



A summer 50th birthday celebration welcomed families to explore the trails to discover a 50 year old tree, nature-friendly birthday decorations and crafts at the fairy village and to learn more about Woodcock's 50 year history.

Celebrating 50 years of outdoor learning

Landmark anniversary re-connects community to nature.

Woodcock's annual Frothy Forage hiking event, Under the Harvest Moon benefit, a summer birthday party, and the launch of Woodcock's Pale Ale with Nod Hill Brewery are just a few of the unforgettable events that celebrated the community's support of the nature center's 50th year. Meanwhile, Woodcock leadership was hard at work revitalizing the Center's long-term strategy and visual identity, which included a fresh new logo representing the organization's core pillars: creativity, education, place-making and conservation as referenced by four earthly element hues. Thoughtfully developed by a committee of volunteers and staff alongside designer Jeff James, the new identity speaks to the quality of programming, creativity and fun that we all experience during Woodcock's beloved programs.

"The new logo also serves an educational purpose: to dispel myths about often misunderstood creatures like the snake (Woodcock is home to four!)"
— Director of Education Sarah Breznen

Working Together | We ♥ Volunteers

It takes a village to keep 150-acres of preserve, nearly four miles of trails and two buildings maintained. This year was no exception: two bridges were fully replaced, a new 12x18 storage shed was installed near the pavilion and a smaller shed at the south end of the property helps support programming in new areas. Master gardener Laura Ferrera spearheaded an invasives removal project near the Deer Run parking area, and our favorite annual volunteer event welcomed one hundred boys from the Brunswick School in Greenwich who spent the day hard at work this fall.



Donated lumber from Rings End allowed for major repairs to a causeway along the orange trail. It took a team from Select Remodeling a week to complete the rebuilding project.



A team from Fairfield County Bank cleaned canoes, spread woodchips, pulled weeds, and cleaned trails this spring as part of Live United, a volunteer day spearheaded by the United Way.



Growing the Team | New faces at Woodcock

We've added not one but *three* new staff members.

Two full-time educators have helped to build our growing programs and our popular community events necessitated a part-time event coordinator. The combined experience of the added team includes degrees in ecosystems and human impact, biology and environmental science, work with AmeriCorps and the United Way along with interests in birding, art and nature photography.

Jennifer Meikle with Click the Barred Owl (pictured). Also new to the team are Events & Community Relations Coordinator Kelly Donahoe and educator Tommy McCarthy.

Nature: Not just for the birds

Outdoor community programs are for *everyone*.

One of our newest educators, Tommy McCarthy has a passion for birding. So, you may have noticed a lot more bird-related events this year—from an owl walk at Woodcock and a waterfowl walk at Ridgefield's Bennett's Pond to a "binoculars recommended" exploration of Woodland Warblers and an *eBird* Basics hike at Wilton's Chestnut Meadows.

Outreach programs at Woodcock typically follow the passions of our team and are often free or low-cost. Director of Education Sarah Breznen hosted a spring ephemeral's walk at Ridgefield's Aldrich Park, a summer after-dark moth walk and an exploration of Ridgefield's Great Swamp; Animal Curator Jennifer Bradshaw hosted two Wildlife Awareness Seminars and educator Jennifer Meikle spearheaded a family pumpkin carving and nighttime wonders experience this fall.

Partnerships help make community programs a success. Thank you Wilton Land Conservation Trust, Norwalk River Watershed Association, Ridgefield Library, Ridgefield Conservation Commission, Ridgefield Animal Control and supporters Robert Schumann Foundation and Hudson to Housatonic's Cornell *eBird* Mini Grant Program.



Field Trips Return

Over 1,000 students visit.

After a long hiatus due to the pandemic, students in grades 1-4 from Ridgefield, Wilton, Weston and Danbury returned to learn about everything from forest diversity and adaptations, to plants and seeds, to the history and current natural uses of our stone walls. The fee for these programs is intentionally kept low to allow for maximum participation. Additional costs are covered through fundraising. In fact, the first group of students to attend this year came at no cost thanks to a grant from Fairfield County Bank.



Learning from our friends

Animal ambassadors like Jasper (above) do more than teach, they inspire a deeper understanding of our connections to the natural world. A crucial part of the teaching team, this year **Red Tail Boa Indira got a new enclosure**—an 8ft long habitat to support her growing needs! All our animal receive exceptional care from regular vet visits to enrichment and of course nutritious food which costs over \$10,000 annually.

Thank you.

Jennifer and Claude Amadeo, Elizabeth Raymond Ambler Trust, Fairfield County Bank, Fullen-Smith Foundation, Holland & Knight, Horseshoe Farm, Oaklawn Foundation, Outdoor Sports Center, Ridgefield Fresh Air Association, Robert Schumann Foundation, Ridgefield Thrift Shop, Rings End, PepsiCo, South Wilton Vet Group, Georgetown Veterinary Group, 068 Magazine, Good Morning Wilton, Employees Helping Hand Fund/Danbury Mission Technologies, Village Market, West Lane Pizza & Deli, Nature's Temptation, Ridgefield Running Co., Wadsworth Russell Lewis Trust Fund, Sunrise Senior Living, National Charity League, Sarah Bouïssou Catering, Cellar XV Wine Market, No. 109 Cheese & Wine, Southwest Café, Boxed Water and Nod Hill Brewery.

Our success is made possible by our community.



Bluebird house making hosted by Nod Hill brewery alongside their pollinator garden. Proceeds from the event were donated by the brewery to support Woodcock's educational efforts.