



## From the Director

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The mission of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park is to protect land, ensuring the survival of wildlife, rare and endangered species, and the natural communities that support them, and to create a natural area for educational and recreational benefits.

The Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park represents a partnership between The Nature Conservancy, the Town of Wilton, Saratoga County, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park is turning ten! In 1996, Saratoga County was auctioning a one-acre parcel on Scout Road in Wilton for back taxes. Wildlife biologists knew the site harbored the state and federally endangered Karner blue butterfly and representatives of The Nature Conservancy approached the Town of Wilton to discuss its willingness to purchase the parcel for protection purposes. Roy McDonald, the Town's supervisor, stated that not only would the Town protect this one parcel, it would work with partners to create a 3,000-acre preserve for the butterfly and a park for people. The partnership between the Town of Wilton, Saratoga County, The Nature Conservancy, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was born. A lot has happened in ten years....

Close to one thousand acres have been protected within the defined Study Area. With the 600 acres of Saratoga County Forestland added, there are 1,570 acres of permanent open space within and immediately adjacent to the Study Area.

Working together, partners and volunteers have restored, are in the process of restoring, or have near-term plans to restore 65 acres of Karner blue butterfly habitat. State and federal grant money has largely supported this effort to recover this beautiful butterfly from the brink of extinction. In the last ten years, two new species have been discovered here; they are the eastern spadefoot toad and the Blanding's turtle. Prior to 2000, the eastern spadefoot toad was unknown inland and north of the Mohawk River. Prior to 2003, the Blanding's turtle's New York range was thought to be Dutchess County and the area bordering the Great Lakes. It's humbling how much we don't know.

With our enthusiastic stalwart volunteers doing the bulk of the work, 12 miles of marked trails have been developed, designated, and maintained for a wide variety of non-motorized uses including hiking, running, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Thanks again to volunteers, the Camp Saratoga and Opdahl Farm trails are known for their superbly groomed trails that provide wonderful opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park has sponsored scores of free educational programming for families, children, and organizations both at the Preserve & Park and off-site. Our Speakers Series brings in well known experts to share knowledge and skills with avid learners. Recreation events including the annual 5k Fun Run Series and 8k Snowshoe Race draw people from across the region. Our two large annual events, the Open House and Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe, typically attract hundreds of people and introduce or better familiarize them with all that the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park offers.

The 1996 partnership fostered this organization, a vibrant entity that board members, volunteers, and financial contributors believe in and support tirelessly. These people have shared in a lot of success. It is my hope and belief that many others will join us in the weeks, months, and years ahead. *Sarah A. Clarkin*

## Board of Directors

Pieter Litchfield, Chair  
Kevin Joyce, Vice-Chair  
& Secretary  
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Linda Baker  
Martha Devaney  
Ian McGaughey  
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Emeritus  
Bobby D'Andrea  
Roy McDonald

## Program Notes

We have some great programs scheduled over the next few weeks! For information, please visit our website or call Gabe Cahalan at 518-587-1939 ext. 320. All but the first two programs require pre-registration.

**Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe;** Saturday, February 11th, 7pm-9:30pm; Camp Saratoga.

**8k Snowshoe Race;** Saturday, February 18th; Registration at 9:15am, Race at 10:30am; Camp Saratoga.

**Winter Landscape Photography;** Saturday, February 25th, 1pm-3pm.

**Garden in a Bottle;** Saturday, March 18th, 10am-12noon.

**Bats!;** Wednesday, April 19th, 6:30pm-8:30pm.

## Senator Farley Continues His Support

In 2005, Senator Farley provided a \$4,000 Aid-to-Localities grant to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park. A portion of the money is targeted to the development of an interpretive sign at our Old Gick Farm parcel. A larger portion, \$3,000, was used to purchase 33 pairs of snowshoes. For the near future, these snowshoes will be available at winter education programs for a small rental fee. This award is Senator Farley's fourth consecutive award to the Preserve & Park. We are grateful for his consistent strong support.

## There's a New Face at the WWPP

In September of 2005, Gabriel Cahalan started a 10 ½ month internship at the WWPP. While here, Gabe's responsibilities include Karner blue butterfly habitat management planning and implementation, native seed collection, and the development and delivery of educational programming. Gabe also oversees our elementary school outreach effort. Gabe came to WWPP from California where he worked for PRBO Conservation Science identifying birds for point count surveys in the Plumas and Lassen National Forests. He has his Masters in Park and Resource Management and Bachelors in Environmental Studies. He is a great addition!



## Land Protection Report

In 2005, over 113 acres were added to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park. In late winter, The Nature Conservancy purchased the 88-acre Fox property. Saratoga County and the Town of Wilton assisted with the purchase via a \$100,000 Open Space Protection grant and a \$25,000 contribution, respectively. The Fox parcel provides habitat and potential habitat for a number of at-risk species whose long-term viabilities depend upon the protection of natural areas exhibiting the typical Saratoga Sandplains community. *See Habitat Restoration and Management Report.* It also expands and extends the recreational possibilities in the Study Area. In conjunction with the Old Gick Farm across the street, the Fox parcel provides a natural corridor approximating one-third of one mile. This corridor provides passers-by with a sense of what the Preserve & Park has to offer. The Nature Conservancy also protected five small parcels totaling just over 21 acres off of Edie Road in Wilton. Hartwick College owned the property and worked with The Nature Conservancy to ensure the protection of the existing Karner blue butterfly habitat and open the door to its potential expansion.



*The Fox Parcel. Photo by Mark King*



## Share in the Success!

The Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park is a non-profit organization. Contributions are used to protect natural areas, provide for recreation and environmental education opportunities, and recover the endangered Karner blue butterfly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Contribution Levels & Benefits

All donors receive a WWPP static sticker and the WWPP annual newsletter.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| \$25-\$99   | 8x10 color photo of the Karner blue butterfly   |
| \$100-\$999 | WWPP t-shirt (please specify size _____)        |
| \$1,000+    | Personal Karner blue butterfly tour and viewing |

Please charge my credit card (circle one).

VISA                      MasterCard                      American Express                      Discover

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to:  
Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park  
22 Traver Road  
Gansevoort, NY 12831*

*The Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible. A copy of the organization's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the organization or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271.*

## Programs & Events

With the help of presenters, trip leaders, and volunteers, we are able to offer numerous and varied educational programs to the general public, specific school groups, scout troops, civic clubs and organizations. In 2005, we conducted 35 such programs. The calendar also included recreational programs such as our 8k Snowshoe Race and 5k Fun Run Series, and our annual Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe and Open House. Thanks to seed money from Ballston Spa National Bank, Susan Morse, a nationally recognized naturalist and habitat specialist, and renowned astronomer Bob Berman visited the Preserve & Park to share their knowledge and expertise.

## Blanding's Update

The state-threatened Blanding's turtle had a good year in Wilton with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and area landowners keeping a watchful eye on nests that yielded numerous hatchlings. Blanding's turtles can live 70 to 80 years with sexual maturity reached at approximately 20 years.

## Wish List

If you can help us achieve one or more items on this list, please call the office. All contributions are tax deductible.

- Sponsor Karner blue butterfly monitor summer position
- Sponsor development and/or printing of new trail brochures
- LCD projector
- GPS unit
- Digital camera

## Thanks to Wilton For New Office & Barn Space

The Town of Wilton acquired a 4-acre property adjacent to the Camp Saratoga property on Scout Road in 2005. It includes a single family residential structure and barn that the WWPP and Town of Wilton are upgrading for WWPP use. More specifically, the residential structure is being turned into office and meeting space and the barn is being upgraded for use as an equipment and supply storage facility. Senator Hugh Farley awarded the WWPP a \$3,500 Aid-to-Locality grant to pay for the materials needed to upgrade the barn. WWPP held numerous "barn raising" volunteer workdays to ready the barn for use this winter. Town Councilman Larry Gordon has been overseeing the project and spending many hours on and off the site ensuring the job is well done. The Town of Wilton Highway Department, led by Kirk Woodcock, devoted a great deal of time improving drainage on the site. At this writing, WWPP is working with the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation with hope of obtaining funds to assist with these projects.



*The barn has been renovated to serve as an equipment storage facility. Photo by Sarah Clarkin*

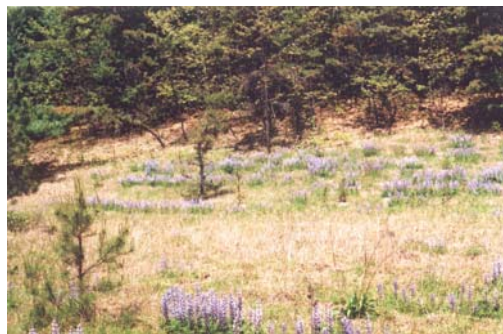
## Karner Blues News

Our habitat restoration work is showing success with butterflies! At an Old Gick Farm restoration site that was planted in 2003, the numbers of observed Karner blue butterflies increased from 10 in 2004 to 220 in 2005. With the addition of our tractor and Truax seed drill (purchased with local contributors' money and an Aid to Localities grant from Senator Farley), we're able to plant larger areas with greater consistency in less time.



*Karner blue butterflies on butterfly weed. Photo by Kathy O'Brien*

In 2005 we planted fifteen acres with blue lupine and seeds associated with the Glacial Lake Albany seed mix. Nature Conservancy staff planted blue lupine and little bluestem grass seeds using the tractor and seed drill. Volunteers planted seedlings at a number of sites and hand broadcast a seed mix containing



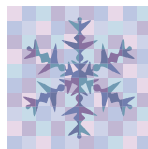
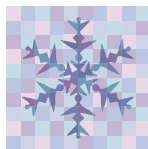
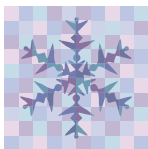
a variety of nectar species including butterfly milkweed, horsemint, New Jersey tea, roundheaded bush clover, and goats rue. These plantings occurred on protected lands along Route 50, Ballard Road, and Scout Road.

*Old Gick Farm restoration site. Photo by Sarah Clarkin*

## Thank You's

We thank the following individuals, organizations and businesses that supported a specific WWPP project or event in 2005. We are also very grateful to the scores of donors who generously contributed unrestricted funds to support our mission. It is with everyone's help that we will succeed.

- Senator Hugh T. Farley: Aid to Localities Award for Interpretive Sign & Snowshoes
- Saratoga Stryders: Proceeds from 8k Snowshoe Race and 5k Fun Run Series
- Anonymous: Underwriter, Wildlife Programming, Annual Open House
- Saratoga National Bank: Underwriter, Dan Berggren, Annual Open House
- Ian McGaughey: Underwriter, Dan Berggren, Annual Open House
- Allerdice Building Supply and Rent-All: Sponsor, Annual Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe
- Dunkin' Donuts of Saratoga Springs: Sponsor, Annual Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe
- Pizzeria Uno: Contribution towards Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- Pieter Litchfield: Winter Trail Grooming & Children's Snowshoes
- Kevin Joyce: WWPP Website & Children's Snowshoes
- Bob Rice & Mary Hendrickson: Children's Snowshoes
- Adirondack Mountain Club – Schenectady Chapter: Interpretive Sign
- Jack & Lorraine Reber: Education Supplies
- Wilton Rotary: Recreation Events
- Eastern Mountain Sports: Proceeds from Annual Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe snowshoe rentals
- Peg McCanty & Mike Geppner: Hosting two WWPP events
- Kenny Barnett: Blanding's Turtle Program
- Brad Bidwell: Reptiles & Amphibians Program
- Alvin Breisch: Fern Program
- Bob Budliger: Leadership Volunteer Naturalist Training
- Mike Kallaji: Blanding's Turtle Program
- Frank Knight: Reading the Landscape
- Kathy O'Brien: Dragonflies & Damselflies Program
- Richard Speidel: Bird Program
- Sue Van Hook: Fun With Fungi Program



## Volunteer News

Volunteers enable the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park to do so many things. We've several types of volunteers at the WWPP: those who help out occasionally with our workdays; Leadership Volunteers who undergo training and assist with our outreach and education efforts; Preserve Stewards who monitor and help maintain protected lands; the Volunteer Coordinator who assists with all related tasks; and the Board of Directors who oversees the organization's day to day operations. Kudos to those who pursue success!

**Leadership Volunteers:** Rebecca Allmond, Roberta Ambrosino, Kathryn Anilowski, Kari Blood, Fred Cady, Jackie Callahan, Gus Fleming, Lynne Florio, Frankie Gabriele, Doris Gomez, Virginia Newton, Jack Reber, Beverly Relyea, Jerry Robinson

**Preserve Stewards:** Fred Cady, Kevin Joyce, Lori McCarron, and the Wilton Rotary Club

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Jill Litchfield

We will soon begin to recruit our next class of Leadership Volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jill Litchfield at [volunteer@preserve.org](mailto:volunteer@preserve.org).



*Volunteers Fred Cady, Pieter Litchfield and Jill Litchfield side the new equipment storage facility at 80 Scout Road. Photo by Sarah Clarkin*

Check [www.wiltonpreserve.org](http://www.wiltonpreserve.org) for the latest information regarding the Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe!

## The Annual Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe and Open House

Thanks to our volunteers, sponsors and some good weather, our 2005 annual events were very successful. Snow was a little scarce and ice a little abundant in February but this did not deter our master groomsman Pieter Litchfield! He moved snow and created a somewhat shorter-than-usual but delightful trail loop for the Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe. Over 120 people made the trip to Camp Saratoga to enjoy the trails lit by luminaries, two bonfires, and delicious hot chocolate. Special thanks go to Allerdice Rent-All, Allerdice Supply, and Dunkin' Donuts for sponsoring this event every year. The 2006 Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe is Saturday, February 11th, 7pm-9:30pm at Camp Saratoga. Mark your calendars! The 2005 Open House in September exceeded expectations with over 300 people attending. Birds of prey, reptiles and amphibians, dragonflies and damselflies, pond exploration, a children's nature walk, ferns, folk music, children's nature crafts, and GPS units were among the highlights. Adirondack folk musician Dan Berggren, whose appearance was underwritten by Saratoga National Bank and Ian McGaughey, delighted crowds with his songs of life in the mountains. Beth Bidwell of the Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York appeared with her raptors, reptiles and



*Dan Berggren sings about life in the Adirondacks. Photo by Sarah Clarkin*

amphibians and shared information about their special adaptations and characteristics. An anonymous underwriter made Beth's appearance possible. Wilton Scout Troop 24 had barbecued hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers as well as a variety of salads and desserts for sale. By all accounts, everyone had a great time. The 2006 Open House is planned for Saturday, September 9th. It's never too early to put this date on your calendar! Both the Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe and the Open House are free and open to the public.



*Young artists create wildlife t-shirts. Photo by Sarah Clarkin*

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