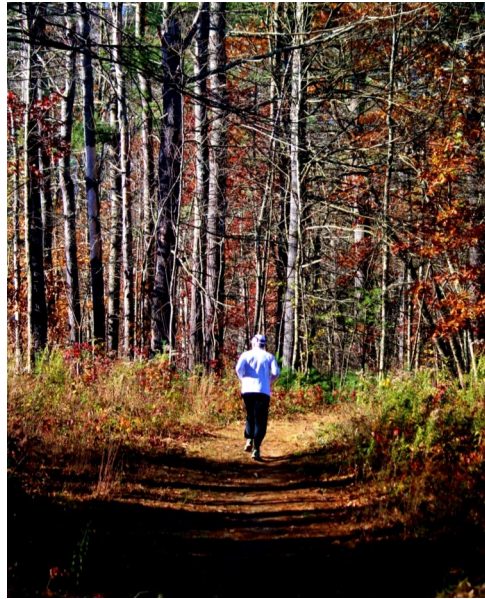


2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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 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 annual habitat mowing and brush removal
- Removal of illegal trails at Ruggles East
- 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 white pine clearing at Camp Saratoga North



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

We work with schools and groups from Saratoga County and beyond providing in-school and after-school programs as well as hosting field trips at Camp Saratoga. In the summer, we visit Gavin Park and other summer camp programs and host visits to Camp Saratoga.

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 in the area of environmental education through our internship program which gives recent college graduates real work experience while nurturing the next generation of environmental professionals!

In 2017 we worked collaboratively with many organizations to take our message out to the community including; 4H, BOCES, Colonie Youth Center; Franklin Community Center's Project Lift, Gavin Park, Moreau Lake State Park, the Prevention Council, the Saratoga Springs Public Library, Skidmore College Environmental Studies students, and Washington County Important Bird Area.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

We work closely with our partners in maintaining existing trails, creating new trails and linkages, and improving opportunities for people to get out and enjoy nature. Visitors can go for a nature walk, go bird watching, enjoy photographing nature, walk their dogs, go for a fitness run, snowshoe, cross country ski, and more! We have over 20 miles of trails for people to enjoy. In 2017 the Town of Wilton installed a new water and septic system that allowed for the installation of flush toilets near the trailhead at Camp Saratoga North; a very exciting and appreciated addition to the amenities at Camp Saratoga! Improvements were also made around the camping area and lean-tos by the Historic Cornell Hill Fire Tower.

2017 also saw some new trail projects being planned. These will be known as the Town of Wilton Bicentennial Trail and will include linking Camp Saratoga to the Edie Road trails and a trail for horses along Scout Road.

Our commitment to year-round outdoor recreation includes our winter trail grooming program at Camp Saratoga North. Our popular Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe event was cancelled in 2017 due to lack of the necessary conditions.

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.

2017

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SEVENTH ANNUAL WILTON WILDLIFE FESTIVAL



The event is held on 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 2017 we had a wonderful event and hosted the winners of the second annual Earth Day Essay Contest. Activities included the always-popular pond exploration, 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.

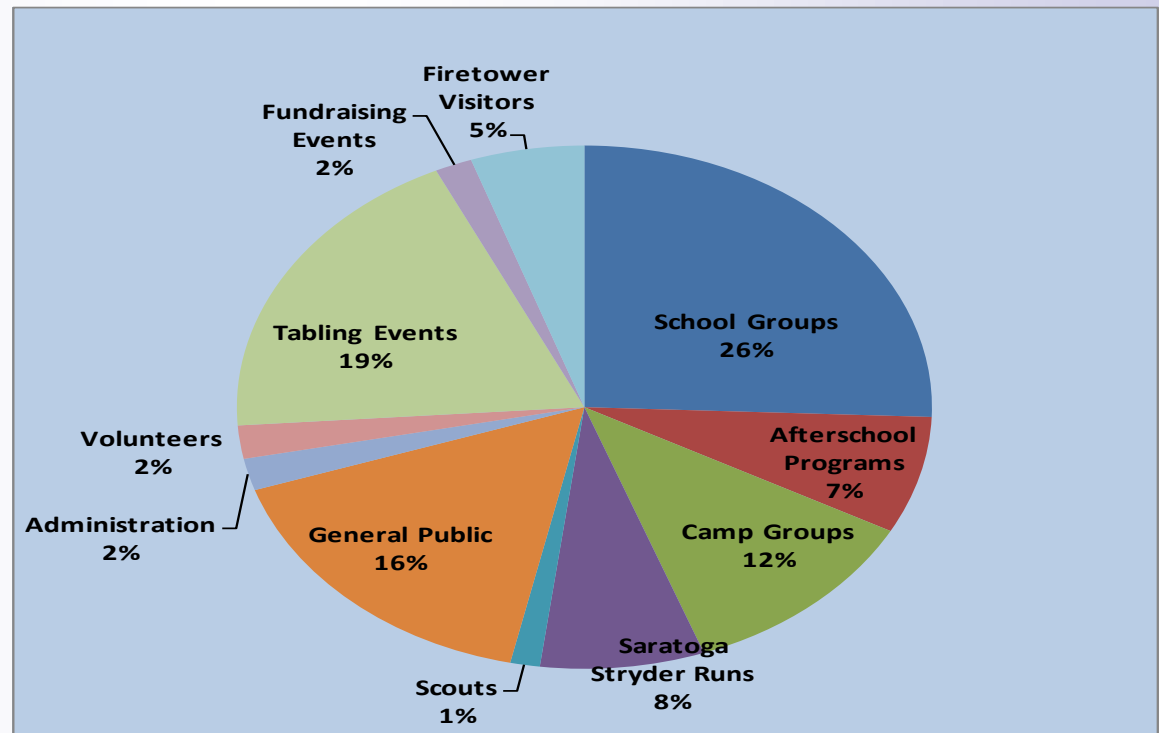


SIXTH ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

The annual Photography Show and Contest features photographs that highlight the beauty and the mission of Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park and are taken somewhere at the Preserve & Park.

This year's Best In Show can be seen on the cover of this report. It was awarded to Eric Avery for his image "Phoebe on a Post." Nancy Hudson won for Best featuring the endangered Karner blue butterfly for her photograph, "Blue and Buddy." Paula Flint's shot "Trail Run" won for Best featuring Recreation. Howard Lester's photograph "Horsemint" won for best Wildflower Image. Erin Smith was the winner for the Best featuring Education with a photo of her son at the top of the Historic Cornell Hill Fire Tower with "Looking Out." This year's winner for Best Animal Shot was Cathy Hall for "Getting Our Feet Wet." Emily Stockwell's "Tall Order" won in the Best under-13 category." Best Nature in Winter with was taken by Shari Crocker with "Luminary Snowshoe," while Best Nature In Autumn was won by Marci Revette for "Oak Leaves." Best featuring Conservation was a stunning image "Lupine Flowers Softly" taken by Wayne Jones. These images are featured in this annual report! The selected photographs were on display through April 1, 2017 at our office located at 80 Scout Road in Wilton.

ATTENDANCE FOR 2017



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

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 2017

Volunteers contributed almost 2,000 hours in 2017!

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 2017.

MORE THAN 100 HOURS

Linda Baker
Larry Gordon
Peg McCanty

50 – 75 HOURS

Jennifer Benaman
Ella Gurney
Jean Hoins
Ryan Riper
Caroline Stem
LeMoyne College Service Trip Students

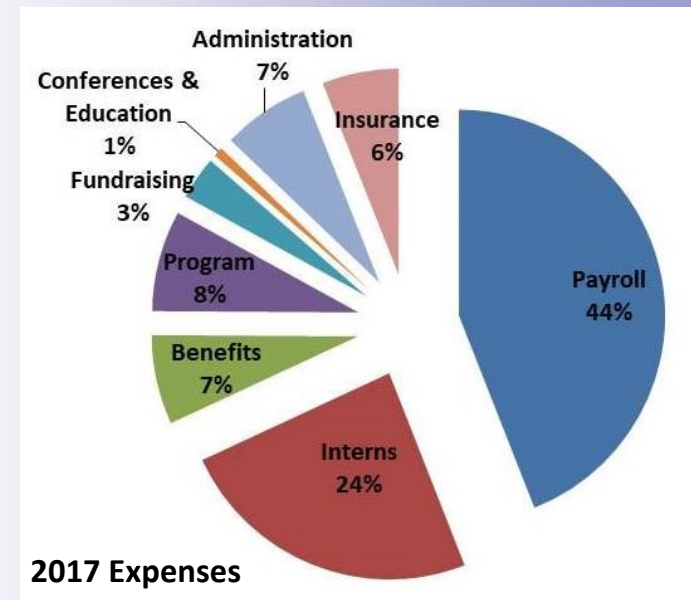
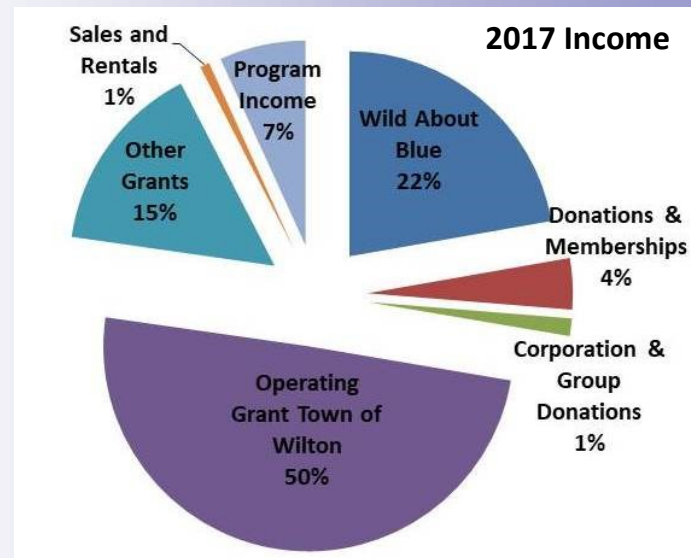
25 – 49 HOURS

Anchor QEA
Larry Dana
Martha Devaney
Rick Fenton
Linda Hovious
Howard Lester
Jill Litchfield
Johanna MacKay
Dave Matteson
Matthew Miczek

Richard Pine
Mike Prutsman
Marcy Revette
Bob Rice
Skidmore
Environmental
Studies
Students
Coleman Smith
Karen Sosler

UNDER 25 HOURS

Cameron Alber
Eric Avery
Howard Blake
Wally & Joanne Elton
Tina Facticeau
Jenn Ferris
Margot Flewelling
Kaleigh Gale
Bo Harris
Kristin Hay
Michael & Tyler Hickcox
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Gina Lehner
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Lori McCarron
Izak & Sarice Olson
Violet Prutsman
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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 12, 2017 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 is honoring [Nancy Ferguson](#), [Mike Huchro](#), and [Barbara Messier](#) for their work to initiate, implement, and run the Lake Avenue Elementary School's Fifth Grade Outdoor Education Experience. This multi-day environmental education residency has allowed more than 1,000 students and their families to Participate in this exceptional and ground-breaking program. Supported by the PTA and run by school staff and parent volunteers, this program should be a model for other elementary schools in the region, state, and further afield. These three individuals have created positive and dramatic changes in the lives of their school community and we are proud to have them as our honorees this year!



WILD ABOUT BLUE HONORARY COMMITTEE

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Jane A. Wait

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Patricia Tuz ▯ Anne & Ethan Winter

Wild About
Blue 

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Thanks to all who made financial contributions to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park in 2017. 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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