent. This program offers significant opportunities for women in the region along with Holistic Management training that benefits both their business enterprises and communities.

### Development

In our Development Department, we expanded our Advisory Council with a number of dedicated and supportive individuals who are actively assisting the work of the Savory Center in a wide range of projects and outreach efforts. We implemented many of the excellent recommendations of development consultant, Durkin and Associates, whose services were made available to us through a generous donation from Leo and Cynthia Haris. This led to the hiring of development director, Lee Dueringer, who is taking our program to the best performance levels in the organization's nearly 20-year history.

### Research

In a new initiative to further document the success and learnings of Holistic Management in practice, we launched a case study program through participants in the Savory Center's North Central Certified Educator Training program. This will complement the similar work started in 2001 by participants in the Northeast program. And at our training center in Zimbabwe, we are collaborating with researchers from Tufts University on a "community-based ecosystem" monitoring program at Dimbangombe and in the neighboring villages where the Africa Centre is active.

### New Opportunities in 2003

This is a time of tremendous opportunity for the Savory Center, which coincides with tremendous challenges for the world we share. We feel privileged to be part of such a dedicated and creative network of Holistic Management practitioners and educators from around the world, who are working to be "part of the solution" in so many diverse and inspired ways.

As Tim LaSalle moves into his role as Executive Director, and works with Rio de la Vista and the entire Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and Staff, we are seeking ways to focus the work of the Savory Center towards its unique and exceptional contributions. We are also seeking ways to support all of you in your own practice, to learn from that, and to share it widely in the most effective means possible. We hope you will help us and hold us to that standard in the time ahead!

We're entering the Savory Center's 20th year in 2004 and will be

celebrating that accomplishment throughout the year and in the planning to build our new headquarters and an exciting agro-ecology learning center at the La Semilla site in Albuquerque. We are extremely grateful to have the leadership and talent of Shannon Horst in moving that effort forward! As she has passed over the reins of Executive Director to Tim and taken on the role of Senior Director of Strategic Projects, we know that her exceptional strengths and dedication will serve the organization well. Words seem inadequate to thank her for the 12 years of leadership and service that she gave the Center as our Executive Director, and we are indeed blessed to have her continuing with us into the exciting future ahead.

With Allan Savory receiving the Banksia International Environmental Award in Australia in June, with the generous gift

of David West and all the new opportunities for work in Texas that affords us, with the chance to “walk our talk” on the La Semilla land here in Albuquerque and to house the organization in an exceptional new home, with the opportunity to build programs of profound significance for the land and people in Africa, with the growth of our educational programs worldwide, and most especially, with the generous support of many of you, we look towards the future with hope and encouragement and with hearts full of appreciation.



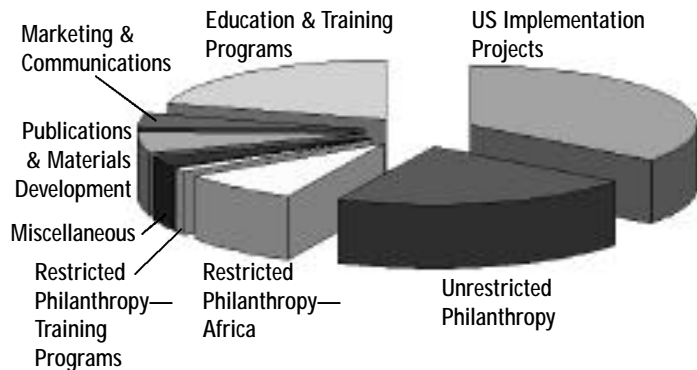
Rio de la Vista,  
Chair, Board of Directors



Tim LaSalle,  
Executive Director

## Audited Figures for Fiscal Year 2002

Revenue \$1,209,949



Expenditures \$1,298,926

