



Annual Report 2017

**OUR MISSION IS  
TO INSPIRE OUR  
COMMUNITY  
TO LIFELONG  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDSHIP.**

1600 Spring Valley Rd.  
Ossining, NY 10562

P (914) 762-2912  
F (914) 762-2890

teatown.org  
info@teatown.org





# Dear friends of Teatown

Over half a century ago, one man's donation of a parcel of land for "public use and enjoyment" inspired dozens more to follow suit—and so Teatown was formed and set on the trajectory that has lead us to this point in time.

The past year was one of both success and sadness. Working with the Open Space Institute and the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens we were able to permanently secure major land parcels for Teatown. We also expanded our educational programs for underserved youth and all age groups. We continued to grow our partnerships with numerous educational and environmental organizations and increased our involvement in regional scientific research.

These successes were tempered by the passing of our patron and great friend David Swope. His wisdom and support will be sorely missed. Of some solace is the fact that the continued growth of Teatown was one of David's priorities.

As we look forward, everyone at Teatown is confident that our organization has a bright future as it continues to pursue the mission of inspiring our Community to Lifelong Environmental Stewardship.

With gratitude,



Howard Permut  
Teatown Board Chair







# Science & Stewardship

Habitat protection and restoration remain at the core of who Teatown is, and who we have been for the past 50 years.

## **Our trail network has undergone major improvements.**

2017 marked the completion of our major Trail System Overhaul, a plan many years in the making with the objective of reducing impact to the preserve. All new and replaced trail structures were funded through corporate groups or Boy Scouts and completed by volunteers.

### **Hidden Valley**

75' of boardwalk (installed by Daniel Bilica, Boy Scout) and two 16' bridges were constructed (installed by Volunteer NY).

### **Briarcliff-Peekskill & Hilltop**

The Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail north of Spring Valley Road and the Hilltop Trail were rerouted and opened.

On the Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail south of Spring Valley Road, two Scouts (Will Jones and Alex Walsh) completed puncheon to provide 350' of boardwalk.

### **Teatown-Kitchawan**

Jolly Rovers installed a rock crossing and steps across Big Brook in Kitchawan Preserve (Funded by a Hudson Valley Greenway grant). New blaze markers were also installed along the entire trail.

## **We are taking steps to improve our region's biodiversity.**

**Beavers** are industrious mammals; they take down trees for food, to build shelter and to block flowing water. Their return to Teatown after more than a century of absence is exciting yet provides unique



challenges for the stewardship team. We have been hard at work clearing our spillways to maintain constant flow in our streams and erecting barriers to protect Wildflower Island.

**White-tailed deer** are native to our forests; however their population in our region is far greater than what the forest can support. The goal of our Deer Management Program is to restore balance to the forest by reducing the deer population, which will allow for plant regeneration. This will take a long term commitment to achieve.

**Invasive plants** pose serious risks for the future of our forests. That's why we hosted the Invasive Strike Force at Clifffdale and Hidden Valley as part of our Meadow Restoration Plan. They targeted photinia, porcelain-berry, reed canary grass, and barberry.

### We are expanding our science-education initiatives.

We are making improvements both to our campus and outreach programming to greater achieve our mission.

**The Teatown Environmental Science Academy** hosted 12 students this year. Six students received awards at The Westchester Science and Engineering Fair.

**A new Outdoor Science Classroom** was completed and was put to use for the first time by the Teatown Environmental Science Academy '17.

**Workshops and trainings** were lead by Hillary Siener, Teatown's Manager of Science and Stewardship Programs this year, including teacher training for science research teachers and a workshop at Vassar on estimating deer populations with camera traps.

**Monitoring carnivore populations** helps us determine their presence and conservation needs by recording long-term trends. We participated in a fisher study conducted in conjunction with a bear study launched by Mianus River Gorge. While we didn't find any fisher on this side of the county, there have been multiple sightings by locals.

**An undergraduate Pace University course was taught at Teatown** in May called The Natural History of the Hudson Valley in May by Hillary Siener and Dr. Amy Karpati.



A fox photographed by a camera trap. Below, Hillary taking phenology records.





# Education



Teatown's programs for families, adults and children draw more than 20,000 participants each year.

## **Nurtured by Nature**

This early childhood science and nature enrichment program was brought to children enrolled in Yorktown Head Start and Ossining's Little School. Teatown educators lead hands-on, age appropriate activities for students, and offer professional development for teachers to bring learning outside of the classroom.

## **No Child Left Inside**

Over 2,800 students attended programs at Teatown through NCLI which provides financial support for under-resourced districts. Scholarships are made available to schools to cover transportation costs or fee for service. This year students from Yonkers, Elmsford, Peekskill, Ossining, and New Rochelle enjoyed visits to Teatown.

## **Nature Girls**

Fifth grade girls in Tarrytown and Ossining met weekly throughout the school year in this supportive environmental program that fosters creativity, science skills and inquiry. Through team building, self-discovery and explorations in nature, girls develop confidence, make new friends and increase their environmental literacy.

## **Public Programs**

Each month Teatown offers a range of programs for families, adults and children, drawing more than 2,000 participants to engage, educate and inspire them to become active environmental stewards. Popular programs this year included Shirin-Yoku, and The Green

A student participating in our Exploring Ecosystems school program



## Education (continued)

Living Series which was hosted with the Croton CAC at the Croton Library and featured talks by Kim Eireman of EcoBeneficial and Brendan Murphy of the Watershed Agricultural Council.

### Family Nature Club

Teatown launched this pilot program to encourage families in the Ossining School District to experience the wonders of nature together. Over 25 families joined in on monthly Saturday morning outings to Teatown and other area parks to discover new places, share play time with their family, make new friends and engage in outdoor adventures.

### School Programs

Teatown continues to be a regional leader in quality environmental education programs for students. Teatown takes learning to other sites also, including the Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center in Sleepy Hollow, with programs that focus on river ecology and watershed health.

### Professional Development

Teatown hosted the 7th annual REED Conference: Regional Environmental Educators Day. Over 120 environmental educators from around the tri-state area met at Teatown

to participate in workshops, roundtables and networking.

Teatown led professional development workshops for Kindergarten teachers from Park School in Ossining and environmental educators from Greenburgh Nature Center and Woodcock Nature Center.

### Citizen Science

We partnered with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on the *Hudson River Eel Project*. Teatown coordinated the volunteer effort to count and collect data on American eels at Furnace Brook, a Hudson River tributary in Cortlandt Manor. 25 volunteer citizen scientists began daily sampling in late February and continued until mid-May, braving high water, snowstorms, rain, and cold temperatures.

### RiverWalk Center

Thanks to a grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program, Teatown constructed an Augmented Reality Sandbox to use when teaching about river ecology. The ARS uses a computer and digital simulation to project topographic details and water flow onto real sand which can be shaped to create watershed models.



Top and bottom left: Students searching for critters in Teatown Lake



Bottom right: Teatown's mini-camp



# Volunteers



The Trail Tramps regularly assist our stewardship team with trail work.

So much of Teatown's work would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers.

8371

Total volunteer hours donated to Teatown

587

Individuals and individual groups participated in volunteer efforts

1895

Number of volunteer hours at special events such as EagleFest, Pancake Brunch, and PlantFest

03

EagleScout projects completed at Teatown

## Corporate volunteers

New York Life, Con Edison, Mastercard, Volunteer NY and CBRE.

## Other volunteer groups

YAI, Community Based Services and ARC of Westchester.

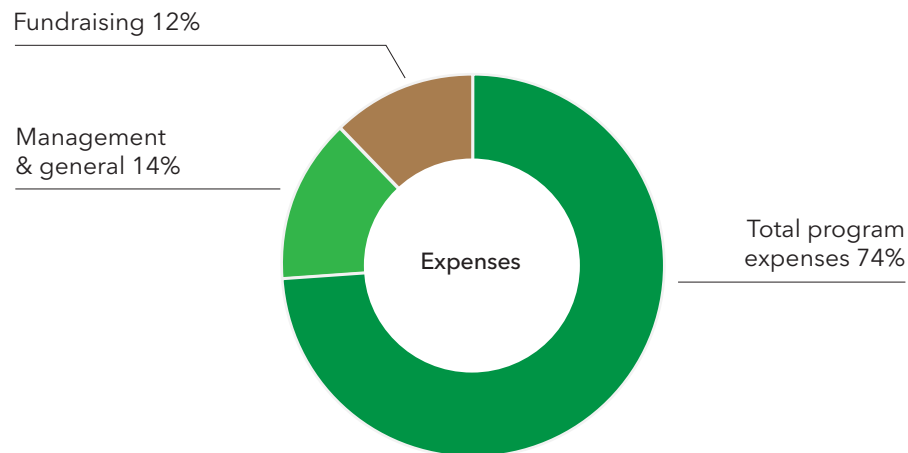
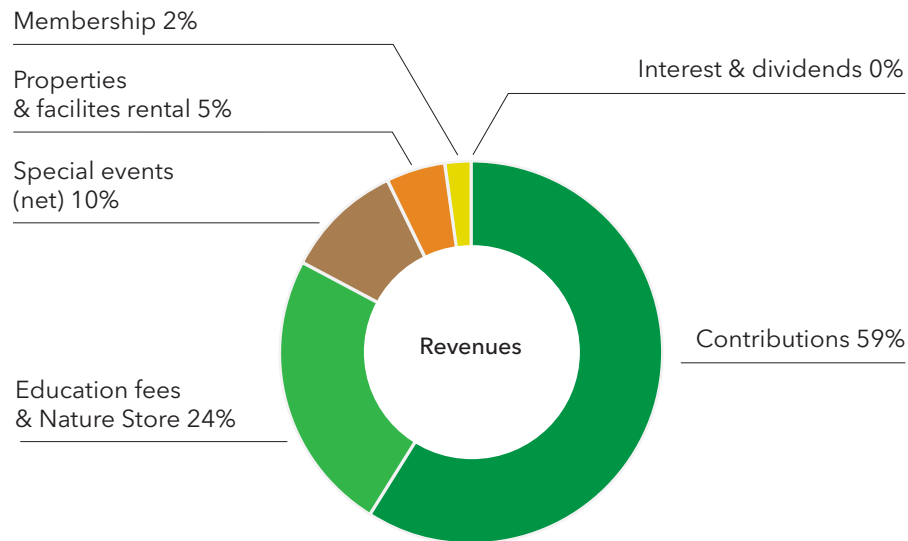
## School volunteer groups

Pace University, Keio Academy of New York, Clearview School, Ossining High School and Binghamton Alumni.

## Interns

We were proud to host high school interns from Lakeland, Yorktown, Scarsdale, Chappaqua, Mt. Kisco, Dobbs Ferry, Hackley and Westlake.

For the year ending June 30, 2017



## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	2017*	2016*
Education fees & Nature Store	\$646,447	\$744,177
Contributions	\$1,583,937	\$1,404,381
Special events (net)	\$273,995	\$278,012
Properties & facilities rental	\$146,220	\$151,751
Membership	\$51,260	\$55,023
Interest & dividends	\$(8,466)	\$1,113
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$2,693,393</b>	<b>\$2,634,457</b>

## EXPENSES: PROGRAMS

Environmental education at Teatown	\$1,191,089	\$1,145,173
Stewardship at Teatown	\$477,601	\$354,240
Regional conservation	\$126,998	\$174,977
<b>Programs subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,795,688</b>	<b>\$1,674,390</b>

## EXPENSES: SUPPORT

Management & general	\$345,850	\$366,682
Fundraising	\$276,963	\$223,002
<b>Support subtotal</b>	<b>\$622,813</b>	<b>\$589,684</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$2,418,501</b>	<b>\$2,264,074</b>

## NET GAINS (LOSSES)

	\$445,210	\$(103,387)
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From investments and other assets

## YEAR END NET

	<b>\$720,102</b>	<b>\$266,996</b>
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Endowment value at 6/30/2017	\$3,253,773
Total assets at 6/30/2017	\$13,146,073

**\*Fiscal year for 2016 and 2017 ends on June 30**

For a copy of the independent audit conducted by Condon O'Meara McGinty & Donnelly LLP, contact (914) 762-2912 x118.





# Our Supporters

## Non-profit status

Teatown is recognized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization under Federal Internal Revenue code. Donations and contributions are tax deductible according to IRS tax law.

## RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP RELIES ON FRIENDS LIKE YOU. THANK YOU.

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