

Woodcock wins again!

After receiving two awards last year—one for our Director of Education and the Edith Meffley Award from the Ridgefield Conservation Commission—Woodcock Nature Center was honored this spring with the **Green Community Partner of the Year Award** by Wilton Go Green. This recognition celebrates our partnership in promoting sustainability through programs like our free events, summer camp, after-school activities, field trips for local students, and more. We're proud to play a role in fostering a more environmentally conscious community.



FROG
Watch USA

Woodcock Nature Center is now a participating chapter of **FrogWatch USA**, a large-scale citizen science program that provides individuals, groups and families with opportunities to learn about wetlands in their communities by reporting on the calls of local frogs and toads. Woodcock held free volunteer training sessions so that individuals of all ages could get involved in this amazing citizen science program.



thank you!

We are grateful to our partners at **Fairfield County Bank!** Not only do they support our mission by sponsoring our events but, they also make it possible for kids from *two* Danbury elementary schools to participate in Woodcock's field trip programming at no cost each year. As if that isn't enough, they take a break from their busy work days to help around the grounds and to volunteer at many of the nature center's events.



August flood waters washed away portions of Woodcock's gravel drive-way. The long footbridge on our orange trail became twisted by rushing water and, several weighted floats that secure the bridge became completely dislodged. Thanks to a CT State recovery grant through the **Women's Business Development Council**, repairs were quickly made with little impact to programming. Ongoing support for trail and grounds maintenance comes from our community —*thank you!*

"Our students absolutely loved meeting the Woodcock animals, 'scooping' from the pond, identifying bugs and turning over the logs to find new creatures during their annual field trip!"

—Teacher, Hayestown
Elementary School,
Danbury



New to the team, **Blue, Basil and Bob** are seven year old White's Tree Frogs. Native to Australia and southern New Guinea, extracts from their skin have been used for fighting staphylococcus bacteria and lowering blood pressure. Like all our ambassador animals, this trio is hard at work teaching field trips at Woodcock, meeting the community in local towns as well as at popular events like our spring Frothy Forage which brings the community together for hiking, learning and sipping along the trails.



Connecting with Community

Woodcock is proud to be part of local events like Ridgefield Pride in the Park, the Wilton Street Fair, Georgetown Day, Wilton's Halloween Parade, and many farmers markets, helping us expand our reach and engage with the community. These events allow us to share our mission, connect with diverse audiences, and raise awareness about environmental education, inspiring more people to get involved.

We also had the opportunity to showcase our unique merchandise, featuring artwork by Director of Education Sarah Breznen inspired by our teaching animals. Our growing collection of t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more makes it easy to show your love and support for Woodcock. *Order yours anytime on our website!*



Scout Shout-Out!

Wilton **Girl Scout Troop 50390** created a "shadow box" for our bird blind. The box, along with two new trail signs planned and supported through a grant from the CT Outdoor Environmental Educators Association, serve to passively educate the public about local bird species but will also be utilized by educators during formal programming. And, **Rilynn Mahoney of Ridgefield Troop 19** chose to update our "Fairy Village" for her Eagle Project, including a new archway, carved wooden sign, and hand painted wooden mushroom stumps.



Trekking Around!

A partnership with Ridgefield Parks and Recreation, Ridgefield Library, and the Ridgefield Conservation Commission, encouraged families to explore local parks through the **Summer Trekking Program**. The program, which offered exciting prizes and engaging activities, brought together not only the partner organizations but also the wider community, fostering a shared celebration of Ridgefield's abundant open spaces. Events throughout the summer inspired families to get outdoors, discover hidden gems, and deepen their connection to the local environment.



Summer S'mores

Woodcock Nature Center and partner **ASML** brought the simple joys of summer—and the tradition of making s'mores—back to the outdoors this year! A series of free family-friendly gatherings offered not only delicious treats but also playground fun, creating the perfect opportunity to connect and enjoy quality time together.



Wilton Kiwanis Puts Community First

Woodcock Nature Center is honored to receive a generous gift from the **Wilton Kiwanis** this year, which will support critical technology upgrades on our main grounds. The donation will fund improvements such as enhanced Wi-Fi, new phone systems, and cyber security updates, all of which will streamline our operations and strengthen our ability to serve the community. We are deeply grateful for the Kiwanis' forward-thinking support, which will help Woodcock continue to thrive.

Thank you.

ASML, Jennifer and Claude Amadeo, Elizabeth Raymond Ambler Trust, CT Ornithological Association, Connecticut Outdoor Environmental Educators Association, Connecticut Society for Women Environmental Professionals, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Environmental Professionals Organization of Connecticut, Fairfield County Bank, Fullen-Smith Foundation, Holland & Knight, Pamela F. and Robert J. Morganti Charitable Foundation, Oaklawn Foundation, Outdoor Sports Center, Reynolds & Rowella, Ridgefield Fresh Air Association, Ridgefield Garden Club, Ridgefield Rotary, Robert F. Schumann Foundation, Ridgefield Thrift Shop, PepsiCo, South Wilton Vet Group, Georgetown Veterinary Group, Good Morning Wilton, Employees Helping Hand Fund/Danbury Mission Technologies, Village Market, Wilton Turnover Shop, Wadsworth Russell Lewis Trust Fund, Wilton Garden Club, Wilton Kiwanis, Window Solutions Plus, National Charity League, A Table/S+B Catering, Cellar XV Wine Market, No. 109 Cheese & Wine, Boxed Water and Nod Hill Brewery.



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