



2011 Annual Report

Celebrating 15 Years of Conservation, Education, and Recreation



The mission of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park is to conserve ecological systems and natural settings, while providing opportunities for environmental education and outdoor recreation working in partnership with the Town of Wilton, Saratoga County, The Nature Conservancy, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Message from the Board of Directors

What a wonderful year for Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park!

2011 was the year that we celebrated our 15th Anniversary as an organization, the year of the fire tower opening and our first Lupine Festival, and our first full year with the outstanding leadership of Margo Olson as Executive Director.

As we look back now on all that was accomplished in 2011, we are particularly grateful for the outpouring of community support that WWPP experienced. The enthusiastic participation in WWPP's Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe event, in the dedication of the Cornell Hill Fire Tower, and in the butterfly sightings and other highlights of the Lupine Festival set the scene for a terrific program year. We send particular appreciation to all those who attended/supported our October 16th Anniversary event celebrating 15 years of conservation, recreation, and education.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer your time and skills, to all who contribute financially, and to all who support WWPP by enjoying its special places and programs.

There is much to celebrate as we move into our sixteenth year.

Linda Baker, chair

2011 Board of Directors

**Linda Baker,
Chair**

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Vice-Chair**

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Secretary**

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Treasurer**

**Larry Gordon
Pieter Litchfield
Peg McCanty
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**Bobby D'Andrea
Senator Roy
McDonald**

Message from the Executive Director

Working on the annual report is always an enjoyable project. We can and do get caught up in our day-to-day tasks, and it is a welcome opportunity for introspection. It gives us a chance to look back on all of the accomplishments of the past year and to be reminded of the many good things that have happened. Planning for our 15th anniversary celebration gave us the same opportunity to look back on 15 years worth of accomplishments and it has really been a pleasure.

Starting with just an idea and an acre, the founders of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park did something quite remarkable and we are the beneficiaries of that vision. Who would have thought that in the midst of the booming development of the Town of Wilton, that conservationists and government officials would come together, all for the love of a little blue butterfly!

This leap of faith and the establishment of a note-worthy public/private partnership has resulted in the creation of a unique and successful organization. We are proud of how well we are fulfilling our mission in conservation: with over 2,400 acres of protected lands owned by our partners; with the habitat restoration efforts in the Preserve & Park resulting in the largest population of Karner blue butterflies in the Northeast; and with the discovery that these Sandplains are home to many more rare and protection-worthy species than anyone ever imagined. Our work in the coming years will undoubtedly reveal even more.

While we are rooted in conservation, we are also a park for people and this is certainly reflected in our recreational and environmental education opportunities which are recognized as a region-wide asset. People from all over enjoy our year-round trail system and through programs on and off site we share our knowledge about the wonders of the natural world with our community.

If the first 15 years are any indication of what the future will bring, I think that we can all expect more great accomplishments and the resulting benefits for our community.

Margo Olson
Executive Director

2011 Highlights in Conservation

Grassland Habitat Restoration at Camp Saratoga

The work to restore an area of approximately 15 acres at Camp Saratoga to oak/pine savannah continued. This will provide expanded habitat for the endangered Karner blue butterfly. Since wild blue lupine is a perennial and only begins to flower in its second year, this coming spring should see this new habitat in full bloom.



Wetland Research

In partnership with the Albany Pine Bush Commission, we helped to conduct research on the vernal pools that are found on many of the properties at the Preserve & Park. Data collected by our Education and Conservation interns and by our volunteers will be used to further the knowledge of these unique wetlands.

Frog, Toad and Salamander Surveys

The wet spring produced a bumper crop of amphibian sightings including the seldom-seen Spadefoot toad. It emerged in large numbers and was found in wetlands that we had not known it to occupy. With the help of local naturalist Kenny Barnett, these locations were mapped.



Seed collecting

Our interns and volunteers worked with interns from The Nature Conservancy and NYS DEC to do lupine and butterfly milkweed seed collection. It was a bumper crop of lupine seeds in 2011.

Monitoring Success

A twelve week intern from Skidmore College worked in tandem with NYS DEC's butterfly monitors to do the data collection for the population count of the Karner blue butterfly. This was funded by The Nature Conservancy.

Blanding's Turtle Research

The report of many years of research done on the threatened Blanding's turtle by Andrea Chaloux in partnership with Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Saratoga PLAN was completed. The strength of this research and the conservation recommendations will frame our conservation work for years to come.



Frawley Acquisition

The 68 new acres that were purchased with the help of a Saratoga County Open Space Grant were walked and carefully evaluated for the locations of the best sites for habitat restoration and trails. Look to 2012 for trail building to begin!

2011 Highlights in Environmental Education

Lupine Festival

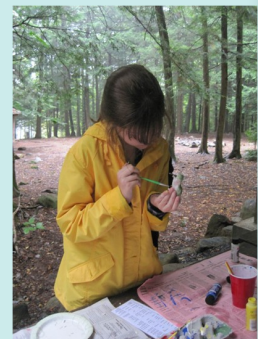
On National Trails Day we initiated a new event to bring people into the Preserve & Park in the springtime when the wild blue lupine is in bloom and there would be the possibility of seeing a Karner blue butterfly. It was also the first day the fire tower opened to the public. Hundreds of people enjoyed exploring the trails and participating in the activities that were offered. The first brood of the Karner blue butterflies were out too!



Expanded Public Programs

To further our mission of environmental education, we added even more public programs on weekends and during school vacation times, almost doubling our program offerings over previous years.

Adaptation Artistry program at Lake Avenue School's Environmental Education Residency Program.



Watercolor Workshop at the Lupine Festival

A heart-felt thank you to those who volunteered for at least 10 hours in the past year

- Becky Christner
- Craig Connolly*
- Linda Hovious***
- Jill Litchfield*
- Lori McCarron**
- Marianne McGowen
- Matthew Miczek*
- George Pilkey
- Jack Reber*
- Lenore Reber
- Lois Streit*
- Ravi Verma*
- Carter White

*put in more than 25 hours

**put in more than 50 hours

***put in more than 100 hours

This doesn't even include the many hundreds of hours that our Board Members contribute over the course of the year.

2011 Highlights in Environmental Education—continued

Upgraded school programs

We reworked our in-school programs to add more hands-on activities and more connections to the New York State Science Syllabus.

Education and Conservation Interns

The Student Conservation Association continues to be a great resource for finding highly qualified interns. Adeline Brym, a graduate of Wittenberg College, completed her internship in June and helped to train our current intern, Shabana Hoosein, an Environmental Sciences graduate from Union College.



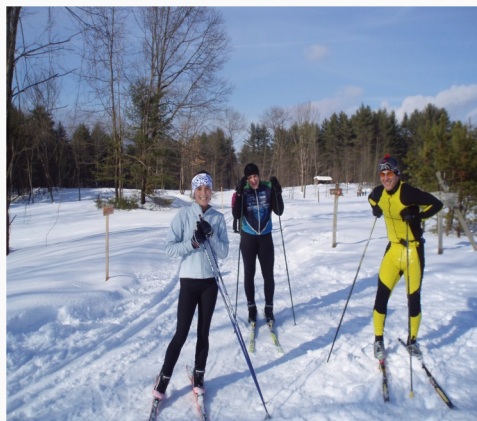
Wal-mart Grant

We received a \$25,000 grant from the Wal-mart Foundation State grant program to support our Conservation and Education Intern and to enhance our school and public programs.

2011 Highlights in Recreation

New Trail Connector at Camp Saratoga

With the help of a group of volunteers from the Milton Navy Base, we were able to clear an old trail to create a new connection between Camp Saratoga and the Opdahl Farm. This trail also includes a stream crossing. Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District helped our trail crew in removing and installing a new culvert.



Stryder Runs and 8k Snow Shoe Race

Our recreation program is greatly enhanced by our partnership with the Saratoga Stryders. They organize and run a great 5k fun run series in July and August. The 8k snowshoe race that they organize as part of the Dion race series attracted top snowshoe racers both locally and from around the northeast. They appreciate the great job that our trail groomer, Pieter Litchfield, does in keeping the trails in great shape for racing and recreational use.



Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe

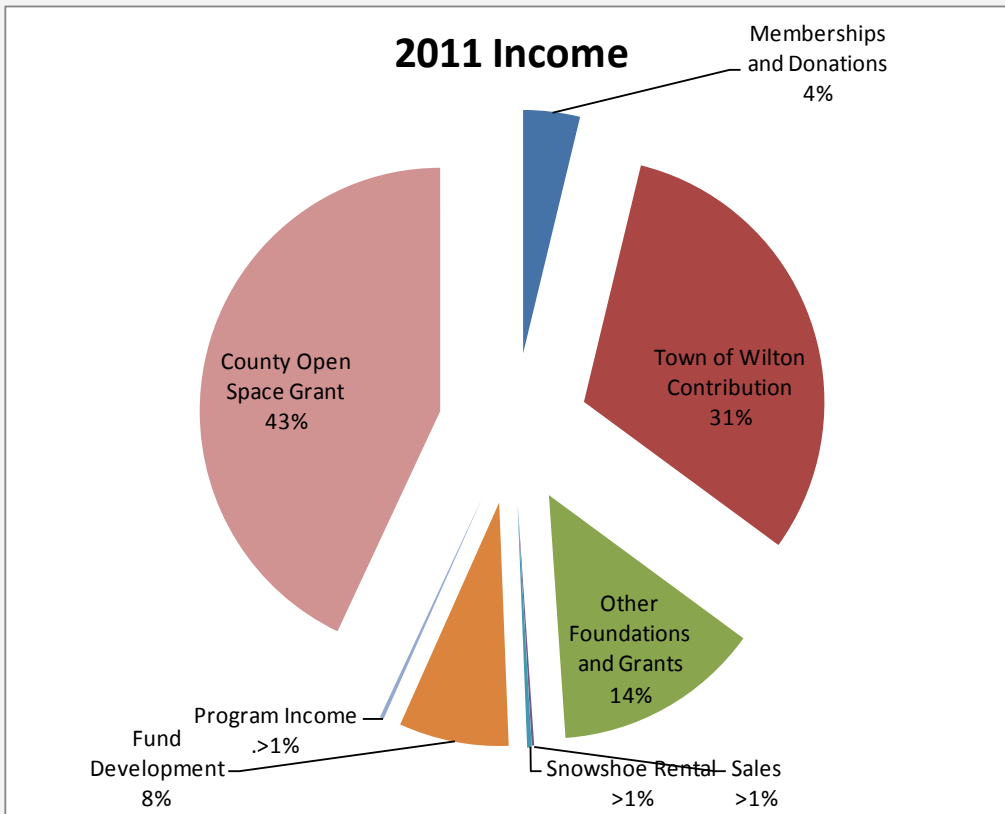
January 2011 saw a beautiful, snowy night for our popular annual event. The snow was falling, the bonfires crackled and the hundreds of people who came made short work of the hot cocoa that was offered at the bonfires and at the warming hut in the Winter Lodge. This event takes many volunteers, and we have them to thank for everything from luminary making, to trail monitoring, to parking cars, and fitting people with rental snowshoes.



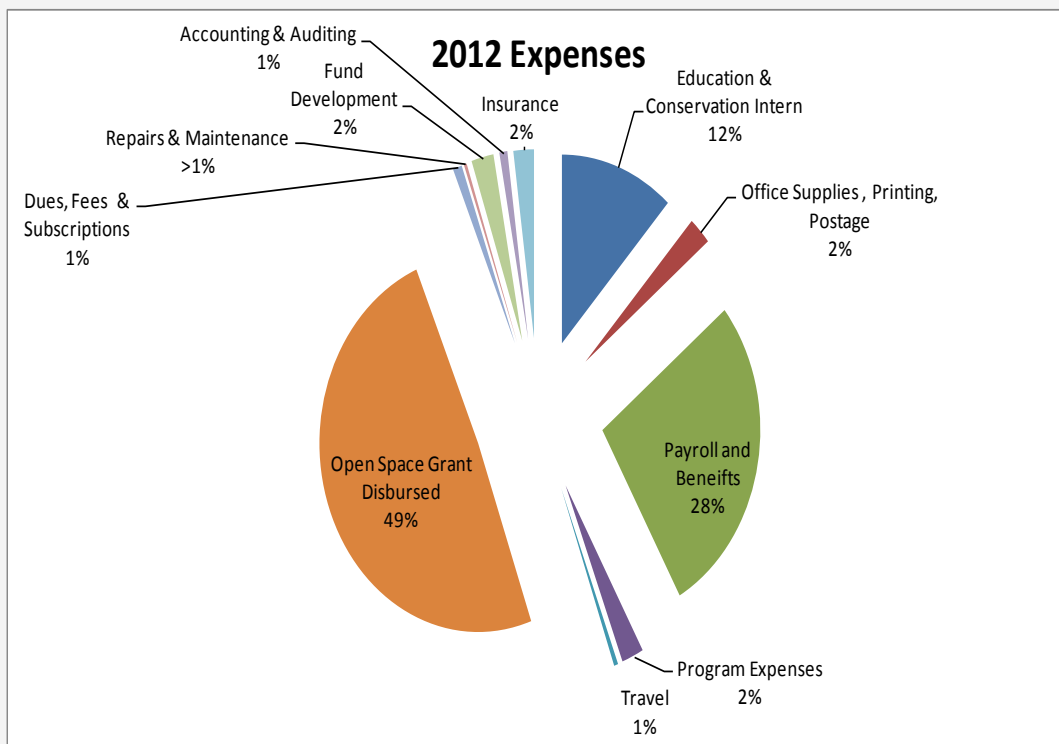
Cornell Hill Fire Tower Opened at Camp Saratoga

The newest addition to the recreational opportunities at Camp Saratoga opened officially in June at the Lupine Festival. People really enjoy the opportunity to climb an actual fire tower and learn from the knowledgeable volunteers about its history and the history of fire rangers in New York State. This was a labor of love and perseverance from many people, especially our board members Larry Gordon and Bob Rice. The Town of Wilton manages the tower and was instrumental in getting it moved and re-installed at the Preserve & Park.

Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park Financial Information



Volunteers from the navy base working at Camp Saratoga



Pond Exploration!

2011 Membership and Donor List

Thanks to all who made financial contributions to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park in 2011. The following list identifies those who have granted permission for their names to be included. We apologize for any errors and ask that they be brought to our attention.

Weekend Nature Craft



Nature Mobiles at the Lupine Festival

Nine Mile East Farm
Adirondack Trust Company
ADK-Glens Falls/Saratoga Chapter
Mr. Craig Allyn
Alpine Sport Shop
Ms. Roberta Ambrosino
Ms. Taimi Arnold
Mrs. Linda Baker
Ballston Spa National Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Barnett
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Beehner
Mr. Andy Beers
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CB Enterprises
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Lachtrupp
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Saratoga National Bank
Saratoga Stryders
Saratoga Wilton-Elks Lodge 161
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Dr. David Spingarn
Ms. Patrice Marshall Spingarn
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stevens
Ms. Julie Stokes
Steve and Rene Streicher
Stewart's Holiday Match
Ms. Janine Stuchin
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tetz
The Wishing Well
Uwe Tigor and Devra Cohen-Tigor
Ms. Anne Van Acker
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Vermilyea
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Chad and Kim Waters
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Weber
Ms. Karen Weltman and Mr. Jon
Sterngass
Mr. Rick Werwaiss
Wendy Whittmore and Paul Hicke
Mr. and Mrs. Gregg Wilbur
Wild Birds Unlimited
Wilk Family
Wilton Floor Covering
Wilton Rotary Club
Ethan Winter
Mr. Chris Zimmerman and
Ms. Paulina Manzo

Help to Support Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park

Your tax-deductible contribution supports all that we do in conservation, education and recreation.

Your donation at this time helps to support the Wildlife Festival, Frawley parcel trail building, spring and summer bird surveys, and our Environmental Education and Conservation Internships.

Special Annual Report Offer

For every \$25 increment that is donated via this mailing, we will send you a classic Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park T-Shirt!

\$25 for one, \$50 for two, \$75 for 3, the sky is the limit

Please fill out and mail in this form or contribute via our website: www.wiltonpreserve.org

Contact Information

Name _____ Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Contribution Levels and Details

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

Please indicate number of t-shirts per size Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large

My gift is via: Check Visa Mastercard Discover Card American Express

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Signature _____

Please make checks payable to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park. The mailing address is 80 Scout Road, Gansevoort, NY 12831. Your employer's matching gift doubles your contribution.



Visit us on-line for event notices, program updates, trail conditions and closures, trail maps, volunteer opportunities, weather reports and more!

www.wiltonpreserve.org

www.facebook.com/#!/WiltonPreserve

Looking Ahead to New Initiatives in 2012



Wayne Jones photo

- **Recreation:**
 - New Trail on Frawley Parcel to be Built
 - New Trailhead Kiosk Information Signs to be Installed
 - Fire Tower Observer Cabin to Open
- **Conservation:**
 - Turtle Watch to be Established
 - Woodcock Survey to Take Place
 - Early Successional Bird Survey to Take Place
 - Whippoorwill Survey to Take Place
- **Education**
 - Visitor Information Center to be Set Up at Camp Saratoga
 - Second Environmental Education and Conservation Internship to be Established
 - Lupine Festival to Become Wilton Wildlife Festival



PRESERVE & PARK

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