



Run Wild 2023

Greenburgh
Nature Center



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Thank you to former 2023 Board Members: Michael Darviche, Steve Gold, and John Chester, III.



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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share the remarkable strides we've made in 2023. It's been a year brimming with accomplishments and growth, all made possible by your unwavering support and belief in our mission at the Greenburgh Nature Center.



In the second year of our three-year strategic plan, we saw our annual budget expand to \$1.6 million, a testament to the trust and commitment of our donors, members, supporters, and stakeholders. We extend our deepest appreciation to each and every one of you who has contributed to our financial success, enabling us to continue our essential work within the community.

Environmental stewardship remains a cornerstone of our mission, and we've made significant strides in this regard. Through the generosity of a dedicated donor, we've expanded our reforestation efforts by planting 13 new sugar maple trees, laying the groundwork for future generations to cherish and enjoy the art and science of making maple sugar, one of our signature programs. Additionally, our spring compost give-back day popularity underscored the community wide steadfast commitment to sustainability, planting the seed for learning organic gardening practices.

In our educational programming, we've witnessed remarkable growth, with 30% of our endeavors now including adults, a milestone set forth in our strategic plan. Enhancing visitor experience has been at the forefront of our efforts, and our new Engage By Cell Platform has seamlessly facilitated community interaction while providing convenient mobile access to essential information.



Facility enhancements have further solidified our commitment to accessibility and visitor satisfaction. Thanks to a generous grant, our public bathrooms and access ramp are now fully operational, giving everyone the opportunity to enjoy the wonders of nature within our sanctuary. Additionally, the introduction of our Sulcata Tortoise exhibit and designation as part of the New York State Birding Trail have enriched our offerings for nature enthusiasts of all ages.

While celebrating our triumphs, we also acknowledge the challenges we've faced, particularly the loss of our beloved staff member and Volunteer Coordinator, Jim Dauterman. Jim's contributions to the Nature Center were immeasurable, and his legacy lives on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him. The outpouring of support from our friends and supporters during this difficult time has been a source of immense comfort and strength.

In conclusion, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support, dedication, and passion for the Greenburgh Nature Center. Together, we are weaving a tapestry of exploration, education, and conservation that enriches the fabric of our community and sustains our natural environment for generations to come. As you peruse this report, may you be inspired by our collective impact recognizing the profound achievements our Nature Center has on preserving biodiversity, safeguarding our ecosystems, and inspiring the next generation of protectors.

With gratitude and warm regards,
Tracey Kurzweil, Board President

Alix Dunn, Executive Director

OUR VISION

- Become a leader in the region for environmental education and the best sustainable practices.
- Encourage people to spend more time outdoors and continue to excite exploration and discovery in nature.
- Build activism for environmental issues, wildlife conservation, sustainability stewardship, resource management, and native plants.



SULCATA EXHIBIT

Thanks to the generous support of a donor, the Greenburgh Nature Center constructed a new enclosure for our two Sulcata tortoises. Ayo and Colonel Mustard, who are approximately twenty years old and have a potential lifespan of up to 150 years, received their forever home. Our dedicated staff members Andrew and Travis began work on the project in January, and together, they built a barn where the tortoises could safely sleep and a fenced grass area for them to roam freely.

By May, Ayo and Colonel Mustard were settling comfortably into their new habitat, enjoying the freedom to roam on the grass and bask in the warm sun. Sulcata tortoises, native to the African savanna, require warmth and are unaccustomed to the cold climate of New York. In November, the Town of Greenburgh assisted in the digging of a trench to run electrical from the greenhouse to the tortoise barn allowing for the installation of warming pads and heat lamps.

With the addition of heating, the tortoises were able to stay cozy and insulated inside their barn throughout the cold winter months. Now, Ayo and Colonel Mustard have the comfort of warmth and dryness inside the barn during winter, and they can enjoy the outdoors in their fenced area during spring and summer. Visitors have the opportunity to view this new exhibit whenever they come to the grounds of the Nature Center.



January: building the foundation



February: building the walls

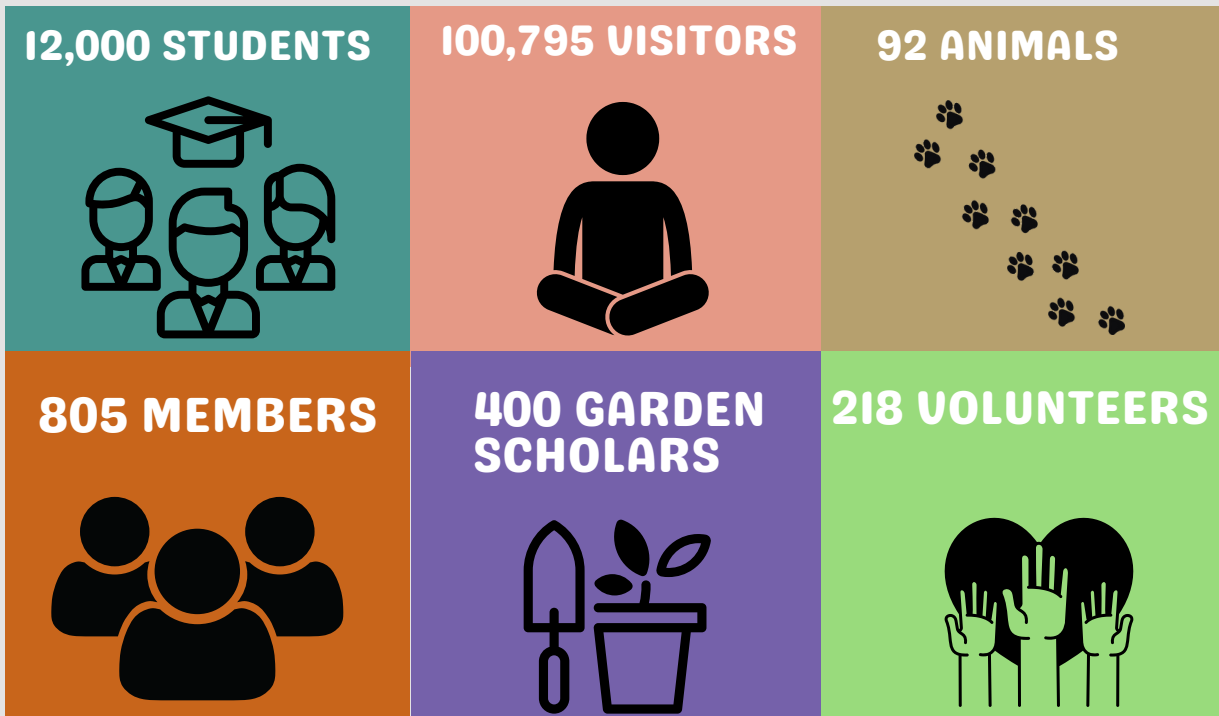


March: adding the roof



May: tortoises forever home complete

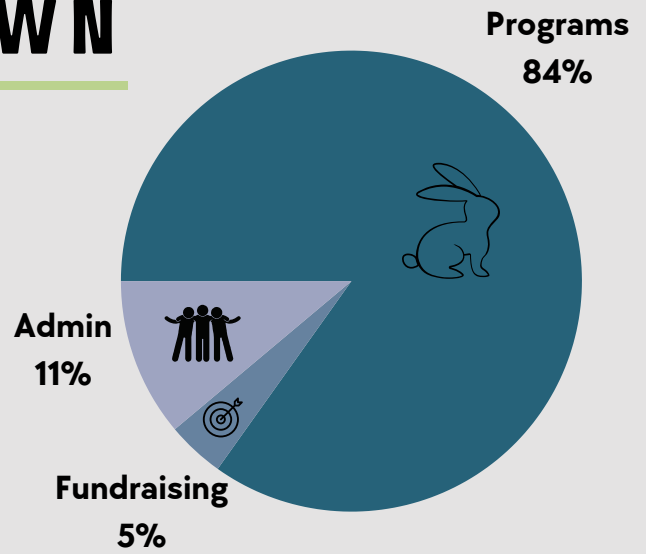
OUR IMPACT



EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

- Program - 84%**
- Administration - 11%**
- Fundraising - 5%**

For every dollar raised, 84% goes directly into educational programs.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ending Dec. 31, 2023

ASSETS

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$767,505
Investments	\$183,456
Accounts Receivable	\$17,272
Prepaid Expenses	<u>\$8,706</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$976,939</u>
Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$414,254 in 2023	\$248,964
Operating right-of-use assets	\$3,880
Total Assets	<u><u>\$1,229,783</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$48,147
Accrued Payroll	\$36,987
Accrued Vacation & Sick Time	\$25,705
Deferred Revenue	\$33,994
Operating lease liability, current portion	<u>\$3,580</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$148,413</u>
Operating lease liability, long-term portion	<u>\$300</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>\$148,713</u></u>
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,042,146
With Donor Restrictions	<u>\$38,924</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>\$1,081,070</u></u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$1,229,783</u></u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ending Dec. 31, 2023

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Revenue and Other Support:	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Town of Greenburgh	-	\$337,100	\$337,100
Government, Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$9,042	\$288,567	\$297,609
Naturalist Tuition/Programs	\$473,772	-	\$473,772
Individual Contributions & Memberships	\$363,831	\$9,360	\$373,191
Fundraising Events, Net	\$17,405	-	\$17,405
Admissions	\$147,310	-	\$147,310
Gift Shop	\$34,285	-	\$34,285
Investment Return, Net	\$62,705	-	\$62,705
Rental Income	\$30,199	-	\$30,199
Miscellaneous Income	\$97	-	\$97
Net Assets Released from Restriction Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	\$632,767	(\$632,767)	-
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$1,771,413	(\$2,260)	<u>\$1,773,673</u>
Expenses:			
Program Expenses	\$1,409,645	-	\$1,409,645
Administrative Expenses	\$192,672	-	\$192,672
Fundraising	\$82,315	-	\$82,315
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,684,632</u>	-	<u>\$1,684,632</u>
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	\$86,781	\$2,260	\$89,041
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>\$955,365</u>	<u>\$36,664</u>	<u>\$992,029</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,042,146	\$38,924	<u>\$1,081,070</u>

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Greenburgh Nature Center inspires passion, curiosity, and action for our natural world through interactive exhibits and a focus on environmental education programs. Thanks to the support of over 100,000 yearly visitors, we are able to offer a diverse array of programs for people of all ages, schools, businesses, and more. Our team of naturalists are dedicated to teaching environmental stewardship and introducing students from over 200 schools to the wonders of the natural world. We will continue to encourage people to explore, discover, and connect with nature through our programs.

Environmental Education

Our environmental programs offer year-round educational opportunities to students, that enrich and support the New York State curriculum. In an experimental learning environment, students are encouraged to engage with their critical thinking skills, while having fun and creating lasting adventures.



Sustainability

Our sustainability programs encourage students to see how they can make an environmental impact every day. This educational opportunity plays a vital role in shaping the next generation of land stewards. Our programs encourage schools to incorporate sustainability into their curriculum by establishing a schoolyard habitat, planting an edible garden, or striving to become a zero-waste school.



S.T.E.A.M.

The Nature Center prioritizes implementing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics into our programming. Our S.T.E.A.M programs encourage students to be creative, use their critical thinking, and create problem-solving skills. Our educators promote the importance of teamwork and collaboration.



Discovering Ecosystems

Students learn about the interrelationships and lifecycles of plants and animals that exist within our diverse landscapes and ecosystems. With a holistic perspective, students will learn how to properly identify and care for them.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Climate Change & Carbon Footprint

Students learn how greenhouse gases negatively affect our climate. Naturalists teach students how to calculate their own carbon footprint. They learn strategies on how to reduce their carbon footprint and create a plan to be more eco-friendly and rely less on fossil fuels in the near future.



Water Conservation

Our naturalists educate students on the significance of protecting our waterways and drinking water. Students learn where the water they use everyday to drink and shower comes from. This program focuses on providing strategies on how to reduce your water consumption and alternatives to water use.



Garden Scholars

This highly enriching program is a great way for schools and community groups to learn how to garden and maintain it. Our Garden specialists design, implement, and educate the local school community on a variety of environmental education topics, such as vermicomposting, seed starting and dispersal, importance of bees, and pollinating insects.



Composting

This is a multi-program series where students learn how to properly sort their waste into four categories (landfill, commingled recycling, paper recycling, and compostable). Students get to see the process of composting first hand and how to convert organic waste into healthy soil. Students gain insight into the importance of sorting their waste and how it can affect the environment.



OUTDOOR SITES AND EXPERIENCES



Birds of Prey

Several birds of prey that are no longer able to live in the wild have found a forever home at the Nature Center. Our outdoor exhibit features two bald eagles and a great horned owl. Additionally, located behind the Manor House, is a bird exhibit that houses a white-necked raven named Zhou Zhou. All our bird exhibits are free to the public for visitors to say hello to our feathered friends.

Native American Village

Our replicas of Native American structures demonstrate the designs and techniques used 6,000 years ago by Eastern Woodland Indians. The replicas include a life-sized Wigwam, Longhouse, dugout canoe and hide drying rack. Naturalists teach students at these replicas how Native Americans used to live their daily lives.



Organic Garden

Our demonstration gardens show sustainable gardening techniques and inspire ideas for your garden. Our gardens display the best organic approaches to designing and planting the perfect garden bed. Our naturalists showcase how to properly harvest vegetables and herbs while tending to the garden to ensure the soil has sufficient nutrients.

Native Plant Meadow & Butterfly Arbor

Our tranquil native plant meadow, which comprises of a diverse range of native plants and supports our local wildlife. In the summer, our meadow transforms into a butterfly exhibit, that over 100 native free-flying butterflies call home, including Monarchs, Painted Ladies, and Eastern Black Swallowtails. The interactive butterfly exhibit offers an educational experience on the significance of these magnificent, colorful insects.



Beehives

Honeybees play a key role in our ecosystem, as they are vital in the pollination of food crops and native plants. At the Nature Center, we have four honeybee colonies that are expertly maintained by our resident apiarist. Through demonstrations, we showcase the importance of these pollinators. Our honeybees provide a valuable service by pollinating the plants and flowers on the Nature Center grounds.

Natural Connections

Our Natural Connections Program invites children to unleash their creativity while experimenting throughout our 33-acres. This program offers children a blend of creativity, experimentation, and education. Students explore crafting with natural materials, as well as science experiments. The Manor House turns into a part science lab, part art studio.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Plan and Plant Your Home Garden

Throughout the different seasons, our naturalists showcase ways on how we prepare and plant an organic garden at the Nature Center. They inform visitors of ways to increase chances of attracting native pollinators. Our naturalists also teach topics relating to gardening such as crop succession, companion planting, square-foot gardening, and composting.

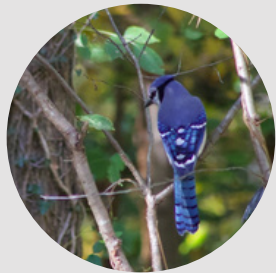


Run Wild

Run Wild is 1.25-mile forest run and obstacle course, where an entire family can enjoy some friendly competition while staying active in the outdoors. Runners can jump, crawl, and climb through our beautiful 33-acre preserve while creating long-lasting memories. Companies can also use our Run Wild event for employees to spend time on our grounds and participate in team-building exercises.

Movie Nights

In the summer, we host outdoor family movie nights right on our great lawn. Children may even get the chance to meet one of our animals up close.



Spring Migration

Our naturalists take visitors on a walk around our grounds and identify the many species that visit the grounds during the warmer months. Participants learn how to listen for calls of native or migrating birds.

Family Programs and Community Events

Our Back to Nature program series celebrates the changing of seasons with educational, interactive, and family fun activities. The Nature Center also hosts many entertaining events, nature-based games, crafts, and activities to keep all ages in the community involved throughout the year.

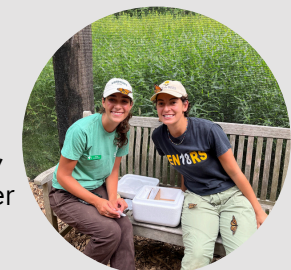


Archery

The Nature Center offers private individualized or group archery instruction. Archery increases hand-eye coordination and strength. It's a great exercise to learn and experience out in nature. We also host archery tournaments for visitors to engage in some friendly competition with fun games and contests.

Volunteer Programs

We provide opportunities for individuals to volunteer at the Nature Center and gain experience as environmental educators. Our dedicated volunteer staff assists us with a variety of different tasks such as animal care, helping out during events, greeting visitors, maintaining our grounds, and participating in ecological restoration efforts. The volunteer staff are a vital part of our everyday operations and we rely on them for upkeep of our grounds and care for our animals.



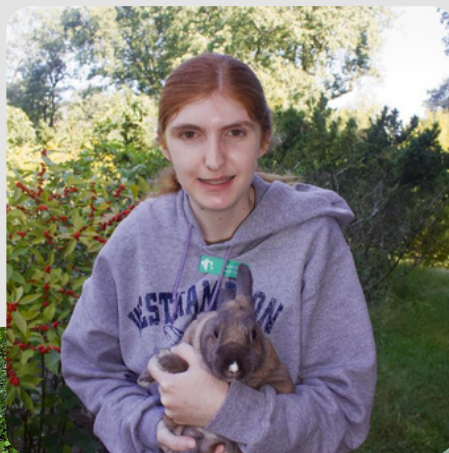
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Ellen Link, Volunteer

Ellen has been a loyal volunteer at the Greenburgh Nature Center for almost two years. Ellen went to Riverview School before volunteering here. She also works part-time at a canine center where she trains and takes care of the dogs who arrive for daycare. When she's not working or volunteering, Ellen enjoys singing, acting, and going to concerts. As much as animals are a huge part of her life, music is as well.

Ellen discovered the Nature Center during an internship with the LIFT program in the summer of 2022. She enjoyed her time here and decided she wanted to volunteer. Ellen adores working at the Nature Center and helping with animal care especially. She said, "What I love most about the Nature Center is that I get to work with many different animals such as snakes, chinchillas, guinea pigs, tortoises, and bunnies. I also love spending time with other people who really care about animals. I have made a lot of friends at the Nature Center and I love learning about animals and taking care of them." Her favorite animals that she gets to work with are the ball python and king snakes. She loves working with the animals and is great at doing so. One of her favorite memories at the Nature Center is when she was closing the barnyard and the goats were refusing to go inside and wanted to spend more time with her outside.

Ellen plays a crucial role at the Nature Center, contributing significantly to our animal welfare efforts and ensuring the cleanliness of our facilities. We are extremely grateful for her kindness and her time spent here at the Nature Center. Our volunteers help make the Nature Center a welcoming place for all visitors to enjoy. Inspired to become a volunteer yourself? Check out our website to learn more and become a part of the Nature Center's legacy like Ellen!



CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

The Nature Center invites companies and corporations to consider having their volunteer days on our grounds. Employees can enjoy team building exercises while helping maintain our grounds and creating a beautiful atmosphere for visitors and wildlife to enjoy.

Mayta + Sebastian Architecture

Raul and his team donated twelve sugar maple trees to the Nature Center. This is a huge generational gift that will help increase our measures in reforestation, as well as enhance our Maple Sugaring Educational Program. On September 21st, the staff worked side by side with our team to plant these beautiful trees.



ConEdison

ConEd employees volunteered at our fundraising event known as Run Wild on September 30th and October 1st. They were a huge help in providing guidance to runners on the trails, as well as cleaning and setting up the obstacle course. During the event, each employee was stationed at a different obstacle spot. They helped give demonstrations to the runners, while cheering them on and creating a fun experience for all those who attended.



Webster Bank

Webster Bank joined us at the Nature Center for some fun team building in the outdoors. The employees helped keep our grounds healthy by pulling weeds and adding mulch to our new sugar bush location. They helped beautify our sugar maple tree area where future programs will take place. They also participated in target archery lessons in the forest taught by one of our educators.



Regeneron

Regeneron employees helped decorate our Manor House to celebrate fall around the grounds. Employees painted and carved pumpkins to get in the Halloween spirit. These pumpkins were then placed inside and outside of the Manor House, creating a welcoming atmosphere for visitors to enjoy.



MAJOR DONORS

\$100,000+

Cathy Ludden and
Eric Rothenberg
Town of Greenburgh

\$50,000+

Anonymous
NYS Environmental
Protection Fund
Westchester County
Department of Parks,
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Conservation

\$20,000+

ConEdison
Dolya and Evan Fleck,
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\$10,000+

Daniel S. Chillemi Charitable
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Andrea Paladino
Kinney Foundation
Mayta + Sebastian
Architecture D.P.C.
Tracey and David Kurzweil

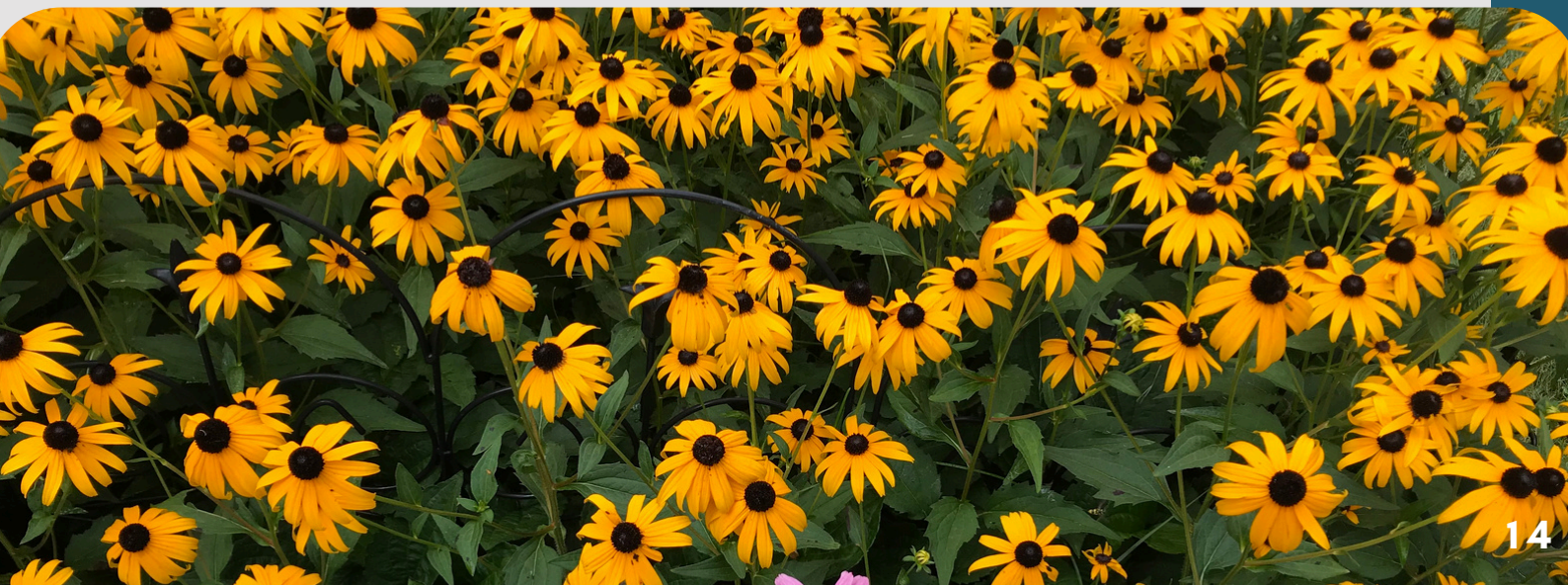
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Sydney and Jonathan Stern
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Tom Dorf
Travis Brady
Vance Broach
Wendi Morrison
William Roberts

LEGACY GIVING

In honor of our upcoming 50th anniversary we have launched a **Planned Giving Program**. When you include Greenburgh Nature Center in your estate plan, your generosity supports our work, our animals, our community and keeps access to our grounds free of charge. Planned gifts can be as simple as assigning a life insurance policy or retirement fund to the Nature Center. If you would like to include Greenburgh Nature Center in your estate planning, please contact Alix Dunn for additional information or to let her know your intentions so that we may thank you.

If you plan to make a gift this year, please check with your company's Human Resources department to learn if your place of business participates in a **Corporate Matching Gift Program**. These programs can double - and sometimes triple - your contribution. Corporate Matching Gift Programs also help smaller nonprofits like Greenburgh Nature Center with sponsorship contributions from neighboring businesses by allowing us a platform to share our mission with our for-profit neighbors.

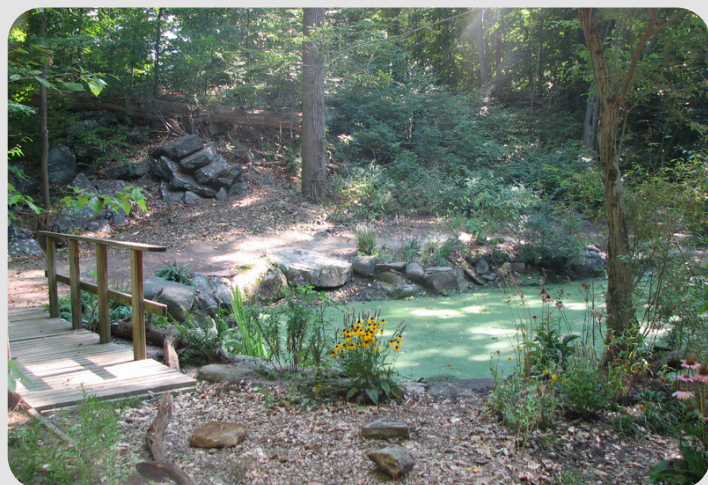
Greenburgh Nature Center can also receive non-deductible contributions through your **donor-advised fund** or **IRA**, and confirms that you will not receive any goods or services associated with your contribution. If you are interested in receiving benefits alongside your DAF or IRA contribution, or have other questions please contact Alix Dunn.

Finally, if you are looking to honor or memorialize a loved one, consider having a tree or a bench placed on the grounds of Greenburgh Nature Center where it can be enjoyed by all and provide a special way of celebrating a life or commemorating an achievement. Call Alix Dunn for more information on our **Honor/Memorial Program**.

Contact Information:

Alix Dunn, Executive Director adunn@greenburghnaturecenter.org 914-813-1387
Nunataks, LTD, DBA Greenburgh Nature Center 99 Dromore Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583
Tax ID: 23-7454025

Please seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor; and if you include us in your estate plans, use our legal name; Nunataks LTD.



IN MEMORIAM

Bill Lawyer, Executive Director

Bill's tenure was the foundation of what the Nature Center is today. His long-term dedication to the community has enabled us to remain a healthy and thriving organization for close to 50 years. From 1978 to 2008, Bill Lawyer was the heart and soul of the Nature Center.

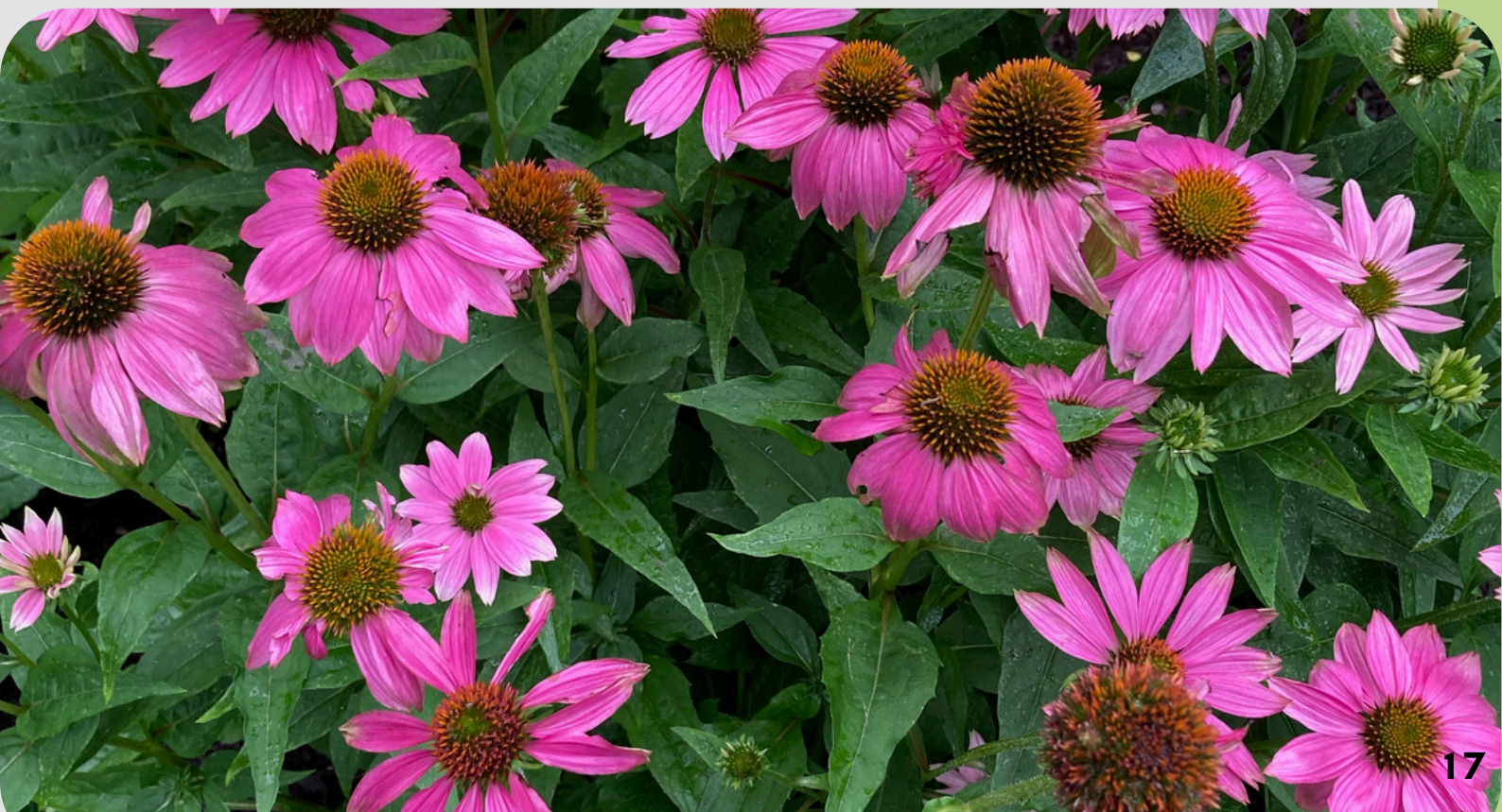
Bill's commitment to the Nature Center resulted in educational programming with school districts and other organizations in the area. He developed relationships with private donors, government officials, and community members that continue to this day.



Jim Dauterman, Volunteer Coordinator

Jim joined the Nature Center in 2022 as Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, after spending many years at The Bronx Zoo, and then The Norwalk Maritime Aquarium. Eventually he settled into the role of Volunteer Coordinator & Assistant to the Manager of Living Collections, where he was responsible for maintaining the cohort of volunteers and caring for our animals.

Jim played a significant role in creating a warm and welcoming environment for all who walked through our doors. His love and passion for animals will forever live on through our volunteers, staff, and visitors.



2023 STAFF MEMORIES

Last summer, we found a population of an incredibly rare plant known as American Featherfoil. Seeing it thrive on the grounds throughout the season made me feel so wonderful every day!

Leading the Butterfly Arbor tours!



Archery lessons with the entire staff!



Worked hard to build the butterfly exhibit.

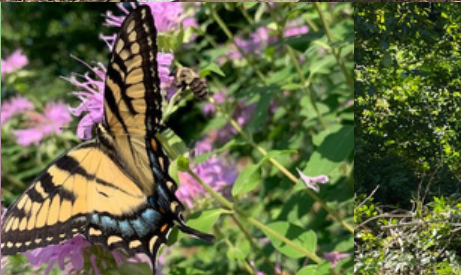


Seeing a wild bald eagle fly right over the treetops at the Nature Center!

There is a point in time after school has closed for the year and the summer sun hangs high in the sky that the Nature Center comes alive with a constant buzz of activity. The air is filled with children's laughter and their loud enthusiastic calls of "follow me, let's go explore!"

When I became best friends with our White Necked Raven Zhou Zhou.







Greenburgh Nature Center

99 Dromore Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583
(914) 723-3470
www.greenburghnaturecenter.org

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
White Plains, NY
Permit #1195

Greenburgh Nature Center's 50th Anniversary

The Greenburgh Nature has been taking action for our natural world since 1975. We are coming up on our fiftieth anniversary in 2025 and it will be a year to celebrate all of the our accomplishments. We have been a staple in our community as a resource for native plants, animal care, resource management, and environmental education.

As we set the stage for the next 50 years, we will continue to inspire and encourage others to spend more time outdoors appreciating the beauty of nature, while learning how to rightfully take care of it.

