

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## WILTON WILDLIFE PRESERVE & PARK



The mission of 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.

80 Scout Road, Wilton, NY 12831  
518-450-0321 [www.wiltonpreserve.org](http://www.wiltonpreserve.org) [info@wiltonpreserve.org](mailto:info@wiltonpreserve.org)



## CONSERVATION

Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park works with our partners to support a wide range of conservation efforts in the Saratoga Sandplains.



Our partners, our Environmental Education and Conservation Interns, and our volunteers had a great year with many accomplishments:

- Karner blue butterfly monitoring
- Blanding's Turtle Research Project
- Habitat preparation work at Fox
- DEC habitat mowing and brush removal
- Pheasant release at Old Gick
- Wild Blue Lupine seed picking
- New Jersey Tea seed picking
- Butterfly Milkweed seed picking and cleaning
- Woodcock Survey
- FrogWatch USA training
- FrogWatch surveys
- Transect marking in Karner habitat
- Earth Day Wooley Adelgid Survey
- Easement Monitoring
- iMap Invasives Training

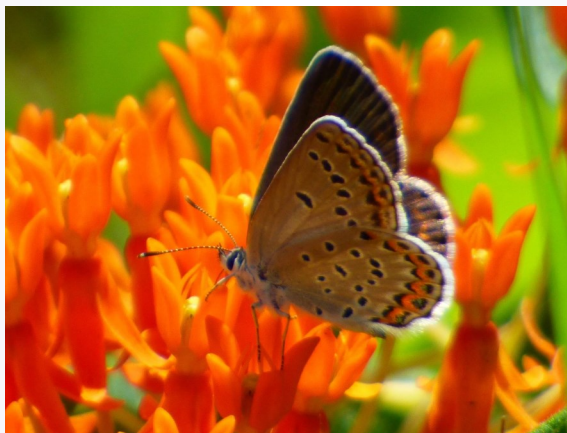
## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Our environmental education program continues to grow as we work with schools and groups from Saratoga County and beyond. This year we hired our first part-time Education Coordinator to take our programs to the next level. We are excited to be able to work more closely with schools, camps, after school programs, and other groups from preschoolers through adults.

Group programs are just one part of what we do. For the public, we offer nature walks and talks, pond explorations and craft programs year-round. During the two broods of the Karner blue butterfly, we have guided walks to educate about our best known species! We have an annual Wildlife Festival and bring our exhibits and hands-on activities to many community events and festivals.

We are able to do so much because of our fantastic interns. Our paid internship program gives important training and skills to young professionals in the field of environmental education.

We work with many different community groups it is hard to list them all! 4H, Academy for Lifelong Learning, BOCES, Colonie Youth Center; Franklin Community Center's Project Lift, Gavin Park, Hudson Crossing Park, Moreau Lake State Park, the Prevention Council, Saratoga Spa State Park, the Saratoga Springs Public Library, Skidmore College Environmental Studies students, and Washington County Important Bird Area.



## OUTDOOR RECREATION

We want everyone to get outdoors and experience the beauty and healthful benefits found in nature. We work closely with our partners to help provide year round outdoor recreation by maintaining existing trails and helping to create new trails and linkages. Outdoor recreation means different things to different people; it can be going for a nature walk, bird watching, photographing nature, dog walking, going for a fitness run, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and more! We have over 20 miles of trails for people to enjoy.

2018 saw the dedication of the Bicentennial Trail linking Camp Saratoga to the Edie Road trails and a trail for horses along Scout Road. We also had a group of Navy volunteers come and do trail work and other maintenance at Neilmann and Camp Saratoga.



Our commitment to year-round outdoor recreation includes our winter trail grooming program at Camp Saratoga North. We were able to have our Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe event 2018 and it was a wonderful night for the hundreds of people who attended.

The Saratoga Stryders running club is a great partner, holding a series of 5k fun runs in the summer and an 8k snowshoe race in the winter.

## EIGHTH ANNUAL WILTON WILDLIFE FESTIVAL



The event is held the Sunday after Memorial Day since that is the time of year when the wild blue lupine in the meadow is in full bloom and the first brood of Karner blue butterflies have emerged. It is the perfect time to see the Preserve & Park at its peak!

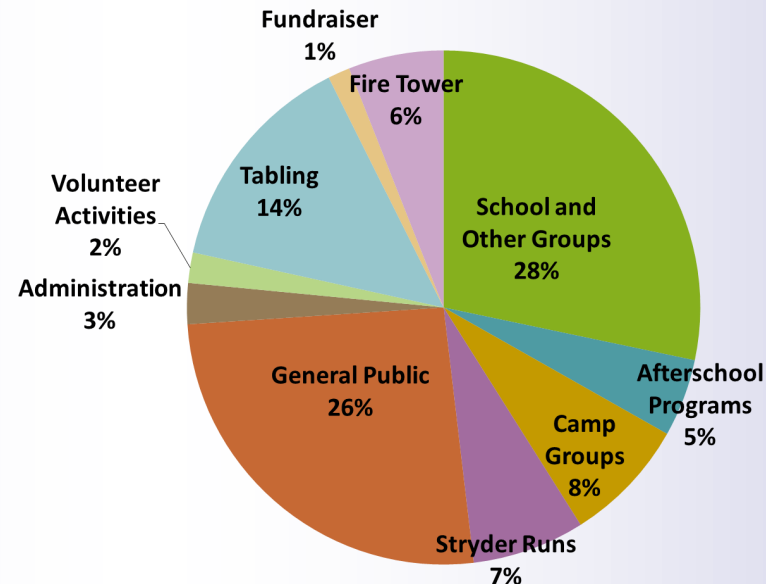
In 2018 we had a rainy day but that didn't keep people from enjoying all the activities, including the Silent Wings program in the Dining Hall. Pond exploration took place in spite of the rain as did nature crafts like making fish prints and beaded dragonflies, planting lupine, and going on nature walks into the meadow to look for Karner blue butterflies. 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.

## SEVENTH ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park hosted its seventh annual Photography Show on Monday, December 3 at the Preserve & Park Office. This year's Best in Show was awarded to Matthew Snyder for his image "Fall Flare." John Hershey won for Best featuring the endangered Karner blue butterfly for his photograph, "Karner Blue." Linda Morzillo's shot "Wilton's Winter Wonderland" won for Best featuring Recreation. Ray O'Connor was the winner for the Best featuring Education with a photo of his granddaughter helping to release a monarch butterfly with "Monarch's First Flight." This year's winner for Best Animal Shot was Zak Vanier for his delightful "Nashville Warbler." Best Nature In Autumn was won by Claire McCaffrey for "Autumn Afternoon." Best featuring Conservation was a stunning image "Taking a Sip" taken by Nancy Lyons and Kendra Livingston won the Best featuring a Plant or Fungus, with her image "Fungi." Howard Lester's unusual photograph "Delegan Pond" won for Most Creative. Eric Avery, winner of last year's Best in Show helped to judge the entries. There were forty-seven photographs selected taken by sixteen photographers. All photographs were taken at Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park and highlight the amazing beauty and diversity of the natural world that is right in our own community.



### ATTENDANCE FOR 2018 8,509 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



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

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

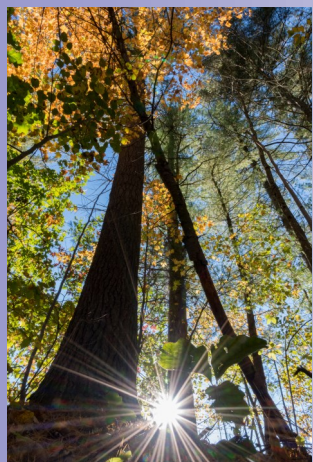
You can also visit us on facebook: [www/facebook.com/#1/WiltonPreserve](https://www.facebook.com/#1/WiltonPreserve)

## THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE IN 2018

### Volunteers contributed almost 2,000 hours in 2018!

It is amazing how many kinds of work are done by our fantastic volunteers; seed picking and cleaning, pond dipping, walk leading, log moving, pine plucking, snowshoe and cross country ski renting, snow grooming, envelope stuffing and labeling, woodcock listening, fire tower interpreting, frog watching, environmental educating, trail stewarding, nature crafting, car parking, fundraising, and so much more!!

So a big, heartfelt Thank You to everyone who volunteered for Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park in 2018.



#### MORE THAN 75 HOURS

Linda Baker  
Jennifer Benaman  
Larry Dana  
Rick Fenton  
Larry Gordon  
Jeffrey Lawson  
Marcie Revette

#### 51 – 74 HOURS

Jean Hoins  
Matthew Miczek  
Richard Pine  
Ryan Riper  
Caroline Stem

#### 25 – 50 HOURS

Eric Avery  
Mark Bellantoni  
Martha Devaney  
Bob Fagan

Lauren Guiry  
Linda Hovious  
LASAR  
LeMoyné College  
Service Trip Students  
Howard Lester  
Dave Matteson  
Cadey Nolan

Bob Rice  
Kurt Smemo  
Karen Sosler

#### UNDER 25 HOURS

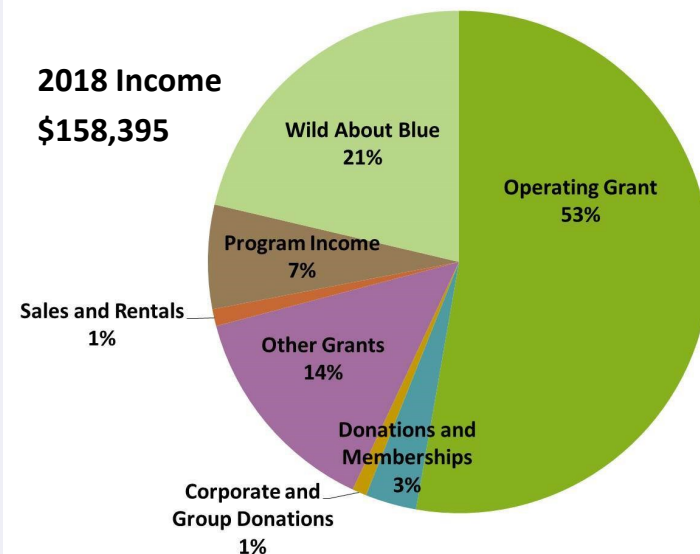
Sheri Apple  
Kenny Barnett  
Howard Blake  
Chris Brockett  
Caroline Caferelli  
Laura Clark

Andrea Coton  
Heather Coton  
Babette & Jill  
Eaton  
Anne Ernst  
Wally Elton  
Tina Facticeau  
Jonathan Fein  
Jenn Ferriss  
Arnold Firestone  
Carol Firestone  
Anika & Marketa  
Halova  
Bo Harris  
Bridget Henry  
Shelby Himelrick  
Heidi Kaufmann  
Joanne Klepetar  
Tom Klepetar  
Jill & Pieter  
Litchfield

Sarah Los  
Johanna MacKay  
Sue Matthews  
Lori McCarron  
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Wendy Whittmore  
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Brennen Wilkes  
Wilton Troop 24

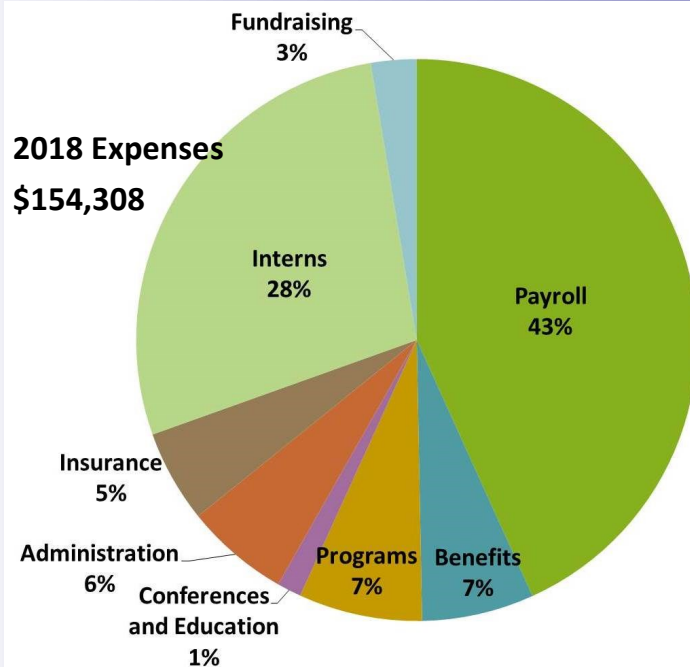
### 2018 Income

**\$158,395**



### 2018 Expenses

**\$154,308**



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.

## **WILD ABOUT BLUE**

Wild about Blue, the major fundraising event for the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park took place on Sunday, November 4, 2018 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 honored Laura Clark for her work in both environmental education and outdoor recreation. Laura is an avid snowshoer and runner, and as a member and former president of the Saratoga Stryders, she has been a tireless promoter of getting outside for year-round activities. As the Children's Librarian at the Saratoga Springs Public Library, she has created dozens of programs over the years to encourage families to learn about nature and to get outdoors. Laura has created positive and dramatic changes in our community and we are proud to have her as our honoree this year!

## **WILD ABOUT BLUE HONORARY COMMITTEE**

### **CONSERVATIONIST**

Prime at Saratoga National; Jane Adams Wait

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Linda Baker; Jennifer Benaman & Andrew Roginski; Drs. Chris & Leisa Brockett – Saratoga Veterinary Hospital; Stewart's Shops; The D.A. Collins Companies; The Parillo & Nigro Family; Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.; Wilton Rotary

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Thanks to all who made financial or other contributions to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park in 2018. 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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