

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF CONSERVATION,
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION



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.



AN ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE



**MARGO B. OLSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

AND

**JENNIFER BENAMAN,
BOARD CHAIR**

In the past quarter of a century we have seen the protected lands increase, the miles of trails increase, the number of programs we present to the public increase, and the number of schools that we work with increase! It is with great satisfaction that we look back and see how we have grown and how we have been able to use that growth to better serve our community and our mission.

See more about how we have worked on our mission's three pillars: Conservation, Environmental Education, and Outdoor Recreation on the following pages.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished and are grateful to our founders and their vision which has resulted in our vibrant and creative organization. Each year we reach more and more people, through programs and outdoor opportunities. We hope you are proud too, of being a part of Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park and of creating a positive impact on the world around us - through this Preserve for Nature and Park for People.



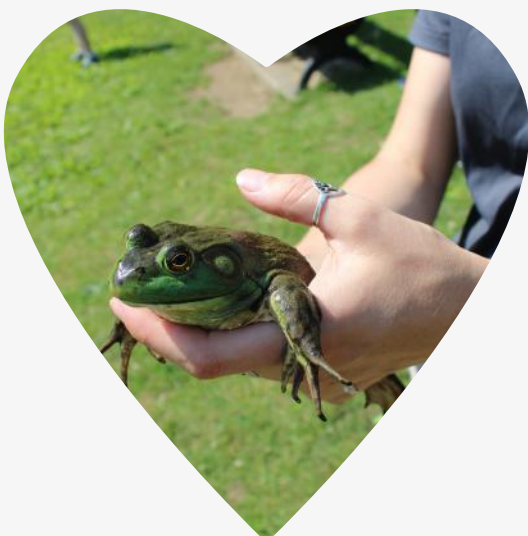
PILLAR ONE: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

As COVID restrictions eased, we were happy to get back to presenting more of a regular schedule of programs and we were thankful that our community was ready and willing to participate!

2021 Program Attendance

- Public Programs at Camp Saratoga & At Other Trails: 2,558
- Other Groups: 376
- Scout Programs: 104
- School Groups: 552
- Wild About Blue: 88
- Afterschool Programs: 57
- Gavin Park & Other Camps: 1,008
- Community Events: 286
- Great 8 Trail Challenge: 55
- Stryder Runs: 285
- Cornell Hill Fire Tower: 180
- Earth Day Essay Contest: 211
- Meetings/Planning: 575
- Volunteer Projects: 186
- High School & College Interns: 8

EDUCATION IS AT THE HEART OF ALL THAT WE DO



In 2021 we worked with:

- Academy for Lifelong Learning
- Ballard Road Elementary School
- BOCES
- Boy Scouts
- Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School
- Charlton School
- Colonie Youth Center
- Cornerstone Academy
- Franklin Community Center's Project Lift
- Gavin Park
- Girl Scouts
- Glens Falls School District Special Ed
- Harrison Avenue Elementary
- Malta Community Center
- Mayfield Elementary
- Mechanicville Area Community Services
- Open Air Sports
- Saratoga Independent School
- Saratoga Springs Public Library
- Saratoga Recreation Department
- Schuylerville Library
- Skidmore College Environmental Studies Students
- Tanglewood Elementary





PILLAR TWO: OUTDOOR RECREATION

PEOPLE CARE ABOUT AND WORK TO PROTECT THE PLACES THAT THEY SPEND TIME IN AND LOVE

2021 Outdoor Recreation Highlights

Winter Trail Grooming and Rentals:

The winter of 2021 was memorable with great snowfall. The snow allowed us to groom the trails for winter sports creating good trail conditions for most of the winter season. It was our busiest winter ever for renting out cross country skis and snowshoes!

"Great 8" Trail Challenge

Introduced on Earth Day, participants earn a patch when they submit the form showing they they walked on trails from each of the eight trailheads. We awarded 55 "Great 8" patches in 2021.



Trail Stewards:

17 people participated in our trail stewardship program, keeping the trails and parking lots clear of debris and litter. Stewards also report back to us on trail conditions and maintenance needs so we can let our partner-land owners know.

Field Work Fridays:

Starting in the spring, volunteers met every other week to do group projects including cleaning up planters and parking lots at Neilmann and at Camp Saratoga, replacing missing trail markers at Neilmann, and cleaning up and repairing stairs on the trail from Delegan Pond to the cabins and fire tower.

5k Trail Series:

The Saratoga Stryders were able to host their Camp Saratoga Trails series again this summer.

PILLAR THREE: CONSERVATION



We coordinate with our partners to provide support and manpower for their conservation projects in the Saratoga Sand Plains .With restrictions this year, there were fewer conservation projects than in the past. We assisted with most of the year’s projects with our staff, volunteers, and Environmental Education and Conservation Interns.

- Wild blue lupine seed picking
- New Jersey tea seed picking
- Butterfly milkweed seed picking and cleaning
- Woodcock Survey
- FrogWatch survey
- iMap Invasives Training
- Waterchestnut removal in Delegan Pond

THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, THE TOWN OF WILTON, SARATOGA COUNTY, AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY HAVE BEEN OUR PARTNERS FOR 25 YEARS IN THE WORK OF PROTECTING THESE IMPORTANT LANDS.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

10TH ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

IN 2021, THE ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW WAS ONCE AGAIN, A VIRTUAL SHOW. PHOTOGRAPHS WERE DISPLAYED IN A VIRTUAL GALLERY ON OUR WEBSITE. ERIC AVERY, AGAIN SERVED AS JUDGE FOR THE 80 ENTRIES SUBMITTED BY 22 PHOTOGRAPHERS. ALL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN AT THE PRESERVE & PARK AND HIGHLIGHT THE BEAUTY AND DIVERSITY OF THE NATURAL WORLD THAT IS RIGHT IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY. MANY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE FEATURED IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT.

2021 WINNERS

BEST IN SHOW: DENISE HACKERT-STONER, SAWFLY LARVA MUNCHING

BEST KARNER BUTTERFLY: CARA DEMPSEY, BLUE ON BLUE

BEST ANIMAL SHOT: SCOTT STONER, EASTERN CHIPMUNK

BEST NATURE IN AUTUMN: WAYNE JONES, RED MAPLE LEAF ON PAPER BIRCH LOG

BEST FUNGI: HOWARD LESTER, WHITE CORAL FUNGUS

BEST RECREATION: LINDA MORZILLO, PERFECT LIGHT FOR NANCY FINLEY LYONS

BEST NATURE IN WINTER: BERNIE FABRY, RED PINES AT EDIE ROAD

BEST FEATURING UNDER 13: SHANNON RILEY, COTTON FLUFF

JUDGE'S CHOICE: BERNIE FABRY, BELTED KINGFISHER AT DELEGAN POND

FEATURED CREATURE: PAT COLLINS, GYPSY MOTH CATERPILLAR

6TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY ESSAY CONTEST

EACH YEAR, WE OFFER AN ESSAY CONTEST IN CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT. THIS YEAR'S THEME WAS RESTORE OUR EARTH, AND WE RECEIVED OVER 200 WONDERFUL ESSAYS FROM STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE CAPITAL REGION.

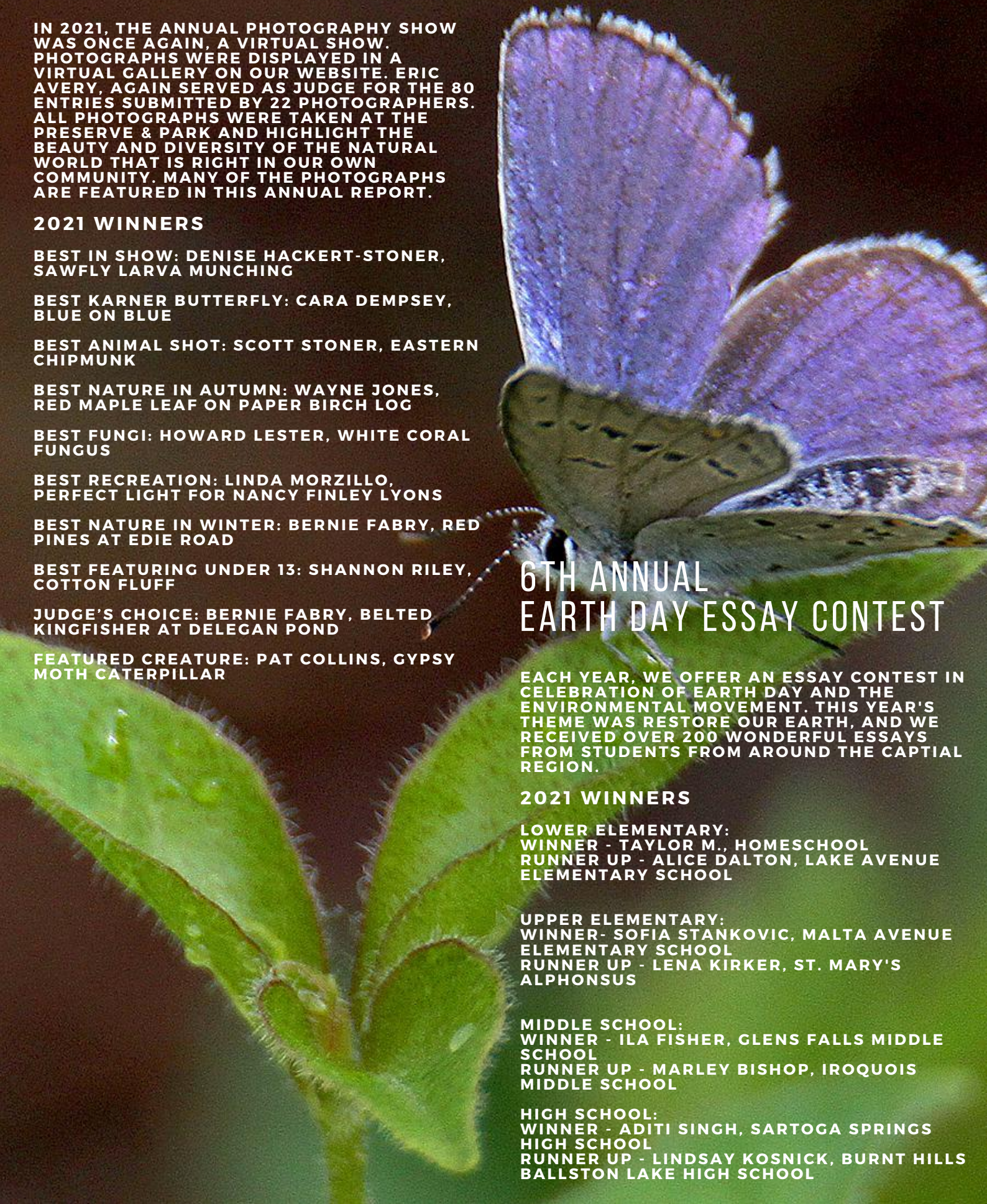
2021 WINNERS

LOWER ELEMENTARY:
WINNER - TAYLOR M., HOMESCHOOL
RUNNER UP - ALICE DALTON, LAKE AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

UPPER ELEMENTARY:
WINNER - SOFIA STANKOVIC, MALTA AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
RUNNER UP - LENA KIRKER, ST. MARY'S ALPHONSUS

MIDDLE SCHOOL:
WINNER - ILA FISHER, GLENS FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
RUNNER UP - MARLEY BISHOP, IROQUOIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL:
WINNER - ADITI SINGH, SARTOGA SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
RUNNER UP - LINDSAY KOSNICK, BURNT HILLS BALLSTON LAKE HIGH SCHOOL



PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



OUTDOOR PAINTING WORKSHOPS

GRANT FUNDING HAS ALLOWED US TO OFFER THESE WORKSHOPS WITH WORKING ARTISTS PAGE DARROW AND CATHERINE WAGNER MINNERY.

THEY HELP THE PARTICIPANTS IN WATERCOLOR AND ACRYLIC PAINTING AS THEY CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF THE MEADOW IN THE SPRING AND DELEGAN POND IN THE FALL.

CAMPFIRE CONCERTS

WE RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING TO OFFER BLUES FOR THE KARNER BLUES MUSICAL PERFORMANCES AT OUR WILDLIFE FESTIVAL. WHEN THAT WAS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID, WE MOVED THE MUSIC TO A FALL WEEKEND. PARTICIPANTS ENJOYED A NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT, EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS, A CAMPFIRE WITH S'MORES, AND OF COURSE, THE BLUES!

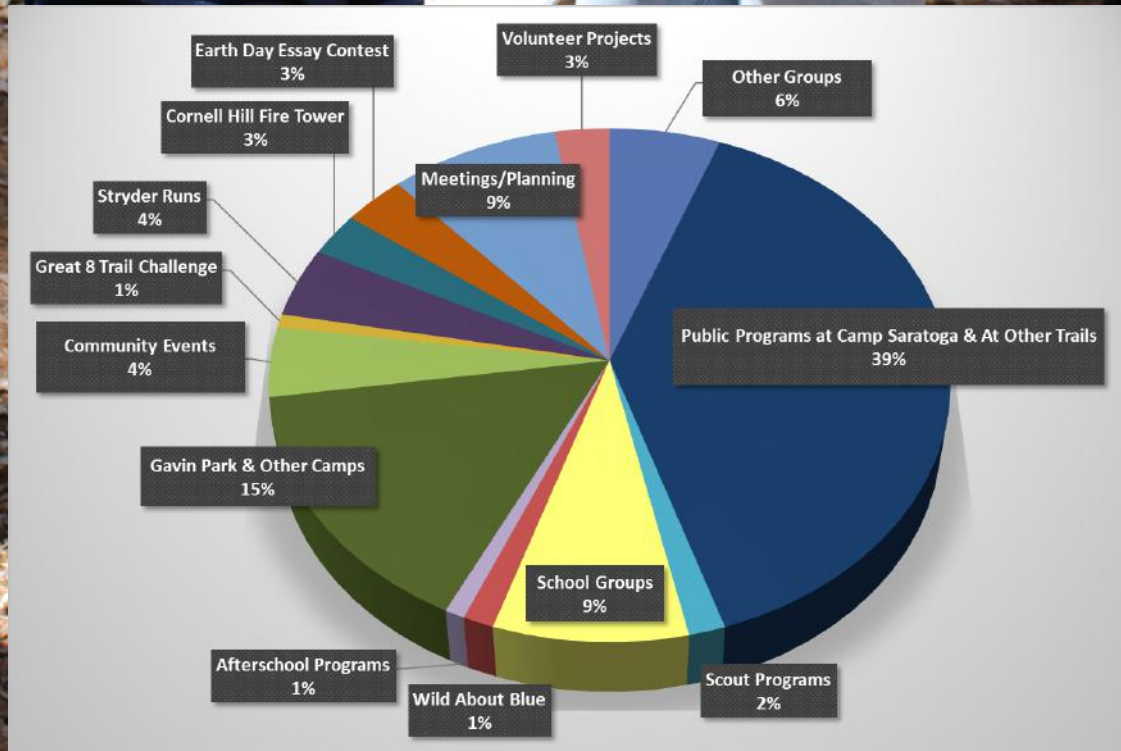


THOMASINA WINSLOW PERFORMED THE ACOUSTIC BLUES ON ONE DAY, AND RED SPRUCE BAND PLAYED BLUEGRASS ON THE OTHER. THE GRANT ALSO INCLUDED FUNDS FOR THOMASINA WINSLOW TO COMPOSE A BLUES SONG ABOUT THE KARNER BLUE BUTTERFLIES.



HOW MANY PEOPLE DID WE SERVE IN 2021?

EVEN WITH COVID, WE KEPT UP OUR COMMITMENT TO EXPAND OUTDOOR PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES TO THE COMMUNITY.



IN 2020 WE ONLY WORKED WITH 1,000 PEOPLE THROUGH OUR IN-PERSON PROGRAMS DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS.

IN 2021 WE SAW OUR ATTENDANCE GROW TO OVER 6,000. WHILE THIS IS NOT YET BACK TO PRE-COVID LEVELS, WE ARE OPTIMISTIC FOR 2022.

WILD ABOUT BLUE: ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER

Held annually around the date of our official founding, Wild About Blue is the main way in which we raise the needed funds to keep our programs going. After a virtual event in 2020, we were able to hold Wild about Blue in person at the Wishing Well. This event also gives us an opportunity to recognize individuals who have created transformational change in our community with the Metamorphosis Award. Bob Rice was the awardee and we were delighted to be able to honor him for his work in our community.



Wild About Blue

An Event to Benefit
the Wilton Wildlife
Preserve & Park

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021
4:00 — 7:00 P.M.
AT THE WISHING WELL
745 SARATOGA ROAD
WILTON, NEW YORK

FEATURING:
THE 2021 METAMORPHOSIS AWARD
Honoring Bob Rice

CHECK WEBSITE FOR COVID-RELATED EVENT UPDATES
WWW.WILTONPRESERVE.ORG

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH TO OUR 2021 HONORARY COMMITTEE

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LemeryGreisler LLC
Marshall & Sterling Insurance
M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, PC
Charlie Pickett & Kathleen Rehl
Saratoga Land Management
Jane A. Wait

Guardian

Adirondack Trust Company
Artisanal Brew Works
Rabbi Bert & Bailey Bloom
Kim Marsella & Blue Neils
Price Chopper's Golub Foundation
Scotty's - The Parillo Family
Kurt Smemo & Wendy Mahaney
Caroline Stem & Bill Sprengnether
The Christopher Dailey Foundation
Mark & Marie Dailey
Wild Birds Unlimited
Lois Geshiwl & Nancy Castillo
Wilton Rotary

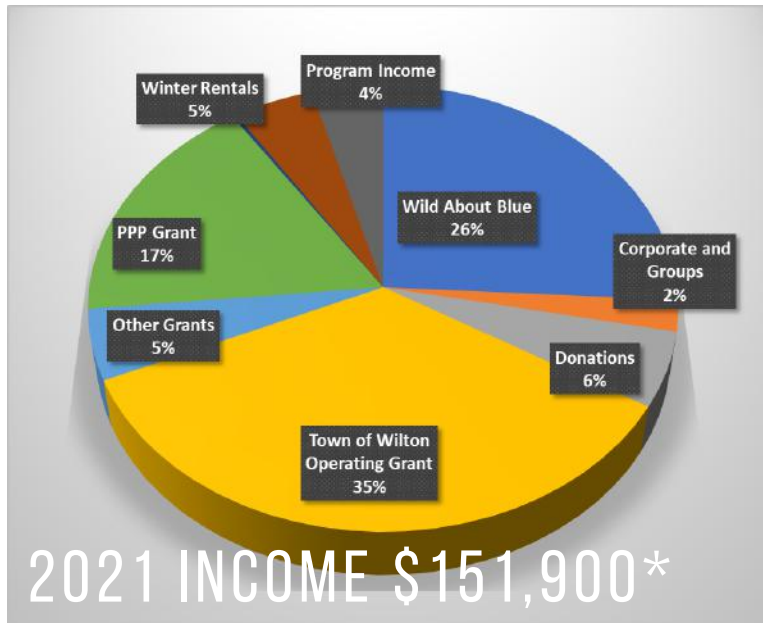
Steward

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Jennifer Benaman & Drew Roginski
Drs. Chris & Leisa Brockett,
Saratoga Veterinary Hospital
Jenn Hunt Dempsey & Steve Dempsey
Tony & Rachel Krackeler
Marne Onderdonk
Redbud Development
Stewart's Shops
Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.

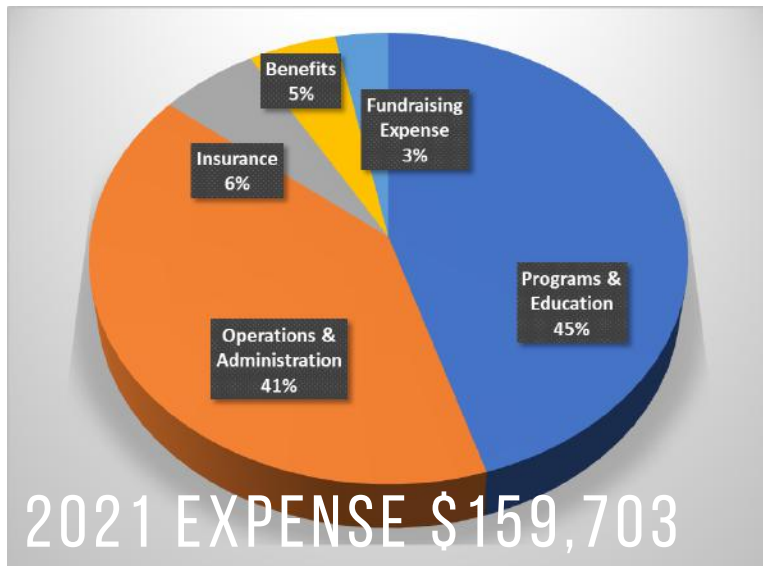
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Patricia Watkins
Ethan & Anne Winter
John Witt

FINANCIAL REPORTS

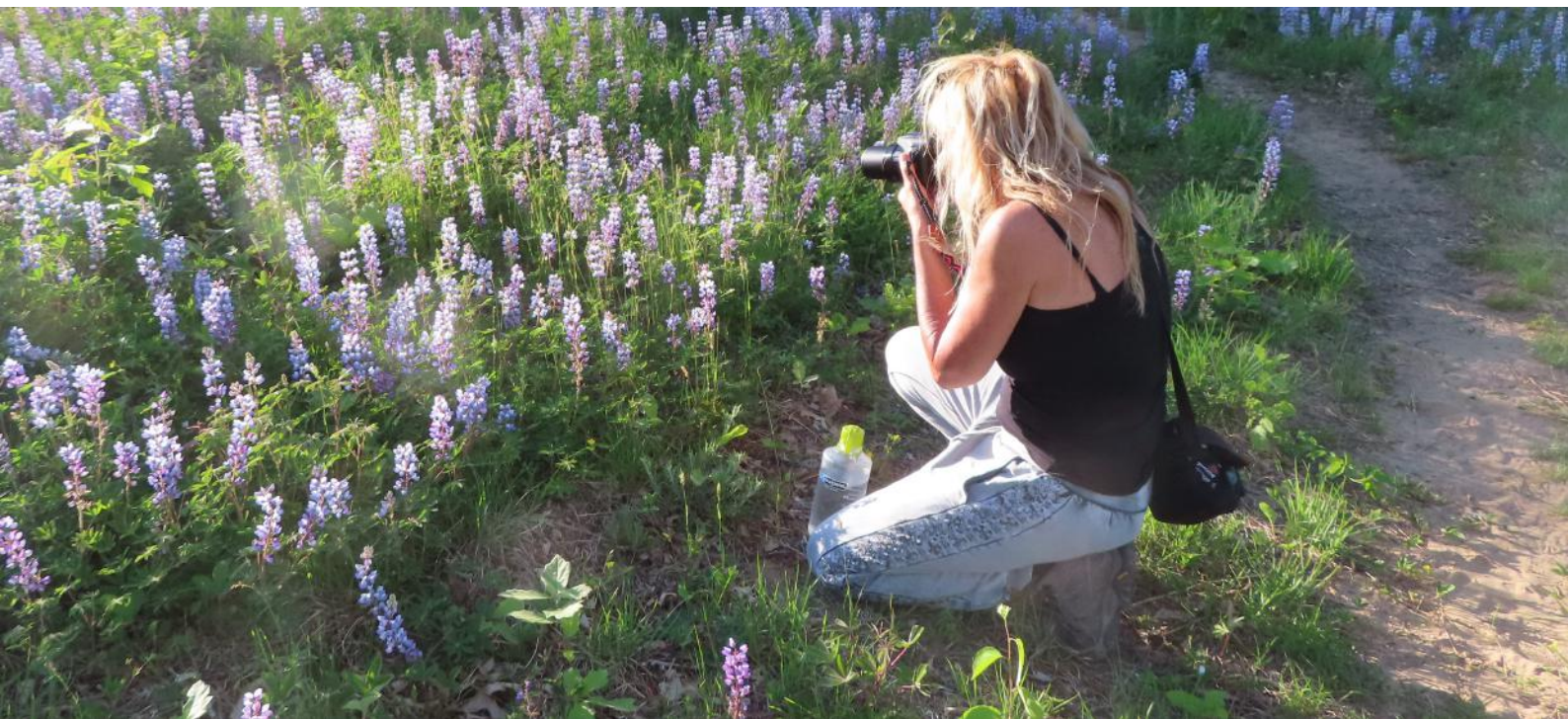


THANKS TO FUNDING THROUGH THE FEDERAL PPP PROGRAM THAT COVERED SOME OF THE COST OF OUR STAFF SALARIES AND TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS THROUGH WILD ABOUT BLUE AND THE ANNUAL APPEAL, WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR MUCH OF THE PROGRAM INCOME LOSSES DUE TO COVID.



EVEN SO, WE WERE ON AN AUSTERITY BUDGET, MAKING CUTS AND REDUCING OUR EXPENSES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT IMPACTING OUR ABILITY TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION-DRIVEN WORK.

IN INCOME, WE ANTICIPATE RECEIVING A GRANT THAT WILL PUT THE INCOME OVER THE EXPENSES FOR 2021.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

SIXTY-SIX VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN 2,300 HOURS IN 2021! OUR FANTASITIC VOLUNTEERS HELP OUT IN SO MANY WAYS. THEIR WORK ALLOWS US TO FULFILL OUR MISSION AND IS KEY TO OUR SUCCESS. SO A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR WILTON WILDLIFE PRESERVE & PARK IN 2021.

More than 100 Hours

Mark Bellantoni
Jennifer Benaman
Larry Dana*
Matthew Miczek*

51 – 99 Hours

Linda Baker
Danny Bouwens
Alanah Cohen-Tiger
Scott Harrington
Jennifer Hunt-Dempsey
Bob Lippman
Carly Mollins
Marne Onderdonk
Amelie Przedwriecki
Ryan Riper*
Nina Russo*
Tim Schlachter
Kurt Smemo
Caroline Stem
Kristy Tan

20 – 50 Hours

Abigail Anthes
Matthew Cochi
Karen Hickcox*
Linda Hovious
Amanda Leonard*
Anna Lewis
Brianna Lucynski
Dave Matteson
Tina Morency
Candace Murray
Shira Novkov-Bloom
Alex Roginski
Richard Pine
Brenda Sanchez

*Denotes a Trail Steward

FROM LEADING WALKS, HELPING WITH PUBLIC PROGRAMS, TRAIL STEWARDSHIP, FIELD WORK FRIDAYS, AND MORE, OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE EVERYTHING BETTER!

Under 20 Hours

Eric Avery*
Kelsey Baldwin
Chantel Couture
Bob Fagan*
Jennifer Ferriss*
Dave Freeman*
Susan Gaddor
Anne Gallagher-Ernst
Jason Goldsmith
Mike Hickcox*
Jean Hoins
Rich Hovious
Barbara Kolapakka
Jake Kassel
Heidi Kauffman
Matt Killion
Jeffrey Lawson
Lois Leonard
Howard Lester
Sharon MacDonald
Steve MacDonald
Patrick McCabe*
Tom McInTyre*
Thomas McNamara*
Mary Lea Raymond
Bob Reepmeyer
Marcy Revette
Bob Rice
Victoria Spadero
Carol Stack
Malina Stawarz
Spencer Thibault
Tarek Villamizar
Elizabeth Wheeler*
Wendy Whittmore
Maisie Wright



UPDATE: LARRY GORDON CAMP SARATOGA VISITOR CENTER

Planning Process

In 2019, we began the planning for an exciting new project to be located at Camp Saratoga. We worked with the Town of Wilton to begin to develop a plan for a year-round Visitor Center that would become the focal point for visitors and users of Camp Saratoga. It is being named after Larry Gordon, who spent most of his life protecting, enhancing, and promoting the conservation of the landscape of Camp Saratoga. The Visitor Center is a collaborative project of the Town of Wilton, Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park, and the Scouting Museum Committee.

In 2020, with COVID impacting the community, we put fundraising on hold but continued to work on planning.

In 2021 we developed the Campus Approach, utilizing the existing building at Camp Saratoga to serve all of the functions of a larger structure without the cost. The adaptive reuse of the buildings is also in keeping with the heritage of the site and is more environmentally sound.

The Campus Approach

- Utilizing the current Rental Cabin (former Health Lodge) to become the Welcome Center with information, exhibits, and winter rentals since it is located alongside the trailhead at Camp Saratoga;
- Utilizing the IP Winter Lodge as a year-round multipurpose space where programs, classes, meetings, and more can take place;
- Utilizing the old Ranger Cabin's garage and transform it into a mini museum, filled with information and exhibits about the natural history, flora, fauna, and environment of the Saratoga Sandplains; the human history of Camp Saratoga; and that encourages people to get outdoors;
- Utilizing the Dining Hall for large gatherings and programs while keeping its historic character.



2021 DONORS

THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE FINANCIAL OR OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WILTON WILDLIFE PRESERVE & PARK IN 2021. 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.

Jean & Torben Aabo
Adirondack Sports and Fitness
Adirondack Trust Company
ADK-Glens Falls/Saratoga
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Adktechs
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Phyllis Aldrich
Alpine Sport Shop
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Kristy Wilbur
Wilton Rotary
Mike & Monica Winn
Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Winter
Witt Construction, Inc.
Bethany Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Yellen



**In Honor of the
Benaman/Roginski Family**

Michael Byars

In Honor of the Bloom Family

Ben & Jenny Mirling

In Honor of Bobby Boecher

Jeanne Polunci

In Memory of Jeff Clark

Laura Clark

In Memory of Lynne Florio

Stephanie Lynch

In Honor of Caroline Stem

Sandra Stem

**In Honor of Stephanie Veitch
and Family**

Roy & Angela McDonald

**In Memory of Michael Patrick
Whitten**

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Laura McAlonen
Michael & Mary McNamara
Nancy & Edward O'leary
Sandra Robinson
Robert Thomes

In Memory of Marcel Zucchini

519 Broadway LLC
Norman & Natalie Smith
Leon Zimmer & Sandra Sullivan



2021 DONORS

In-Kind Donations:

9 Miles East
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Lodge
Adirondack Experience at Blue
Mountain Lake
Adirondack Mountain Club
Albany Pine Bush Preserve Gift
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Eileen Angelini
Beck's at Gore Mountain
Jennifer Benaman
Phyllis Benaman
Bombers Burrito Bar
Caffe Lena
Chez Pierre
Common Roots Brewery
Create Community Studios
Page Darrow
Dion Snowshoes
East Side Wine and Spirits
EMS
Fusion Hair Salon
Gatherings Wildcrafted
Botanicals
Grey Ghost Bicycles
Homewood Suites
Impressions
Jabebo Jewelry
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Kings Tavern
Kru Coffee
Lapland Lake Nordic Ski Center
Lifestyles
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Mountainman Outdoor Supply
Jeff Olson
Marne Onderdonk
Palette
Purdy's Discount Wine and
Liquor
Salt and Char
Sanity Seekers
Saratoga Arms
Saratoga City Tavern
Saratoga Performing Arts Center
Saratoga Strike Zone
Saratoga Wine and Spirits
Tim Schlachter
Silver Bay YMCA and Retreat
Center
Simply Food by Maura
Stewart's Shops
Tailgate and Party
The Mercantile
Toga Nola
Walt and Whitman
West Mountain
Wild Birds Unlimited

Grants, Corporate, and Foundation Support:

Ballston Spa National Bank
Common Roots Foundation
PPP (Paycheck Protection
Program)
Saratoga Arts Community Arts
Grant through the New York
State Council on the Arts
Stewart's Holiday Match
Town of Wilton Operating Grant
ZBGA Program of
New York State OPRHP



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Victoria Herkalo,
Education Coordinator/
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