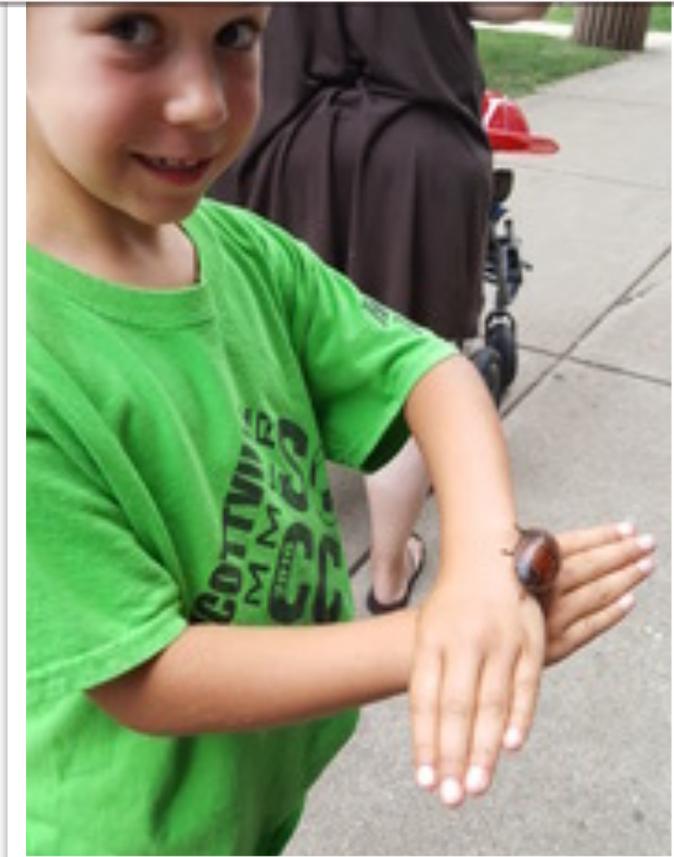




Wild Spirit Education, Inc. 2018 Annual Report



WILD SPIRIT EDUCATION, INC

<http://wildspirit.org>

Message from the Executive Director

Wild Spirit had yet another banner year in 2018. Our organization continues to grow stronger each year. We continue to strive towards our mission of educating as many people about the natural world as possible.

Our educational programming has grown with the addition of new programs and new educational animals. We added four new birds to our educational ambassadors including a juvenile bald eagle. These birds and our additional programs allow us to better educate people about nature.

The year also found us strengthening our scientific studies with some additional bird banding efforts including saw-whet owl banding.

Our educational efforts also increased this past year. We had many new clients and were able to reach thousands of people with our environmental messages. We thank the grantors who financially supported us throughout the year as well as the individual donors who made it possible to increase our educational presence.

Wild Spirit exists because of the passion and commitment you demonstrate for our organization. The future looks bright for us as we continue to teach about nature. Thank you for helping Wild Spirit Education to make a difference for the natural world in 2018.



Paul Fehring, Executive Director

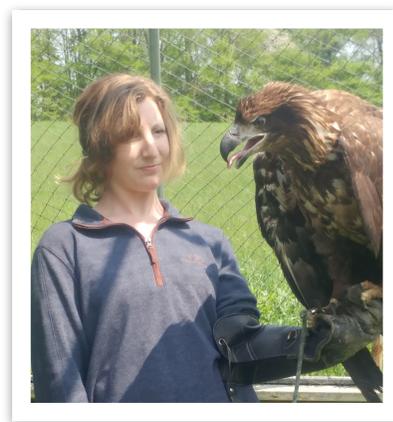
Paul@wildspirit.org



Message from the president

It's very rare in one's lifetime to see the level of passion and commitment that emanates from the volunteers of Wild Spirit Education. Our volunteers and per-diem naturalists tirelessly dedicate ourselves to our mission. Without such a wonderful group of people, Wild Spirit would not be what it is today, and our fantastic level of public outreach would not be possible.

The backbone of our educational programming is our beloved educational ambassadors, who range from Arris the Harris' Hawk, to Arwen the American Kestrel. Each and every one of our birds has a huge personality, and this is what inspires the public to learn to love them. Many myths and urban legends surround the world of raptors, and many of them don't present these wonderful animals in a good light. Our programming featuring live raptors helps to correct misunderstandings about them. In the modern age, where many are so separated from their wild roots, the thousands we reach annually matter now more than ever.



2018 was an exciting year for our organization and I look forward to serving as president to see all the progress in the coming years.

Clare Sweeny, President

Current Board of Directors

Clare Sweeny, President (2017-2022)
Richard Kingston, Vice President (2014-2019)
Amizetta Haj, Treasurer (2015-2020)
Nicole Maul, Secretary (2014-2019)

Charles Bartlett (2017-2022)
Jodi Claeys (2017-2022)
Beverly Fehringer (2016-2021)
Renee Flierl (2017-2022)
Christine Grotke (2016-2021)
Susan Jaworski (2016-2021)
Theodore Maul (2018-2023)

Our Mission

The mission of Wild Spirit Education is to enhance the knowledge of others about the natural world through environmental education. Through this enhanced knowledge we can entice others to care for the environment.

Environmental Education

Our primary goal at Wild Spirit is to educate about nature so that people can better appreciate the natural world around them. We did a great number of programs and saw a large number of people this past year. We added a few new programs for schools and eldercare facilities.

Our birds of prey programs using live birds was a big hit for all ages. Our hands-on approach to education was well accepted by everyone who attended our programs as they left with a better understanding of the environment.



One of the many programs we led.

We saw an increase in the number of programs we did this year and we expanded our clientele with new libraries, schools and eldercare facilities wanting Wild Spirit to engage with their students, residents and patrons. From hikes to webinars we used a variety of methods to reach out to the general public. We thank the Stewart family for allowing us to use the Delevan Scout Building to do our public programs in.

Citizen Science and Scientific Studies

We are very proud to remain the local chapter for both the national Frogwatch and Nestwatch programs. We trained several new citizen scientists in both these programs. We also continued to participate in many bird counts including the annual Great Backyard Bird Count for which we have been an ambassador for the past nine years. Not only do we participate in these counts, we train others to participate in them.

This is our sixth year participating in the Firefly Watch program which has just evolved out of a need to preserve the dwindling number of these nighttime insects.



A saw-whet owl banded.

Our bird banding efforts saw an increase in the number of birds studied and banded. Our MAPS bird banding in the early summer saw many exciting captures in our mist nets. Donations are appreciated to purchase new nets.

We expanded our bird banding efforts this autumn as we included saw-whet owl banding. We will continue to expand this effort and may be basing in the spring as well for those owls migrating through.

We joined the Caterpillars Count research program a few years ago and are still working on advancing this research program. We are still the only site in NY state to participate.



Barred owl being prepped for an x-ray

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Although wildlife rehabilitation is not our primary focus, we did take in a small number of cases this year. We would like to thank Dr. Scott Nachbar and his staff for all their help with our rehab efforts. Our release rate this year was close to 60% which is much higher than the national average of 40%.

Volunteers

Our volunteers put in hundreds of hours again this year in a variety of ways. We trained new volunteers to work with our educational birds and had them participate in programs.

Our volunteers stepped up to fill roles as newsletter editor, volunteer coordinator, committee members and much more. Volunteers also worked in the office, helped with animal care or participated in our citizen science programs. The volunteers are the backbone of much of what Wild Spirit does.

Our volunteers were instrumental in keeping Wild Spirit's mission going through their hard work, which is greatly appreciated. We always have room for more volunteers.

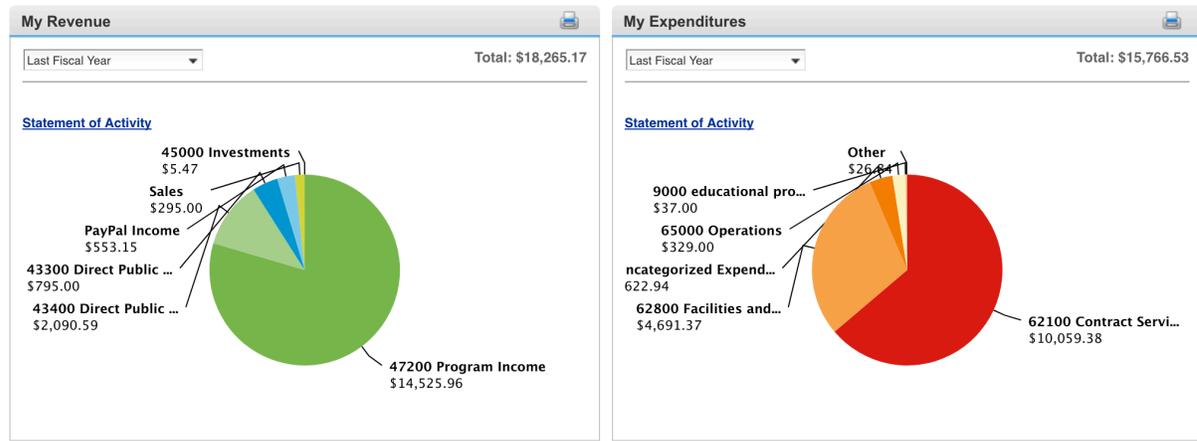


Volunteers working on cage repairs.

Our Executive Director works as a volunteer in the organization and puts in hundreds of hours each year for no pay. Our only paid staff is our per-diem naturalist educators.

Financials

Income and Expense Fiscal year 2017-18



2018 Major Donors

Anonymous (2)

Rev. John Fehringer

Goodsearch & Goodshop

Google Ads

Pierce Milling

Dr. Scott Nachbar

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Stewart

Thrivent Financial

United Way of WNY

Wild Spirit has made every effort to accurately reflect all financial contributions received by the organization in 2018. If we have made an error, please accept our sincere apology and contact us so that we can make any necessary corrections.

CONNECT WITH US

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www.wildspirit.org

www.rockflipping.org

TO DONATE

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and click on “support” or contact us at

(716) 531-1428

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