



Friends

OF THE PINE BUSH COMMUNITY

a 501(c)3 nonprofit membership organization formed in 2005 for the charitable and educational purpose of supporting the activities of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission.

2020 Board of Directors

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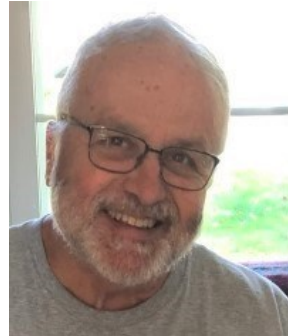
Kat Fitzpatrick
Director

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16th Year of Service and Support 2020 Annual Report

Message from the Friends' Board President



I have always felt that providing support, be it financial or otherwise, to the organizations and causes we believe in, speaks to who we are and what we want the world to be. So, thank you to all of the Friends of the Pine Bush Community who have contributed financially or have volunteered, supporting the mission of the Pine Bush Preserve Commission. Give yourself a pat on the back! 2020 was tough. But hopefully we have all become stronger and more aware through it.

We are itching to hit the trails and connect person to person. It might take a bit longer and we might be doing things a bit differently, but the Pine Bush beckons and there are many opportunities to participate. I urge you to keep an eye open for the many communications that come from the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and from the Friends, as there may be that one thing which could be just the thing you were looking for.

Maintaining Connections During a Unique Year of Challenges

2020 was a year like no other in our lifetimes. The Friends of the Pine Bush Community continued its support of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, and as the pandemic grew in the Spring of 2020, we found ways to reach out and support each other and the greater community. In the midst of lock-down anxiety and loneliness, Friends and volunteers came together for monthly "socials" via Zoom. The socials provided a means to travel virtually to Antarctica, Africa and Iceland, facilitated by stunning photography and scientific discussion by the presenters. Subsequent socials included a fun trivia night, a presentation on the Rapp Road Historical District recounting the "Great Migration" of African Americans to Albany; a book presentation by the author of Exploring the Palantine and its Albany Pine Bush connection; and finally, a virtual tour of the Discovery Center Gift Shop just in time for Christmas!

Friends and volunteers have participated in every-other-month work sessions at the Northeast Regional Food Bank supporting their mission to keep the shelves of local food pantries stocked and food available to those in need.

The unequal effects of the pandemic brought diversity and inclusion to the fore and the Friends developed a Diversity and Inclusion Statement to guide us and which is now accessible on every monthly news and upcoming events e-newsletter. While this was a start, we are all challenged to make the Pine Bush programs and trails more well-known and welcoming to our diverse local populations. (Continued on page 4)

Budgeted Items & Fund Balance		2020			
Budget Lines	Items	Expended	Remaining	% Spent	
105	Paypal costs for transfers	\$50.00	(97.38)	(47.38)	195%
110	Software	\$0.00	-	-	n/a
115	APBP staff software(Tech soup)	\$1,000.00	(409.00)	591.00	41%
120	Mailing/ Printing/supplies	\$500.00	(454.99)	45.01	91%
130	NYCON/NYS filing fees/bank fees	\$200.00	(420.00)	(220.00)	210%
140	Internet & website maintenance	\$360.00	-	360.00	0%
150	BOD Liability Insurance	\$650.00	(640.26)	9.74	99%
160	Accountant fee for prep of 990	\$300.00	(290.00)	10.00	97%
		\$3,060.00	(2,311.63)	\$ 748.37	76%
200	Member Engagement	\$400.00	(322.26)	77.74	81%
210	Pine Bush Perspective Awards	\$766.19	-	766.19	0%
215	Replacement fence for historic cemetery	\$150.00	-	150.00	0%
220	Outreach & PBP traveling exhibits	\$500.00	-	500.00	0%
		\$1,816.19	(322.26)	1,493.93	18%
400	Night at DC	\$1,000.00	\$(708.86)	291.14	71%
405	Lupine Fest lunch for volunteers	\$500.00	\$-	500.00	0%
410	Teen Science Café	\$320.00	\$-	\$ 320.00	0%
415	Smokey Bear Day - refreshments	\$150.00	\$-	\$ 150.00	0%
420	Museum store day - refreshments	\$75.00	\$-	\$ 75.00	0%
430	Owls & Hors d'oeuvres	\$300.00	\$-	\$ 300.00	0%
435	PB perspectives exhibit	\$200.00	\$(683.95)	\$(483.95)	342%
450	Snowpack monitoring gauges	\$285.00	\$(281.65)	\$ 3.35	99%
455	Citizen science survey supplies	\$200.00	\$-	\$ 200.00	0%
475	Hummingbird Banding Workshop	\$1,000.00	\$-	\$ 1,000.00	0%
480	Pine Bush volunteer T shirts	\$0.00	\$-	\$ -	
500	Awards/refreshments vol recognition	\$500.00	\$(511.98)	\$(11.98)	102%
510	Community Sci. events (big bird day)	\$500.00	\$-	\$ 500.00	0%
515	Science Lecture Speakers	\$400.00	\$-	400.00	0%
520	Earthday/refreshments/volunteer T's	\$1,500.00	\$-	1,500.00	0%
530	APB create a meet up event	\$300.00	\$-	300.00	0%
540	Summer Internship	\$2,500.00	\$-		
545	Spring/Fall Education Intern	\$500.00	\$-	500.00	0%
550	ESRI license	\$500.00	\$(400.00)	100.00	80%
555	Data loggers/student climate study	\$1,000.00	\$-	1,000.00	0%
580	GIS Layer for historic roads and sites	\$5,000.00	\$(2,500.00)	2,500.00	50%
590	Ticket to Ride	\$800.00	\$-	800.00	0%
591	Virtual Education Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$(2,510.84)	489.16	84%
		\$20,530.00	\$(7,597.28)	\$12,932.72	37%

Restricted

610	Land Protection	\$7,241.91	-	7,241.91	0%
620	Science Grant 3M	\$0.00	\$	0.00	
630	Ticket to Ride (Restricted)	\$70.86	\$	70.86	0%
640	Summer Internship (restricted)	\$2,500.00	\$	\$2,500.00	
		<u>\$9,812.77</u>	-	<u>\$9,812.77</u>	0%
Total All Accounts		35,218.96	(10,231.17)	24,987.79	29%
Total, All Accounts Minus Land		27,977.05	(10,231.17)	17,745.88	

Revenues Budgeted and Carryovers

Revenues	Expected	Todate	Outstanding	% Recv.
05 Bank Dividends	\$50.00	\$29.50	\$20.50	59%
11 Donation with benefits	\$2,000.00	1,770.00	\$230.00	89%
12 Donation, Tax Exempt	\$4,000.00	5,827.00	-\$1,827.00	146%
13 Misc revenues	\$500.00	1,143.13	-\$643.13	229%
22 Ticket to Ride (Restricted)	\$500.00	100.00	\$400.00	20%
30 Land Donations (Resv)	\$500.00	480.00	\$20.00	96%
35 3M Grant	\$0.00	-	\$0.00	n/a
40 Summer Internship (Restricted)	\$0.00	-	\$0.00	n/a
50 Education Internship	\$2,500.00	2,500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Totals, All Accounts	\$10,050.00	\$11,849.63	-\$1,799.63	118%

Carryovers Plus Additions

	Balance	Change	Left	% Spent
50 Education Internship	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
91 Science Grant 3M (Restricted)	\$0.00	-	\$0.00	
92 Ticket to Ride (Restricted)	\$170.86	100.00	\$270.86	-59%
93 Land Protection (Reserved)	\$7,651.05	480.00	\$8,131.05	-6%
Subtotals	\$7,821.91	\$580.00	\$8,401.91	-7%

Year to Year Comparison

	2018	2019	2020
EOY Previous Balance	\$ 27,802.06	\$ 28,709.43	\$27,546.19
YTD Revenue	\$ 11,366.83	\$ 13,090.26	\$ 11,849.63
YTD Expenses	\$ (10,388.52)	\$ (14,253.50)	\$ (10,231.17)
Balance	\$ 28,780.37	\$ 27,546.19	\$29,164.65

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The Friends responded to the pent up need to “get outdoors” in 2020, by encouraging participation in the 12/20 Challenge (12 unique trails totaling 20 miles). Brochures were made available, along with the trail maps, at trail kiosks and hikers can claim a completion sticker upon submission of their recorded hikes.

The Friends continued co-sponsoring the monthly Science Lectures, (for now virtually) on topics ranging from Restoration of the Pine Barrens through the use of prescribed burnsto recovery efforts to save the endangered Karner Blue butterfly. At the close of 2020, Pine Bush Perspectives from previous years were displayed at Uncommon Grounds Coffee & Bagels in Albany for visitors to glimpse at the beauty of the Pine Bush we all love, through the eyes of talented photographers.

Reach us

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Mission of the Friends

The Friends of the Pine Bush Community is committed to working with the Albany Pine Bush Commission to provide support and opportunities for the public to participate in activities that contribute to stewardship and appreciation of the unique natural communities found in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.

Highlights of 2020

- Released a statement of *Diversity and Inclusion* and set a direction toward making programs and trails more welcoming to our region's diverse communities.
- Supported a *Cultural Resource Geodatabase, mapping project* that will help the Albany Pine Bush staff recognize important archeological remnants that need protecting prior to any tree removal or soil disturbance in the future. A campaign to provide information about the project to Friends and then finance the project, was very successful.
- Started *Social Hours via Zoom* in response to the need to keep connected with Friends.
- Supported a social-distanced *Discover the Night* program with staff and special guests featured on videos showing local wildlife and providing storytelling, in-person night-hiking, interactive games, nature craft instruction and other activities. Kits were made available to participating youth and were also supplied to the pediatric unit at Albany Medical Center.
- Co-sponsored the 7th annual Pine Bush Perspectives, a juried photo exhibit of nature photographs taken within the Pine Bush Preserve, providing awards to the winners. Friends funded the purchase of weather-proof prints to be displayed along trail behind Discovery Center. Also, a travelling show displayed at local libraries and café featuring the "best of" from previous years of the Pine Bush Perspectives.
- Temporarily paused *Ticket to Ride*, a popular program that pays for the transportation of children from schools and youth groups to the Discovery Center. It is very much alive, just on hold due to the pandemic. In response to the need from staff to provide schools with live virtual programs, Friends funded the purchase of cellular capable iPad Pro and tripod equipment along with data plan enabling live streaming.
- Supported the purchase of scientific instrumentation for use by staff scientists and volunteers involved with *citizen science projects, including snowpack monitoring equipment*.
- Continued support for monthly *Science Lecture Series, via zoom and webinar*.
- Expanded the scope of the *12/20 Challenge* making brochures more accessible at trailheads and providing a small prize for those completing the hiking challenge.
- Coordinated with the *Northeast Regional Food Bank* so Friends could volunteer as a group, every-other-month sorting and packing fresh produce and other food for distribution to food pantries.
- Continued ability for Friends to direct their on-line purchases to benefit the Friends, through *Amazon Smile*.