



# 2012 Annual Report

## A Preserve for Nature and a Park for People



**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.**

## Dear Friends of the Preserve & Park

“A preserve for nature and a park for people” – what a lovely and simple idea to guide our day-to-day work! Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park is both a place and an organization – a community-based, not-for-profit group working to maintain and enhance the complex and delicate balancing act of serving both nature and people.

As a park for people, we work closely with our partners who own the 2,400 acres of protected lands of the unique Saratoga Sandplains ecosystem. Through our agreements with the Town of Wilton, Saratoga County, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and The Nature Conservancy, we develop and maintain over 15 miles of trails where our visitors enjoy walking, running, biking, walking their dogs, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. In addition to engaging in a wide variety of educational programs, visitors look for birds or find animal tracks, go fishing, climb the fire tower, and on certain parcels, hunt or trap. We work to balance the priorities of the landowners and the visitors who enjoy the protected lands for so many different reasons.

As a preserve for nature, we depend on the biologists at the NYS DEC and The Nature Conservancy to maintain or restore enough habitat for the federally-endangered Karner blue butterfly to thrive. The Sandplains, a landscape of rolling, sandy hills, vernal pools, open meadows, and cool forests, is a haven for many additional rare and threatened species including the Blanding’s turtle, the eastern spadefoot toad, the eastern hognose snake, and the frosted elfin butterfly. Their on-going survival is in our hands.

As an organization, we work hard to share our mission and build community awareness of the natural treasure tucked away here, so close to homes and businesses and the rush of modern life. We deeply appreciate our members, volunteers, and donors who share in the values of conservation, environmental education, and outdoor recreation. We are a small, grassroots organization, and as such, we draw our strength from our supporters.

As you look through this report, we hope that you will be as happy as we are to realize the scale and scope of the work that is being accomplished. It is a pleasure to serve the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park and to be a part of this very special place, where nature and people thrive through their relationship.

Margo Olson  
Executive Director

Linda Baker  
Chair, Board of Directors

### **2012 Board of Directors**

**Linda Baker,  
Chair**

**George Hodgson,  
Vice-Chair**

**Martha Devaney,  
Secretary**

**Robert Rice,  
Treasurer**

**Larry Gordon**

**Pieter Litchfield**

**Peg McCanty**

**Ray O’Conor**

**Caroline Stem**

**Chris Zimmerman**

### **Emeritus**

**Bobby D’Andrea**

**Roy McDonald**

## Fund Development

### Wild about Blue

Wild about Blue, the major fundraising event for the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park took place on Sunday, October 21, 2012 at The Wishing Well restaurant with drinks, a light dinner, and a unique silent auction.

At the event, we presented the inaugural Metamorphosis Award. The idea behind this new award is to honor individuals who have helped create dramatic changes in their communities, just as the Karner blue butterfly and other species go through remarkable transformations in their life cycles.



The recipient of the first Metamorphosis Award was Larry Gordon, a Wilton resident who has had an extraordinary impact on the local environment. As Saratoga County planner for three decades, Larry significantly influenced the stewardship of our ecological treasures throughout the county. As a Boy Scout Council officer for several decades, he was largely responsible for the early identification



## Fund Development, Continued

and habitat support that enabled the Karner blue butterfly to thrive at the Scout camp in Wilton long before Camp Saratoga became the nucleus of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park. As a Wilton Town Board member and then as a Preserve & Park Board member, Mr. Gordon has continued to be a driving force behind improvements to the infrastructure, and is someone who consistently envisions possibilities and brings them to reality. Recently his efforts were focused on saving the historic Cornell Hill Fire Tower from Luther Forest and having it restored and installed at Camp Saratoga.

### Wild about Blue Honorary Committee Steward

Linda Baker; Linda and Richard Hovious;  
Saratoga National Bank

### Guardian

Drs. Chris and Leisa Brockett; Peg McCanty  
and Michael Geppner; Bob and Debbie Rice;  
The Nature Conservancy – Eastern New York Chapter

### Protector

Bert and Bailey Bloom; Sarah Clarkin and Rick Weber;  
DA Collins; Farrell Oil – Chris and Lesa Farrell; George  
and Bea Frost; George and Rebecca Hodgson; John and  
Sue Lant; LASAR; Brian McMahon and Kimberly  
Harbour McMahon; Douglas Meyer and Lee McGoldrick;  
Frank and Delores Parillo; Matthew Miczek and Ann  
Marie Przywara; Anne and Lou Pettruccelli; Jack and  
Lenore Reber; Saratoga Wilton Elks #161; Robert and  
Anne Scheffler; Caroline Stem and Bill Sprengnether;  
Steve and Rene Streicher; The Adirondack Trust  
Company; Carter White and Becky Christner;  
Wild Birds Unlimited; Anne and Ethan Winter;  
John Witt, Witt Construction

## Highlights in Conservation



American Woodcock

**Spring Woodcock Survey:** Volunteers helped to collect data at a number of sites and found that we have American woodcock, a species of special concern, at the Preserve & Park!

**Early Successional Bird Survey:** Volunteers participated in a survey of birds that use the same habitat that is used by the Karner blue butterflies. This includes many species of special concern so this helps to document the other species that benefit from our butterfly conservation work.



November, Lynn Cianfarani

**Native Plants Seed Collecting:** Wild blue lupine and butterfly milkweed were hand-picked and cleaned by volunteers in a labor intensive and time consuming process. The seeds are stored at the Saratoga Tree Nursery to be planted in the future to create more habitat. Some of the lupine seeds are used in our school programs.

**Karner Blue Butterfly Monitoring:** To insure that we have the best information about the health of the population we work with the NYS DEC to support their student interns.

**Blanding's Turtle:** An informational brochure was produced and distributed to the neighbors of the Blanding's turtle habitat. Researchers from SUNY Potsdam surveyed the habitat and identified a new adult turtle in the population.



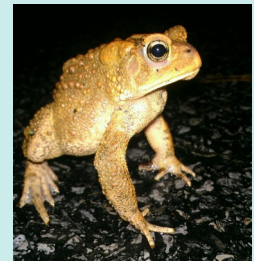
Summer research students from SUNY Potsdam

## Highlights in Environmental Education



Intern Shabana Hoosein with a snapping turtle shell at the Wildlife Festival.

**Wilton Wildlife Festival:** Our second annual spring festival took place on National Trails Day. The rain didn't dampen people's enthusiasm for learning about the many wildlife species of the Saratoga Sandplains.



American Toad on Scout Road,  
Kenny Barnett



Ed Burke  
Celia Barnett with a hognose  
snake at the Wildlife Festival

## Highlights in Environmental Education, Continued



Intern Anna Papperman leading a program with the Saratoga Library



Lean-to,  
Bob Reepmeyer

**Collaborative Programs:** We continued to work with many local program providers including the Saratoga Springs Public Library, the Academy for Lifelong Learning and BOCES.

**School and Group Programs:** Our partnership with Dorothy Nolan, Ballard Road Elementary Schools, and Wilton Summer Recreation continued and we added additional school presentations with the Saratoga Independent School and Lake Avenue School among others.

**Environmental Education and Conservation Interns:** While we have had an internship program for many years, we received a grant from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program to build our capacity by hiring a second intern.

## Highlights in Recreation

**New Trail from Fox Trailhead:** A grant from the American Hiking Society and a great volunteer effort has given us our latest trail. Two boardwalks and over one mile of trail were built over three Trail Crew workdays and three days by the Skidmore Student Conservation Corps. Volunteer Cody Reale put in over 20 hours during the summer under the supervision of our trail committee chair, Pieter Litchfield.



Skidmore Student Conservation Corps members building boardwalk.

**Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe:** Sadly we were forced to postpone the January and February dates before finally canceling it in March. With less-than-normal snowfall, the conditions were never good for the event.



Sean Cartwright, Pieter Litchfield and David Rathbun installing new kiosk.

**Kiosk Project:** A group from the Leadership Saratoga program came up with a new look for the signs for our trailhead kiosks. The first were installed at Camp Saratoga in June. A new kiosk was installed in the parking area at the Fox Trailhead as part of this project.



Camp Saratoga South Kiosk with new signs.

**Saratoga Stryders Club Collaboration:** A great season of 5k fun runs took place again at Camp Saratoga. There is a growing group of runners of all ages who enjoy the trail runs. Part of the registration fees are donated to the Preserve & Park to help in our trail maintenance program. The 8k snowshoe race was another victim of the poor winter conditions and it was run as a trail race with spikes.

**Cornell Hill Fire Tower:** Adding to the historical interpretation of the fire tower, a replica observer's cabin was constructed at the base of the tower. It will house exhibits and information about the history of fire towers and rangers in New York State.

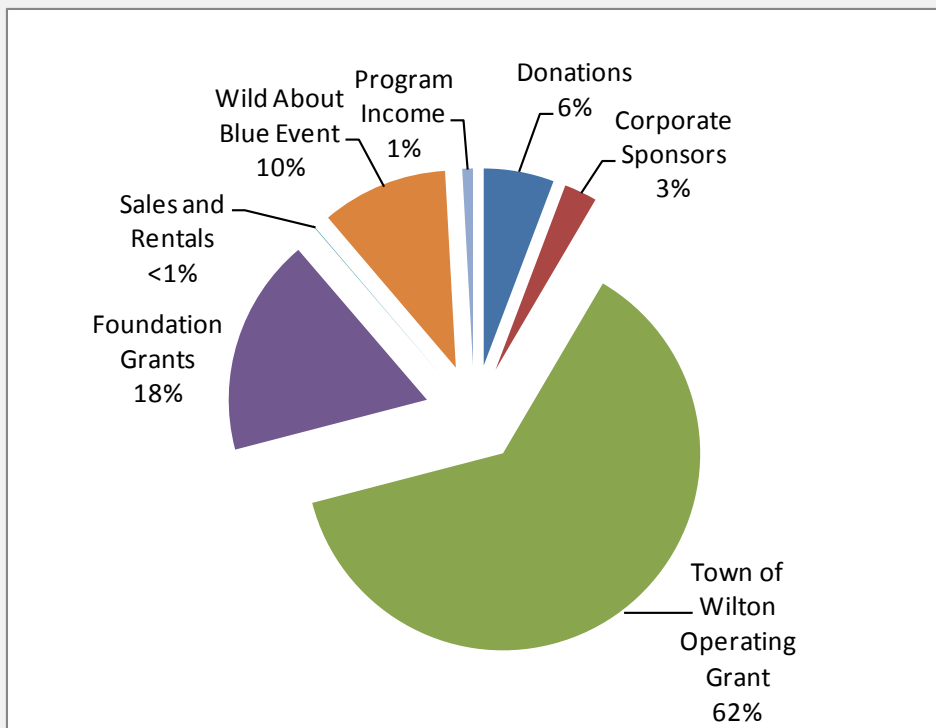


Larry Gordon with the antique wood stove in the observer's cabin.

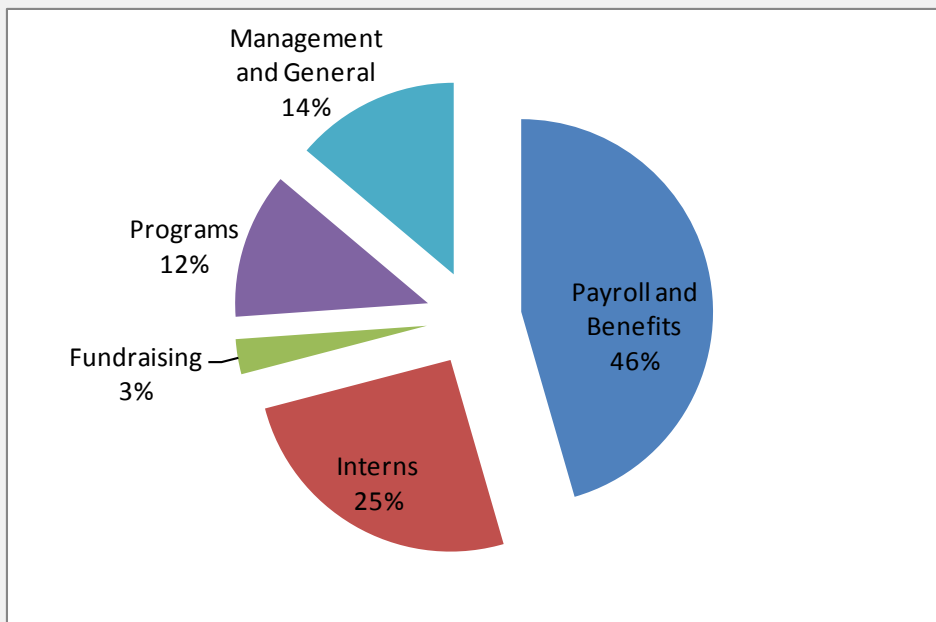


Winter,  
Deb Hall

## 2012 Income



## 2012 Expenses



### Grants, Corporate, and Foundation Support

American Hiking Society

Ballston Spa National Bank

The Glens Falls Foundation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program through the Land Trust Alliance

Price Chopper Golub Foundation

Saratoga National Bank

Stewart's Shops

Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park, Inc. is a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c)3 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and a registered NYS charity. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. A copy of our audited financial statements may be obtained by writing to us at 80 Scout Road, Gansevoort, NY 12831 or from the NYS Dept. of Law



## Volunteers

A heart-felt thank you to those who volunteered in 2012



Trail Crew Volunteers

Karen Bailey	George Pilkey
Linda Baker*	Ray O'Connor
Kenny Barnett	Cory Reale
Mona Bearor	Jack Reber
Dani Bonser	Lenore Reber
Sean Cartwright	Erin Redding
Nancy Castillo	Bev Relyea
Andrea Chaloux	Bob Rice
Samantha Cottone	Jim Ries
Martha Devaney	Jerry Robinson
Lindsey Duval	Juliana Rosati
Tom Federlin	Richard Rosen
Pat Fitzgerald	Stephanie Rozelle
Cathy Flores	Pia Ruisi-Besares
Carla Francis	Brenda Sanchez
Marc Gardunia	Beth Sciumeca
Beth Gelber	Skidmore Student
Lois Gershwm	Conservation Corps*
Neil Gifford	John Crisan
Lila Glansberg	Lauren Markram
Larry Gordon*	Giulia Morrone
Rupert "Bo" Harris	Margaret Pfeffer
George Hodgson	Joseph Tharto
Linda Hovious*	Sarah Turner
Richard Knapik*	Rich Speidel
Leadership Saratoga	Dorothy Spingarn
Brian Akley	Malina Stawarz
Charles Dunham	Caroline Stem
Tim Jaques	Lois Streit
Chad Kiesow	Janet Talley
Nate LaFrance	Ravi Verma
Chuck Marshall	Emily Vernaeg
Jim Murphy	Jo Wasalinko
Jill Litchfield*	Kyle Wescott
Pieter Litchfield*	Wendy Whittmore
Candance Maddison	Adam Willman
Peg McCanty*	Dale Willman
Lori McCarron*	Elana Willman
Marianne McGowan	Chris Zimmerman
Kim McMahon	
Matthew Miczek	
Grace Nichols	
Kathy O'Brien	
Jaffa Olson	

\*These individuals volunteered for more than 50 hours in 2012.



Volunteers with the early successional bird survey

## Photography Show Winners

We held our first photography show and the opening of the show was held in conjunction with our annual meeting and holiday reception. The selected photographs are on exhibit at 80 Scout Road. The winners' photographs can be seen throughout this annual report.



**Best in Show for *Black, White and Red***  
Carolina Wierzbowski

### Other Winners by Category:

Best Nature in Winter for *Winter*  
Deb Hall (on page four)

Best featuring Conservation for *November*  
Lynn Cianfarani (on page three)

Best featuring Education for *Catch and Release*  
Kelly Dennis (on front cover)

Best featuring Recreation for *Lean To*  
Bob Reepmeyer (on page four)

Best Animal Shot for *American Toad on Scout Road* - Kenny Barnett (on page three)

Best Karner blue butterfly for *Blue Karner Twins*  
Ray Clauser (on front cover)

Best Nature in Autumn for *Fall Reflections*  
Shari Crocker (on back cover)

Best under-13 for *Pine Needles*  
Shea Weilbaker (on page six)



*Pine Needles*, Shea Weilbaker

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

[www.wiltonpreserve.org](http://www.wiltonpreserve.org)

[www/facebook.com/#1/WiltonPreserve](http://www/facebook.com/#1/WiltonPreserve)

## 2012 Membership and Donors

Thanks to all who made financial contributions to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park in 2012. 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.

Nine Mile East Farm  
Adirondack Trust Company  
ADK-Glens Falls/Saratoga Chapter  
Rachel Alderman and Matthew Yonkin  
Mr. Craig Allyn  
Ms. Roberta Ambrosino  
American Hiking Society  
Mrs. Linda Baker  
Mr. Mark Baker  
Ballston Spa National Bank  
Ms. L.Lia Bassin  
Ms. Ramona Bearor  
Mr. Andy Beers  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bemis  
Mr. Bradley Birge  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Blom  
Rabbi and Mrs. Bert Bloom  
Mr. John Borel  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Bouchard  
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Mr. and Mrs. Sean Cartwright  
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Ms. Lynn Florio  
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Mr. and Mrs. Zene Garnsey  
Liza and Alan Gee  
Ms. Patricia Gibson  
Linda and Elliott Glansberg  
Ms. Amy Godine and Mr. Jack Nicholson  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Goodale  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goodwin  
Mr. Lawrence Gordon and  
Ms. Patricia Watkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Chip Guyon

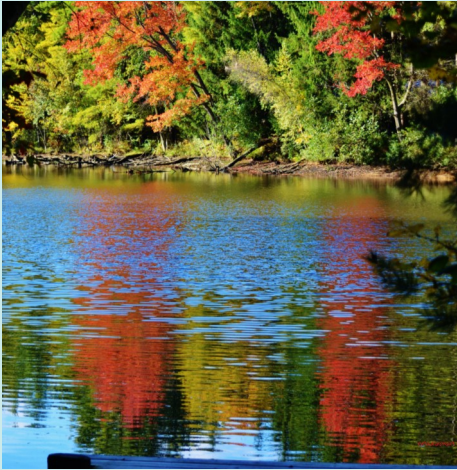
Mr. David Hall  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hall  
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Halligan  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hamlin  
Ms. Patty Hasbrouk  
Mr. and Mrs. George Hodgson  
Mr. Timothy Holmes and  
Mrs. Libby Smith-Holmes  
Katie Hooper and Burt Porter  
Ms. Julie Hotaling  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hovious  
Greg Hrbek and Dede Hill  
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Ms. Shirley D. Jung  
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Ms. Karen Kettlewell  
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Mr. Frank Knight  
Ms. Barbara Kolapakka  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Kritz, III  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Joseph Kubat  
Ms. Louise Ladd  
Michael and Deirdre Ladd  
Land Trust Alliance  
Mr. and Mrs. John Lant  
LASAR – Gretchen Starke  
Joel and Maxine Lautenberg  
Mr. and Mrs. Pieter Litchfield  
Mr. Sean Loftus and Ms. Katherine Graney  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lounsbury  
Mr. Cecil Lubitz  
Mr. and Mrs. William Lund  
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Michael Marx and Catherine Golden  
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Ms. Lori McCarron  
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Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein  
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Margo and Jeff Olson  
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Mr. Frank Parillo

Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Petrucelli  
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pollack  
Ms. Yvonne Porter  
Mr. Stephen Porto  
Price Chopper Golub Foundation  
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Mr. Lawrence Thomas  
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Mr. and Mrs. Bob Reepmeyer  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Reilly  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rice  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rice  
Mr. Wayne Richter and  
Dr. Monica Ravert Richter  
Jim Ries  
Ms. Shelley R. Riley  
Mr. Ken Robbins  
Mr. Richard Rosen  
Mr. and Mrs. Karl E. Ruger  
Saratoga National Bank  
Saratoga Stryders  
Saratoga Veterinary Hospital  
Saratoga Wilton-Elks Lodge 161  
Robert and Anne Scheffler  
Mr. and Mrs. John Schneider  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Schottman  
Mrs. Edna Schroeder  
Ms. Lynn Sickles  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Norman J. Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Smith  
Mr. Rich Speidel  
Dr. David Spingarn  
Mr. and Mrs. Per Staubo  
Ms. Caroline Stem and Mr. Bill Sprengnether  
Ms. Patricia Stevens  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stevens  
Stewart's Shops  
Steve and Rene Streicher  
Ms. Lois Streit  
Ms. Janine Stuchin  
The Glens Falls Foundation  
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Paul Tucker and Maggie Moss  
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Dr. and Mrs. Gary Wakeman  
Ms. Susan Ward and Ms. Lisa Pleban  
Donald Weber and Tina Westover  
Ms. Karen Weltman and Mr. Jon Sterngass  
Wendy Whittmore and Paul Hickey  
Wild Birds Unlimited  
Wilton Funeral Home  
Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Winter  
Witt Construction, Inc.  
WJ Morris Excavating  
Paul and Linda Woschanko  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Yellen  
  
In Memory of Isabella Pilkey  
Ms. Audrey Belt and Mr. Bill Boehmke  
Ms. Mary F. Blaney  
Mrs. Mary Falcone  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pierce  
  
In honor of Sue and Bob Sand's Anniversary  
Ms. Kay Kemp

### In-Kind Donations:

Adirondack Mountain Club  
Balet Flowers and Design  
Batcheller Mansion Inn  
Ben and Jerry's of Saratoga  
Brenda Sanchez  
Cherry Blossom Massage  
Crowne Plaza Resort and  
Golf Club, Lake Placid  
Dion Snowshoes  
Frances Young Tang  
Teaching Museum and Art  
Gallery  
Gaffney's Restaurant  
Girl Scouts in Troop 3609  
Valeska Palmatier  
Samantha Poitras  
Megan Towers  
Gore Mountain  
Image Photo and Events  
Lake George Steamboat  
Company  
Live Nation  
Longfellows Hotel, Restaurant  
and Conference Center  
McCanty Family  
Old Bryan Inn  
Jeff Olson  
Philip Alexander Jewelers  
Sagamore Great Camp  
Saratoga Performing Arts  
Center  
Saratoga Springs Farmers'  
Market  
The Bread Basket  
The YMCA of Saratoga

## Looking Ahead to Initiatives in 2013



*Fall Reflections, Shari Crocker*

### Recreation:

- New Trailhead Parking Area and Connector Trail to be Built at the Opdahl Farm
- New Trailhead Kiosks to be Installed
- Fire Tower Observer Cabin to Open

### Conservation:

- Turtle Crossing Signs to be Installed on Ruggles Road
- Woodcock Survey and Early Successional Bird Survey to Take Place for a Second Year
- Lupine Planting at Old Gick Farm

### Education

- Visitor Information Cabin at Camp Saratoga
- Wilton Wildlife Festival on June 1st, 2013 sponsored by Healthy Living Market and Café and the Ballston Spa National Bank
- Secure Funding for Continuing with a Second Intern

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