

Greenburgh Nature Center

EXPLORE • DISCOVER • CONNECT



2019-2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Zhao Zhao,
White-necked raven

BOARD PRESIDENT STATEMENT

Dear Members and Board Members,

Happy New Year! We are all looking forward to a better 2021, and I hope you are able to stay safe in these difficult times. Below, I hope to provide you with an overview of recent goings on of the Nature Center and our outlook for 2021.

The Nature Center will continue to offer exciting and interactive educational programs for people of all ages. These diverse programs engage the community and instill in future generations an appreciation for and a will to protect nature.

The most recent issue of Westchester Magazine cited Greenburgh Nature Center as one of five “Best Places for Kids over the last 20 Years” throughout Westchester County. This recognition is well earned by the hard work, commitment, and care of our extraordinary staff and volunteers over many years. I myself have been in the community more than 30 years, and have long known the Nature Center for being a special and welcoming place—“a green oasis.”

Beginning about two years ago, the Nature Center’s board initiated a process designed to help our organization reach the next level. Then, in September 2019, when our longtime Executive Director resigned, the board elected to bring in a transition expert—our current Interim Executive Director, Lynne Molnar. The months following have been focused on analyzing and strengthening the organization and its processes in the short term, while building an understanding of what to look for in a new, permanent Executive Director. Through this process, we recognize that our organization is stronger for having committed to the change. We expect to bring on a new Executive Director within the next 2-3 months.

Financially, we had a strong 2019 and we were off to a good start on what was expected to be an even better 2020. When the pandemic hit in March, we promptly closed the doors to our Manor House, instructed nonessential staff to stay home, and attempted to plan for the remainder of the year as best as we could. Given that our earned revenue from school groups and programs dropped to zero, we were forced to quickly change courses and reduce expenses to conserve our financial reserves. While the Town of Greenburgh provides funding that covers about 25% of our operating expenses, the remaining 75% is up to us to generate through earned income, grants, and your donations.

BOARD PRESIDENT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Your support, in the form of membership, program participation, and donations remains critical to our ability to fund our mission.

As the effects of the pandemic unfolded and our government responded, we quickly applied for and were granted federal relief funding. Thanks to funding from the CARES Act, we were able to bring back most of our previously furloughed staff. During this time, our staff found innovative ways to continue delivering our mission by altering programs to account for social distancing, smaller group sizes, and an overall emphasis on safety.

Despite our best efforts to adapt to this new normal, we expect COVID to continue to have a negative effect on our financial situation well into 2021. However, know that we are doing all that we can to manage expenses and that our financial position remains stable despite the pandemic.

Looking forward, our board and staff has developed a shared list of priorities for the next 2-3 years. As with our mission and vision, these priorities will act as our north star for 2021 and beyond. These priorities include:

1. Build and strengthen the organization;
2. Build and strengthen the board;
3. Strengthen community relationships with Greenburgh and the villages;
4. Develop a forward thinking strategic plan with the goals of determining: "Who is our target? Why should they engage/how do we increase engagement? How can we fund our aspirations for advancing our mission?"

These are big priorities and the Board is committed to making real progress on them over the next several years with the help of a new and dynamic Executive Director.

As I close this letter, I want to recognize and thank our extraordinary staff and volunteers for all of their hard work and commitment through these difficult times. I also want to thank the board and the Town of Greenburgh for their support. We have come a long way, but we have an even more exciting future ahead of us. Thank you.

JIM BLANN

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Blann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President of the Board of Directors

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

OUR MISSION

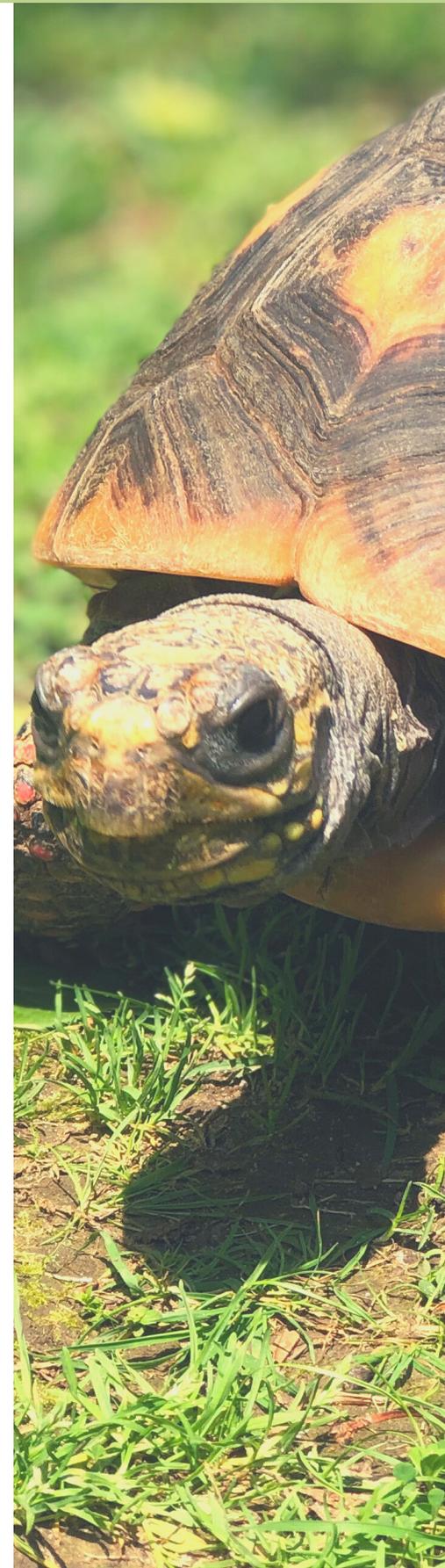
The Greenburgh Nature Center's mission is to ignite passion, curiosity, and respect for our natural world.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a leader in the region for **environmental education** and **best sustainable practices**, while providing enriching hands-on visitor experiences and a venue for community activities. We will continue to offer exciting, unique, and interactive educational programs for people of all ages, as well as a range of community activities to engage people, businesses, and governmental entities with each other on environmental sustainability issues, while aiming to instill in future generations an appreciation for and will to protect nature.

OUR VALUES

- We are committed to fostering awareness and understanding of environmental issues
- We believe in developing a dialogue of care around our interconnectedness with nature
- We are dedicated to serving as stewards of the Nature Center's land



ABOUT US

- 33-acre woodland preserve with multiple trails and educational signage, a vernal pond, a native plant meadow, gardens, great lawn, butterfly arbor and educational exhibits
- Nature's Discovery Playground
- Outdoor exhibits include Native American Replica Village, including a Lenape Longhouse and Weckquaesgeek Wigwam, Live animal exhibits including a birds of prey aviary, barnyard and chicken coop
- Indoor exhibits include a live animal museum with over 100 specimens, hands-on nature exhibits, changing art exhibits and a greenhouse with botanical and hydroponics exhibits *
- Year-round classes and programs for all ages
- Camps for children during school holidays and summer months featuring self contained POD groups
- Birthday party options for children ages 3+
- Special seasonal community events
- Nature and environmental education programs for school groups, scouts, companies, counties, school districts and other groups of all ages and backgrounds
- Volunteer opportunities for all ages and skill levels

More than 85,000 people of all ages and backgrounds from Westchester County and the New York metropolitan area are served by the Greenburgh Nature Center each year

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Manor House (including Live Animal Museum) remains closed to the public. The grounds, including playground, outdoor animal exhibits, and trails are free and open for the public to enjoy



SUSTAINABILITY, GREEN DESIGN & ENERGY CONSERVATION

Greenburgh Nature Center is the first nature center to be Green Business Partnership certified. Sustainability is modeled and demonstrated throughout all of our operations, programs, and events. Our green policy addresses energy, water, land use, transportation, and materials management.

In 2019, Greenburgh Nature Center, with support from the Town of Greenburgh, completed Manor House upgrades to increase the energy efficiency of our facilities. Among these upgrades were: a new roof, new windows, Energy Star efficient kitchen appliances, LED light fixtures and a programmable thermostat.

In our day to day operations, Nature Center staff also implements the use of reusable mugs, dishes, and shopping bags, has eliminated the sale of bottled water, and has reduced use of lighting and power adaptors to conserve electricity.



NATURALIST PROGRAM

The Nature Center offers a wide range of educational programs year round. Our educational programs for school groups, scouts, and other special interest groups include topics such as: Animal Adaptations, A Plant's life, Animal Adventures, Birds of Prey, Meet the Animals, A Bug's Life, Aquatic Adventures, Pond Ecology and Wildlife Conservation.

Seasonal program offerings include the Bee Program, the magic of decomposition, Native Americans: Living off the Land, Plants: Our Partners, Maple Sugaring, Apple Cidering, Winter Birds and Vermicompost.

In addition to our programs, in 2019 over 200 K-5 campers spent the summer exploring every corner of our property and engaging in hands-on environmental education.



OUR IMPACT

409
schools



15,866
students



754
members



TURNING THE CORNER TO 2020

We had a great year in 2019. We expanded the number of campers, students and schools that we serve and continued to ignite passion, curiosity and respect for our natural world.

As it was for many organizations, 2020 proved to be a very challenging year. As a result of the state mandated COVID-19 shutdown in March, we halted all school-based programs and our Manor House museum was closed.

When the State again allowed gatherings in the summer, we held a greatly reduced summer program. In the fall, the Naturalist and Sustainability educators created new programs, such as Nature PODs and the Back to Nature Series, modified to accommodate smaller groups of children and families in self-selected "PODs" that met the mandate of gatherings only up to ten people.

These PODs and Back to Nature Series programs continue to be popular among local families who have enjoyed experiences such as Barn Openings and Goat Walks, and will continue into 2021.





SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

We hosted a Native Plant Sale, Backyard Composter Sale and Sustainable Holiday Market.

We launched a new Garden Grown Scholars program at the New York Institute for Special Education, School for The Blind, where we updated their greenhouse space with four new garden beds for more teaching space.

With support from the Town of Greenburgh and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, we were awarded a second grant to support the Food Scrap Recycling program. This grant allows us to continue our previous efforts, while expanding the program to offer curbside pickup of food scraps from residents homes by 2022.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a vital source of staffing and visitor outreach. Through guidance from our Volunteer Coordinator and Naturalist Educator staff, they become a skilled team as they learn about animal care, sustainability, and the ecology of our preserve.

In 2019, we welcomed the assistance of 150 volunteers, however, in 2020 our ability to train volunteers and offer them opportunities was greatly reduced with the closure of the Manor House in March. As restrictions eased in the latter half of the year, we welcomed a core group of approximately 20 volunteers to support the staff engaged in the extensive care and stimulation required for the animals that no longer participated in classroom education.



ANIMAL ADDITIONS

We have over 100 animals of 59 different species on display on our grounds and in our Live Animal Museum. Over the past two years, we added several new residents:

2 Pygmy Goats
1 bearded dragon
2 Long Evans rats
1 Uromastyx lizard
1 Ball python
and several crawfish

Plus: our guinea pig, Flor, welcomed 4 babies!

Our animals interact with the public and many accompany our Naturalist Educators for in-house and outreach educational programs.





SPECIAL EVENTS

In 2019, we enjoyed the success of much-loved events like Maple Sugaring Party and Great Green Eggstravaganza, while introducing new family-friendly hits like Festifall.

Despite the cancellation of some community events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to introduce a new, outdoor Holiday Market, and celebrate our 45th Birthday on-site at the Nature Center in 2020.

OUR STAFF

(as of December 31, 2020)

Lynne Molnar, Interim Executive Director
Grace Bilotta, Finance and Administration Assistant
Travis Brady, Director of Programs and Facilities
Megan Bryant, Finance & Programming Administrator
Marybeth Cagney, Director of Finance and Administration
Danielle Callahan, Naturalist/Camp Supervisor
Lindsay Cohen, Director of Sustainability
Nick Coon, Naturalist/Grounds Supervisor
Dana DeSousa, Naturalist/Volunteer Supervisor
Brenna Maturro, Sustainability Associate
Andrew Michalski, Living Collections Manager
Nora Orosz, Communications and Social Media Coordinator
Melanie Patapis, Sustainability Associate
Greg Wechgelaer, Director of Naturalist Education





OUR BOARD

(as of November 2020)

James Blann, President
David Seal, Vice President
Michael Sims, Secretary/Treasurer
Jennifer Hu Corriggio
Dr. Lorelei Davidson
Michael Darviche
David Isacovici
Tracey Kurzweil
Sookie Lee-Kim
Catherine A. Ludden
Michael Tom

(as of November 2019)

James Blann, President
David Seal, Vice President
Catherine A. Ludden, Vice President
Michael Sims, Secretary
Michael Tom, Treasurer
Samuel Cooper
Jennifer Hu Corriggio
Dr. Lorelei Davidson
David Isacovici
Sookie Lee-Kim
Troy Lipp
Kleber Quiroz

2019 FINANCIALS

OPERATING INCOME

1 Membership/Admission	\$ 171,032
2 Tuition	316,244
3 Other Events	33,387
4 Contributions*	174,022
5 Fundraising Events	43,107
6 Grants	244,779
7 Gift Shop	17,237
8 Miscellaneous Income	49,815
9 Town of Greenburgh	380,556
Total Operating Income	\$ 1,430,179

Net Assets Jan. 1, 2019	\$ 678,821
Net Assets Dec. 31, 2019	805,623
Temporarily Restricted Assets	103,706
Permanently Restricted Assets	13,200

**Contributions (includes in-kind support of \$56,926)*

OPERATING EXPENSES

1 Programs Expenses	\$ 968,876
2 Administrative Expenses	274,389
3 Fundraising	59,572

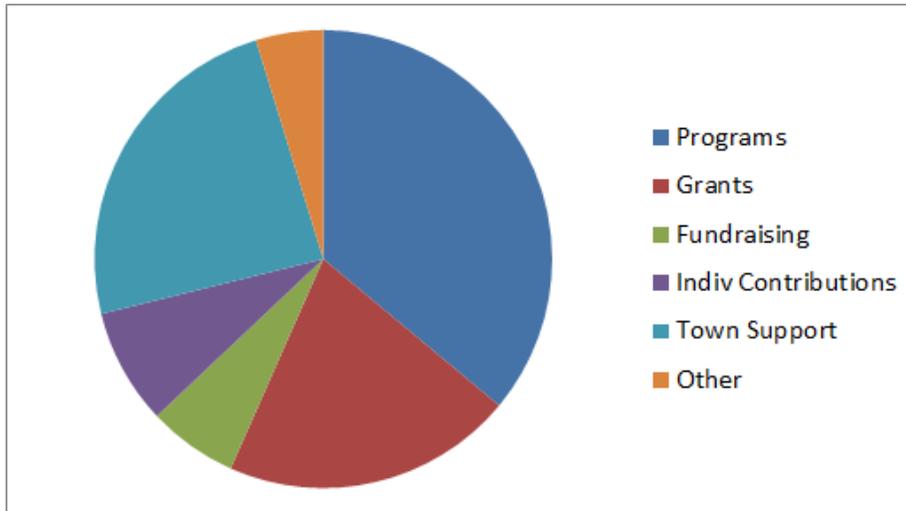
Total Operating Expenses \$ 1,302,837

Increase in net assets \$ 127,342

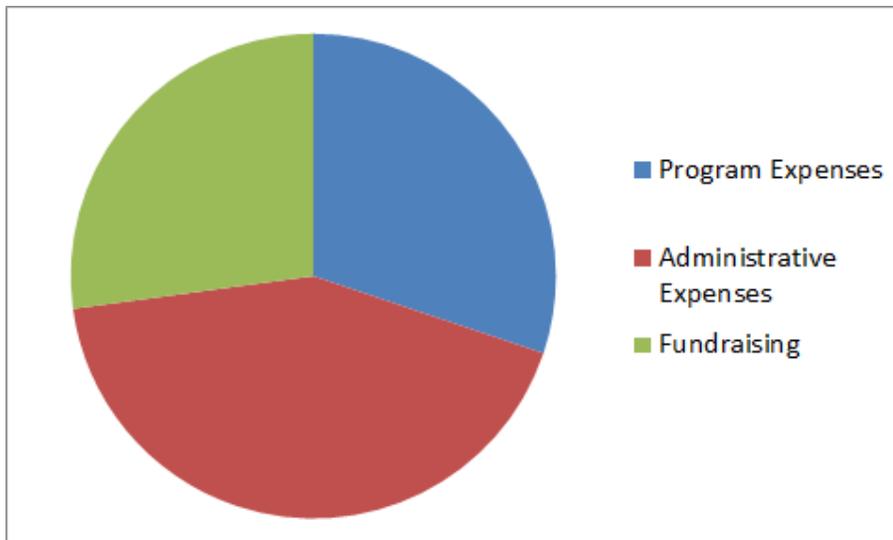


2019 FINANCIALS

Revenues



Expenses



Note: 2020 Financials are not yet available

Our Donors:

We are grateful to have had over **600** individual donors help us through a difficult 2020, This is almost twice the number of donors from 2019 and we thank all of you who helped us during a very difficult year!



THANK YOU!



www.greenburghnaturecenter.org

