



Connecting Community to Nature

There are many things to be proud of at Woodcock Nature Center. We've grown our award-winning staff (again!) as well as our animal team (more on that below), and even added a new event... a Fall Creature Crawl! We've also managed to increase school field trips (more than 2,000 students visited us this year!) and we welcomed even more scholarship students to our beloved summer camp. If you've been to one of our sell-out fundraisers, stopped by one of our family s'mores events or, if the child in your life has attended an after school program, you probably noticed one special thing: Woodcock Nature Center is *your* nature center! We're here for *you* to explore, enjoy and connect. We're thrilled to be growing to meet the need for more nature programming in our community.

Thank you for being a part of our success!

"Many students had never been to a place like Woodcock and they were so excited.

The educators were very knowledgeable and patient with all of the children. Thank you!"

—Teacher, Hayestown
Elementary School, Danbury

Third graders enjoyed Woodcock's 'Life Cycles' field trip program thanks to a grant from Fairfield County Bank.



Outreach programs regularly brought animals (like Rocco the African Ball Python above) to places like Wilton Commons and Homes for the Brave where nature education is limited or can be part of a healing process. These visits were a highlight of the year for educators and participants!



Local businesses, schools and scout troops spread woodchips, made repairs, pulled weeds, and cleaned trails, which help Woodcock to keep the grounds accessible to our community—thank you to our dedicated friends at Fairfield County Bank pictured above.



Events were a huge part of the fun at Woodcock this year—from our annual *Wreath Festival* and spring *Frothy Forage* to our newest *Fall Creature Crawl*, these programs raise funds while also getting families outdoors to learn, explore and even taste their way through the trails.

Welcome Ambassadors

Woodcock welcomed Rosa the Mexican red-kneed tarantula and Cheyenne the Red-tailed hawk (pictured) along with Uno the wood turtle to our animal ambassador team this year. Our more than 20 reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey (and even the roaches!) help our educators bring to life the impacts that humans can have on their environment. Many of Woodcock's animals have injuries that prevent them from surviving on their own in the wild. Join us for an event to get up close to these incredible teachers.



Sponsor An Animal!

Our animals help us educate and inspire visitors and are an integral part of our team. **Animal sponsorship donations support animal care and make a great holiday gift!** Learn more on our website.

Congratulations Woodcock!

Three awards in one year for the nature center team.



Long-overdue recognition for Director of Education Sarah Breznen (pictured) came in the form of *two* awards this year: Environmental Educator of the Year from the Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Education Association and The Garden Club of America's Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award. Both awards are given in honor of outstanding service to environmental education and literacy. Despite the fact that Ms. Hull was a long-time resident of Ridgefield, this is the first time an individual working in the Ridgefield area has received the competitive national Garden Club award.



Woodcock Nature Center received the Ridgefield Conservation Commission's Edith Meffley Award in May, established by the Commission in 2005 and given "to recognize dedicated servants of the Ridgefield environment".



Watch our gardens grow.

Look, listen, feel... just a few of the things visitors will do at Woodcock's new sensory garden thanks to support from the Wilton Garden Club and the CT Society for Women Environmental Professionals. Sensory spaces like this will continue to be expanded upon next year and compliment Woodcock's already established pollinator garden, which was among the first on the Pollinator Pathway, supporting pollinator friendly native gardens and educating the public about ways to help support local habitats.



Exploring outdoors with our partners.

The Ridgefield Conservation Commission and the Wilton Land Trust deepen our impact by partnering with us for local programs. From guided treks to birding walks, history hikes and vernal pool discoveries, these free activities allow us to inspire new community members through nature. These events also help us contribute to large-scale efforts while we explore, like updating natural resource inventories which help compile information on environmental conditions and trends.

Thank you.

Jennifer and Claude Amadeo, Elizabeth Raymond Ambler Trust, Connecticut Ornithological Association, Connecticut Society for Women Environmental Professionals, Fairfield County Bank, Fullen-Smith Foundation, Holland & Knight, Horseshoe Farm, Pamela F. and Robert J. Morganti Charitable Foundation, Oaklawn Foundation, Outdoor Sports Center, Ridgefield Fresh Air Association, Ridgefield Garden Club, Ridgefield Rotary, Robert F. 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, Wadsworth Russell Lewis Trust Fund, Wilton Garden Club, National Charity League, S&B Catering, Cellar XV Wine Market, No. 109 Cheese & Wine, Boxed Water and Nod Hill Brewery.

Our community makes our success possible.



Woodcock renewed its land lease with the State of Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to continue its already more than 50 year stewardship of the 152-acre preserve, which spans Ridgefield and Wilton. Thanks to this 30-year lease arrangement, and donations from supporters like you, the preserve includes nearly 4 miles of groomed trails and is open dawn to dusk, year-round at no cost to the public.

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nature center

woodcocknaturecenter.org