

2015 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.

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE PRESERVE & PARK

Every year our projects and activities are linked to our mission in conservation, environmental education, and outdoor recreation. In some years we may focus more in one area than another, but 2015 was a very balanced year. A highlight in the area of conservation took place on Earth Day when our partners at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, along with The Nature Conservancy, the Town of Wilton, and Saratoga County all came together at Camp Saratoga to announce that DEC had purchased the Fox and Frawley parcels. DEC got right to work on a new habitat restoration project on the former Frawley property. It was a pleasure to host Robert Stegemann, the Director for Region 5 and to spend time with him on Earth Day, sharing the wonderful resource of the Saratoga Sandplains.

A highlight in the area of environmental education was our continued partnership with area colleges. We hosted several classes who used the Preserve & Park for an outdoor learning opportunity. Groups came from Skidmore College, Paul Smiths College, and Fordham University. Skidmore Environmental Studies students worked with us for service learning hours, and a student, Urvi Kalra did a summer internship for credit and made a short film about our environmental education program.

Finally in outdoor recreation, at Camp Saratoga, a new connector from the lakeside pavilion around the hill towards the fire tower was built in the fall. This will allow for easier access, especially in the winter when the stairs from the pond up toward the fire tower get very icy. This was done as a collaborative project between the Preserve & Park and the Town of Wilton, the owner of that part of Camp Saratoga. Improvements were also done on the connector trail between Camp Saratoga and the Opdahl Farm.

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MARGO OLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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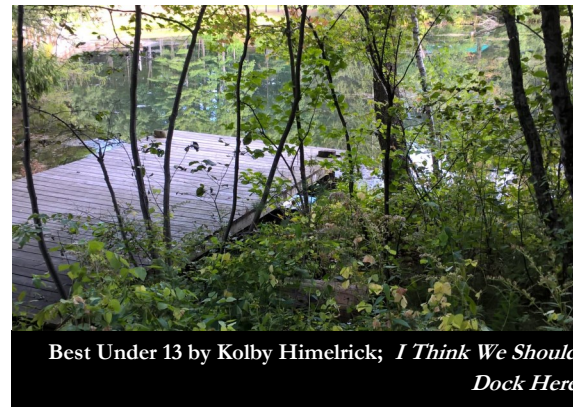
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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND
CONSERVATION INTERNS



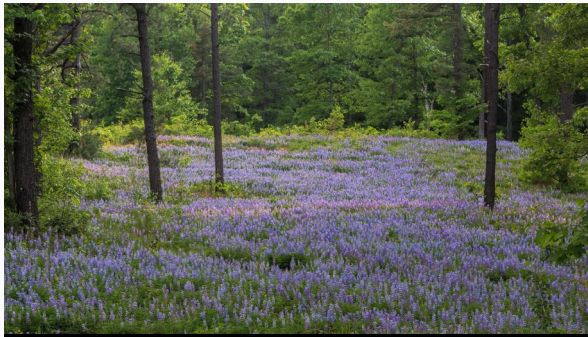
Best Under 13 by Kolby Himelrick; *I Think We Should Dock Here*



Board Chair, Linda Baker speaking on Earth Day at Camp Saratoga with Art Johnson and Robert Stegemann.



Karner blue butterfly by Carolina Wierzbowski



Field of Lupine by Wayne Jones

CONSERVATION

Woodcock and Early Successional Bird

Surveys: Volunteers collected data for a fourth 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, wild strawberry, 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. It is best for the long-term health of the ecosystem to use native seeds as much as possible. We couldn't do it without our volunteers!

Snowpack Study: We are continuing to collect data on the snow depth at various locations around the Preserve & Park. Studies have shown a correlation between snow depth and population size. 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 also work 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. Many other summer camps and programs come to visit us for nature walks and pond exploration programs.

Public Programs: All year-round we offer nature walks and talks, pond explorations and craft programs. During the two broods of the Karner blue butterfly we host many guided walks to learn about our best known species! We host our own annual Wildlife Festival as well as bringing our exhibits and hands-on activities to many community events and festivals.

Environmental Education and Conservation

Interns: Our internship program is part of our commitment to environmental education. Not only are our interns responsible for the development and presentation of most of our programs, but by hiring college graduates and giving them real work experience, we are nurturing the next generation of environmental professionals!



A fall Preschool Discovery Day Program



Luminary -lit trails at the Full Moon Ski and Snowshoe by Gray Morrison

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

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Parcel Stewards: Our dedicated parcel stewards walk all of our almost-nineteen miles of trails on a regular basis, doing minor trail work and altering us if there are larger maintenance issues for our Partners to address.

Saratoga Stryders Club Collaboration: The Stryders host a great series of 5k fun runs at Camp Saratoga donating part of the registration fees to us for trail maintenance. Their 8k snowshoe race is always a highlight of the winter.

Cornell Hill Fire Tower: Hundreds of people come on open weekends to climb the fire tower and to see the replica fire observer's cabin. It recreates the life of a New York State fire observer with exhibits and information about the history of fire towers and rangers in New York State.

Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe: With just enough snow, we held the ever-popular program with many hundreds of people getting out on a beautiful night to enjoy the outdoors in a very unusual way!

Winter Trail Grooming: We continue to offer the community high quality groomed trails through our agreement with NYS DEC. **PAGE 3**

FIFTH ANNUAL WILTON WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

The rain couldn't dampen the spirits of the many volunteers and attendees to our fifth Wildlife Festival! We hold our annual festival on the Sunday after Memorial Day. This is the time of year at the Preserve & Park when so much of what we work towards is at its peak! The lupine is in full bloom and the first brood of the endangered Karner blue butterflies have emerged and can be seen flitting among the flowers in the meadows. A glance down into the pond is all it takes to see that it is teeming with spring life including lots of tadpoles!

Even with the rain festival-goers enjoyed pond exploration, making fish prints, making beaded dragonflies, planting lupine, going on damp Karner blue butterfly walks, and Trish Marki's live animal programs. People also enjoyed learning about other area organization through their participation; Lake George Land Conservancy, Hudson Crossing Park, Lower Adirondack Search and Rescue, and the Saratoga Tree Nursery. 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 for their sponsorship support of the live animal programs.



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

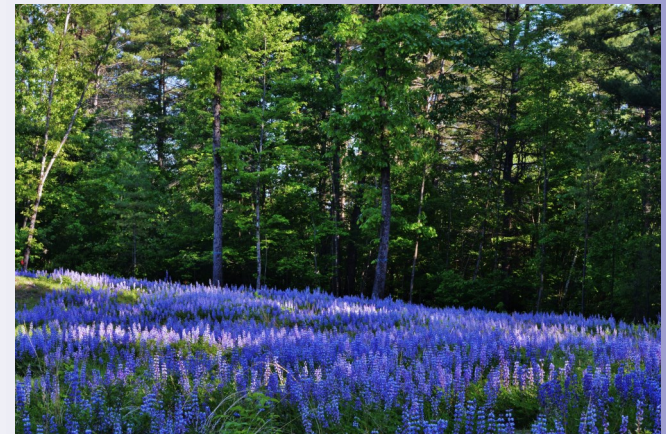
You can also visit us on facebook:

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

FOURTH ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

The annual Photography Show and Contest features photographs that highlight the beauty and the mission of Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park and had to have been taken somewhere at the Preserve & Park. This was our largest show to-date with so many wonderful images of the Preserve & Park!

This year's Best In Show was awarded to Shari Crocker for her image "Field of Lupine." Carolina Wierzbowski won for Best featuring the endangered Karner blue butterfly for her photograph, "Karner." Jeff Lawson's shot "Ski Slope" won for Best featuring Recreation. Howard Lester's charming shot of a mother and daughter at the pond won for Best featuring Education with "Wilton Wildlife Festival." This year's winner for Best Animal Shot was Eric Avery for "Eastern Towhee." Kolby Himelrick won again this year in the Best under-13 category for his picture "I Think We Should Dock Here." Best Nature in Winter with was won by Bernie Fabry with "The Little Tree that Could," while Best Nature In Autumn was won by Ron Harrower for "Wilton Wildlife." Best featuring Conservation was a stunning image "Frosted Elfin on Blue" taken by Wayne Jones.



Best In Show by Shari Crocker; *Field of Lupine*

WILD ABOUT BLUE

Wild about Blue, the major fundraising event for the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park took place on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at Prime at the Saratoga National Golf Club with drinks, a bountiful dinner, and a unique silent auction.

Each year at the event, we present 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.

The Metamorphosis Award in 2015 honored Jane Adams Wait. When Jane Wait approached John Nelson with the idea of putting together a group to improve the condition of the Yaddo Gardens, he said yes. Maybe he already knew that Jane would not take no for an answer! From the days when she worked to pay her own way through Cornell and then to go on to earn the coveted Mortar Board distinction, to her myriad of involvements in the Saratoga Springs community, she has never rested when she sees that there is a need that can be addressed. She is a force of nature, using her energy to inspire others to get on board and to share in her passion and commitment to make sure that the job gets done. We are very proud to honor Jane for her work in making so many positive, dramatic changes in our community.



WILD ABOUT BLUE HONORARY COMMITTEE

VISIONARY

Adirondack Trust Company
Anonymous (2)
Frank & Delores Parillo
Prime at Saratoga National Golf Club
The D.A. Collins Companies

STEWARD

Anchor QEA ♦ Linda Baker ♦ Gail & Russell Danforth ♦ Saratoga National Bank and Trust Co.
Stewart's Shops ♦ Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D. ♦ Wilton Rotary ♦ Woodlawn Commons

GUARDIAN

Drs. Chris & Leisa Brockett ♦ Drs. Jean & John Buhac, Nicole Buhac ♦ Becky Christner & Carter White ♦ Larry Gordon & Patricia Watkins Peg McCanty & Mike Geppner
Linda & Richard Hovious ♦ Anthony & Rachel Krackeler ♦ Redbud Development, Inc. ♦ Bob Rice, Debbie Rice, Hailey Houde ♦ The Nature Conservancy – Eastern New York Chapter ♦ Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop

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Florence Andresen & William F. Baumann ♦ Anonymous (2) ♦ Kerstin Beeg, Thomas Beeg ♦ Jennifer Benaman & Andrew Roginski ♦ Bert & Bailey Bloom ♦ Clark W. Brink – McDonald's of Saratoga ♦ Charlie & Kathy DiSanto ♦ Rick Fenton & Hollyday Hammond ♦ Nancy & Greg Ferguson ♦ Ben Ford & Jean Dugan ♦ Steve & Dorothy Harran
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A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE IN 2015



Volunteers at Camp Saratoga

UNDER 25 HOURS

Nicole Baldwin
Sue Baldwin
Howard Blake
John Borel
Carmack Family
Sarah Cartwright
Cub Scouts
Cathy Domozych
David Domozych
Jackie Donnelly
Wally Elton
Anne Ernst
Tina Facteau
Pat Fitzgerald
Patricia Gordon
Olivia Gramprie
Dan Green
John Greenwood
Sheri Grinter
Bo Harris
George Hodgson
Hoffman Family
Richard Hovious

Michaela Kexalli
Jeff Lawson
Ed Lopresti
Johanna MacKay
Barbara Marra
Lori McCarron
Jackie McConnell
McDermott Family
Lisa Meade
Donna Olson
Pelcher Family
Richard Pine
Bob Reepmeyer
Holly Roche
Richard Rosen
Rachel Sams
Brenda Sanchez
Snowden Family
St. Dennis Family
Will Schafer
Gretchen Stark
Janet Talley
Wendy Whittmore
Willman Family

25 – 50 HOURS

Jennifer Benaman
Larry Dana
Gail Danforth
Martha Devaney
Rick Fenton
Nancy Ferguson
John Keel
Howard Lester
Jill Litchfield
Pieter Litchfield
Matthew Miczek
Mike Prutsman
Marci Revette
Bob Rice
Richard Rosen
Skidmore
Environmental
Studies
Students
Malina Stawarz
Caroline Stem

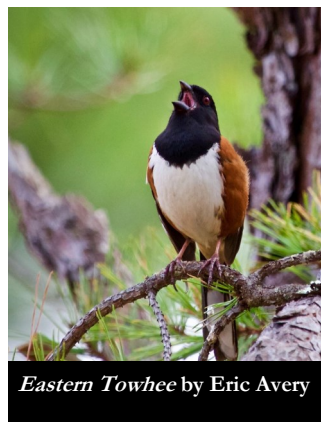
50 – 100 HOURS

Urvi Kalra
Peg McCanty
Ryan Riper

MORE THAN 100 HOURS

Linda Baker
Larry Gordon*
Linda Hovious

*more than 200 hours



Eastern Towhee by Eric Avery

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PLAQUE UNVEILED AT ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER

LEGACY

Larry Gordon
Pieter Litchfield

1000 HOURS

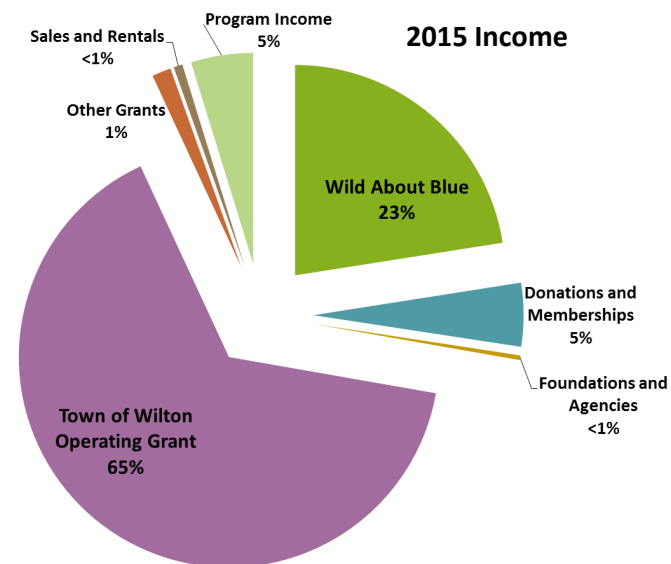
Linda Baker
Linda Hovious
Peg McCanty

500 HOURS

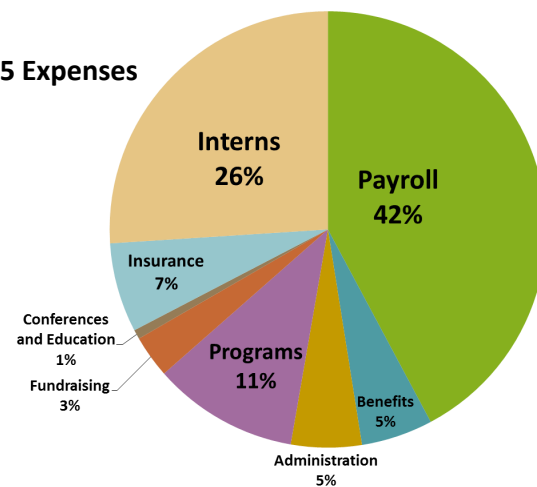
Martha Devaney
Kevin Joyce
Jill Litchfield
Lori McCarron
Matthew Miczek
Bob Rice

250 HOURS

Dana McClure
Jack Reber



2015 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.

2015 MEMBERS & DONORS

Thanks to all who made financial contributions to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park in 2015. 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.

Adirondack Trust Company	Mr. Chris Eatz	Ms. Shirley D. Jung	Douglas Meyer &	Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Saville	<u>In Honor of My Grandchildren</u>	Prohibition Pig
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Frosted elfin by Wayne Jones



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INITIATIVES IN 2016

RECREATION:

- Work with the Town of Wilton to upgrade infrastructure at Camp Saratoga to allow for public restrooms in the future
- Work with the Town of Wilton and Saratoga County to increase trail linkages between parcels at the Preserve & Park

CONSERVATION:

- Participate in the nationwide FrogWatch program
- Continue with our other Citizen Science Programs; Snow Depth Survey, Woodcock Survey, and Early Successional Bird Survey

EDUCATION

- Create and disseminate a new Education Program Brochure
- Develop new programs that align with the New York State Science Standards



The Little Tree that Could by Bernie Fabry