

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

WILTON WILDLIFE
PRESERVE & PARK



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.



Open and Closed by Barbara Carr

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE PRESERVE & PARK

Working on the annual report is always a treat as we look back over the year and are reminded of all of the wonderful accomplishments of Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park. As a small organization, we are truly blessed with an extraordinary group of supporters who have such a hand in our success. Our board members, our volunteers, our parcel stewards, and our donors all make our day-to-day progress a reality. Equally important are our partners at the Town of Wilton and at New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, along with The Nature Conservancy and Saratoga County. It is an honor to work with knowledgeable, dedicated professionals in the public and private sector to help further our shared goals of conservation, education and outdoor recreation while providing a lasting resource for the community and for the planet.

The Saratoga Sandplains is an exceptional ecosystem made more special by the people who are working hard every day to ensure that it continues to flourish and provide both habitat for its unique species and a place for people to enjoy the outdoors and connect with the beauty of the natural world.

We hope that you enjoy looking over this snapshot of the Preserve & Park’s activities of the past year as much as we did putting it together! Your input, suggestions, and questions are always welcome. Thank you for the interest and support that you so generously give to Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park.

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MARGO OLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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BRIAN SOLINSKY,
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND
CONSERVATION INTERNS



Best Conservation by Shari Crocker; *Burst of Arrival*



Skidmore class collecting data at Old Gick Farm

CONSERVATION

Blanding's Turtle: There are turtle crossing signs on Ruggles Road! We coordinated this NYS DEC-funded project which was installed by the Town of Wilton. For a second year, volunteers and interns helped SUNY Potsdam researchers survey turtle habitat.

Woodcock and Early Successional Bird Surveys: Volunteers collected data for a second year to identify habitat inhabited by American woodcock, a species of special concern. Volunteers also surveyed birds using the Karner blue butterfly habitat allowing us to document the other species that benefit from our butterfly conservation work.

Karner Blue Butterfly Monitoring: To insure that we have the best information about the population we support the work of NYS DEC's student interns.

Native Plants Seed Collecting: Volunteers hand-picked and cleaned wild blue lupine, New Jersey tea, and butterfly milkweed seeds that are stored at the Saratoga Tree Nursery to be planted to create more habitat. Some seeds are used in our school programs.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count: Volunteers helped in the area's annual bird count along the trails and surroundings of the Preserve & Park.

Snowpack Study: Does a snowy winter help the Karner blue butterflies? Volunteers collected snow depth data which will help us understand the relationship of snowpack and population size.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

School and Group Programs: We work with the Dorothy Nolan and Ballard Road Elementary Schools providing in-school programs during the fall and winter and then a visit to the Preserve & Park in the spring. We have also been working with Schuylerville and Lake Avenue Schools among many other local schools. In the summer, we visit Gavin Park with lessons and activities for the summer recreation program participants.

Public Programs: All year-round we offer nature walks and talks, pond explorations and craft programs. We bring our exhibits and hands-on activities to many community events and festivals.

Environmental Education and Conservation Interns: This was the second year of grant funding that allowed for us to have two interns through the New York State Conservation Partnership Program to build our capacity.

Collaborative Programs: We work with many organizations including the Saratoga Springs Public Library, BOCES, and Skidmore College Environmental Studies students.



Neilmann Trail by Ryan Ripert

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Kiosk Project: Continuing the Leadership Saratoga project, kiosks and signs were installed at the Neilmann trailhead and at the Opdahl Farm. Fire Ecology information was posted at a kiosk at the Cornell Hill Fire Tower.

American Hiking Grant: With the grant, we made a new trailhead access at the Opdahl Farm on Ballard Road with a long stretch of boardwalk built by Pieter Litchfield linking to the existing trail network. The Skidmore Student Conservation Corps installed fencing in the parking area.

Saratoga Stryders Club Collaboration: A great year of 5k fun runs took place at Camp Saratoga. Part of the registration fees are donated to the Preserve & Park to support trail maintenance. The 8k snowshoe race was blessed with a snow-storm, with fresh powder for the participants.

Cornell Hill Fire Tower: The replica fire observer's cabin was officially dedicated. It recreates the life of a New York State fire observer and has exhibits and information about the history of fire towers and rangers in New York State.

Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe: In 2013, lack of snow and icy trails meant a second year in a row with the event being cancelled.

THIRD ANNUAL WILTON WILDLIFE FESTIVAL



Our third annual spring festival took place on National Trails Day. Even with the 90 degree heat, people enjoyed all of the activities.

There was pond exploration, fish prints, lupine planting, Karner blue butterfly walks and of course, the ever popular Beth Bidwell's live animal programs. The fire tower observer's cabin was dedicated that day and was open for the first time. The lupine were in full bloom with many Karner blue butterflies out for the visitors to observe. Many people enjoyed the food from the BBQ and the homemade goodies from the bake sale. As with all of our events, our volunteers made it all possible!

Thanks to Ballston Spa National Bank and Healthy Living Market and Café for their sponsorship support.



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

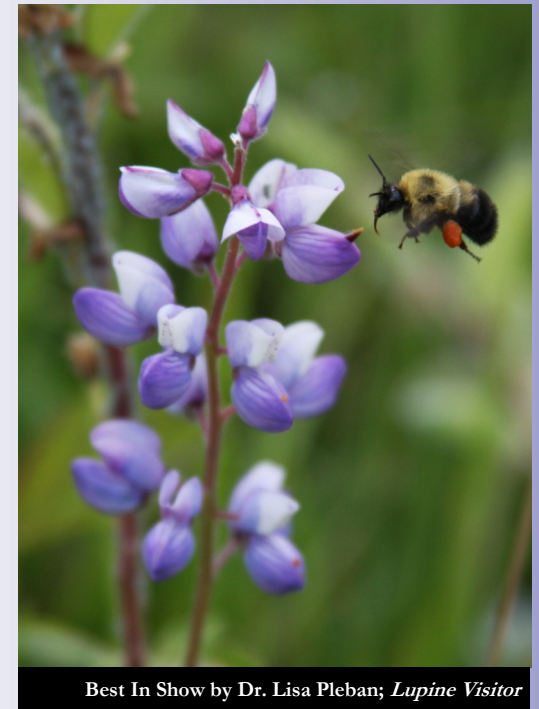
You can also visit us on facebook:

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

SECOND ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

The annual Photography Show and Contest and its opening coincided with its 2013 Annual Meeting on December 10th at the Preserve & Park Office. All of the entries to the show were to highlight the beauty and the mission of Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park and had to have been taken somewhere at the Preserve & Park.

Prize winners were: Dr. Lisa Pleban- Best in Show for *Lupine Visitor*; Shari Crocker - Best featuring Conservation for *Burst of Arrival*; Sarah Cartwright - Best featuring Recreation for *A Fall Welcome*; Cathy Hall - Best Animal Shot for *Mourning Cloak*; Regina TenEykl - Best Karner blue butterfly for *Karner Blue Butterfly*; and Kolby Himelrick - Best under-13 for *Arched Tree*.



WILD ABOUT BLUE

Wild about Blue, the major fundraising event for the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park took place on Sunday, October 20, 2013 at Prime at the Saratoga National Golf Club with drinks, a light dinner, and a unique silent auction.

Each year at the event, we presented the Metamorphosis Award which honors 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.

This year's Metamorphosis Award honors Heather Mabee as one who has accomplished significant community transformation. As chair of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Saratoga/Capital District Commission, Heather Mabee has taken the lead with a number of projects, including spearheading the restoration project for the Vale of Springs at the Saratoga Spa State Park. She is deeply involved in community service through her work with the New York Audubon Society, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Hospital, Community Hospice, National Museum of Dance, the Girl Scouts, and many other organizations.



Heather Mabee with Linda Baker and Margo Olson

WILD ABOUT BLUE HONORARY COMMITTEE

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Prime at Saratoga National Golf Club • Lucy R. Waletzky

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Wild About
Blue

An Event to Benefit
the Wilton Wildlife
Preserve & Park

PLEASE JOIN IN
A FESTIVE CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2013
4:00 – 7:00 P.M. AT
SARATOGA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB
458 UNION AVENUE
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK
DRINKS AND LIGHT SEASONAL FARE

FEATURING:
THE METAMORPHOSIS AWARD
HONORING HEATHER MABEE,
PLUS A UNIQUE SILENT AUCTION

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE IN 2013



Volunteers measuring snow at Camp Saratoga

Up to 20 Hours

Bridget Alber
Barbara Baker
Al Camacho
Joanne Bennett
John Borel
Liz Boyer
Heidi Campbell
Cathy Coryun
Kyle Davis
Tim Demers
Leslie Dorsey
Lindsey Duval
Joe Eggleston
Janet Ellsworth
Wally Elton
Adam Fehn
Greg Ferguson
Pat Fitzgerald
Rene Flanders
Marcia Garnsey
Zene Garnsey

Daniel Green
Sheri Grinter
Kimberly Harbour
Erin Healy
Julie Hotaling
Kathryn
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Sabrina Knott
Lisa Kosek
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Lynn Majack
Barbara Marra
Candace Mattison
Chris McDermott
Luna McDermott
Rachel McDermott
Zachary
McDermott
Bill McDuff
Takeya Meggett
Kathy O'Brien
Sarice Olson

George Pilkey
Jianne Polune
Nan Polune
Richard Rosen
Stephanie Rozelle
Ryan Ripper
Melissa Shea
Christi St. Dennis
Josh St. Dennis
Ashley Strom
Janet Talley
Allison VanKeuren
Ravi Verma
Shelby Wimmet-
Himelrick's 4H
group
Wendy Whittmore
Christian Yenna
Jamie Yenna
Chris Zimmerman

20 – 50 Hours

Howard Blake
Martha Devaney
Bob Fagan
Rick Fenton
Nancy Ferguson
Pat Fitzgerald
Rupert Harris
George Hodgson
Richard Knapik
Jeff Lawson
Lori McCarron
Marianne McGowen
Matthew Miczek
Marie Nicol
Barb Putnam
Bob Rice
Brenda Sanchez
Kelsey Schumacher
Abby Smith
Malina Stawarz
Caroline Stem



50 – 100 Hours

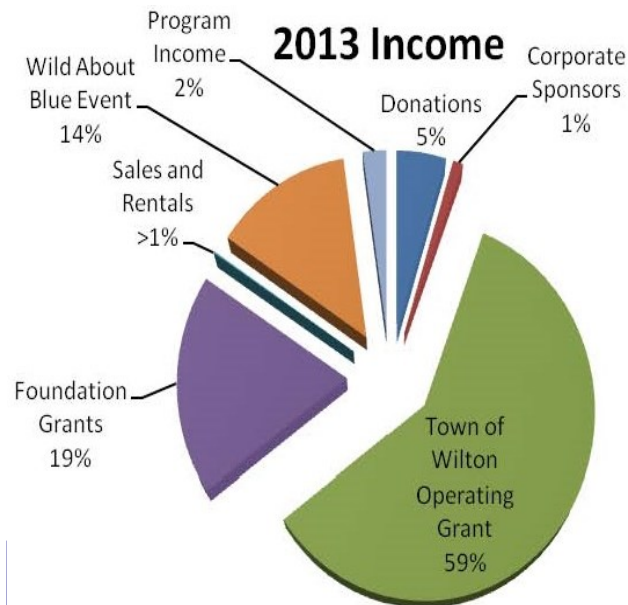
Linda Baker
Sean Cartwright
Jill Litchfield
Peg McCanty
Marci Revette
Rachel Sams

More than 100 Hours

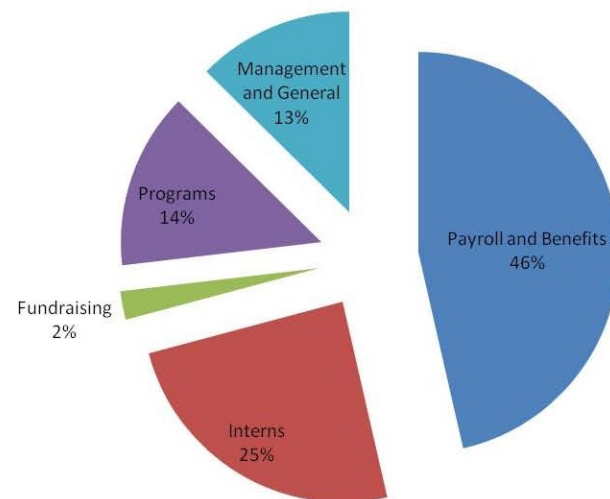
Larry Gordon
Linda Hovious
Pieter Litchfield
Skidmore Student
Conservation Corps



Skidmore Volunteers at Opdahl Farm Trailhead



2013 Expenses



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 Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

2013 MEMBERS & DONORS

Thanks to all who made financial contributions to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park in 2013. 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.

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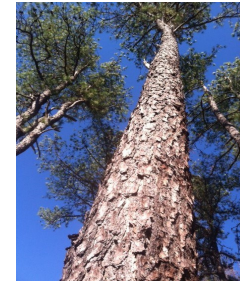
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Mrs. Betty O. McCanty
Mr. Mark J. McCanty
Ms. Maureen McCanty & Mr. Dennis Card

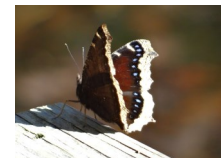
In Honor of Sue and Bob Sand
Ms. Kay Kemp

In Honor of Larry Gordon
Ms. Shirley D. Jung



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G. Willikers
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Home Made Theater

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INITIATIVES IN 2014

RECREATION:

- Accessible trail upgrades along Delegan Pond
- New accessible parking area at Camp Saratoga South using funds from the Tom's of Maine 50 States of Good Grant

CONSERVATION:

- Woodcock Survey and Early Successional Bird Survey to Take Place for a Third Year

EDUCATION

- Visitor Information Cabin at Camp Saratoga
- Wilton Wildlife Festival on June 1st, 2014 at Camp Saratoga sponsored by Ballston Spa National Bank
- Secure Funding for Continuing with a Second Intern

