



WINTERGREEN STUDIOS

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When news of the global pandemic was released in March of 2020, Wintergreen moved quickly to postpone in-person events and to create virtual offerings in their place. The most extensive program we developed was the Virtual Land Art BioBlitz (VLABB) held in early June which you can read more about in the pages to come. While there was no question that holding the event virtually didn't match the intensity and joy of being on the land, it was clear that this was a deeply meaningful event for many of the participants. When we are able to return to in-person programming, some elements of the VLABB will remain. COVID has been our greatest challenge, but all of Wintergreen's staff and volunteers have remained healthy and optimistic as we continue to learn and to evolve as an organization.

Our second initiative since COVID has been to create a series of videos on Wild Edibles. Featuring two edibles a month, we are amassing a collection of recipes that feature this free found food—often packed with extraordinary nutrients. Food security is a growing issue, and one way of combating its effects is to focus on the plants (often considered weeds) that grow freely in our backyards.

In addition to creating the videos, Wintergreen has re-issued its cookbook, featuring a number of wild edible recipes.

While these two program foci have helped us provide meaningful virtual programming—and programming that will enrich Wintergreen's offerings once restrictions are lifted—they have been achieved through small local grants and through the unflagging support of our volunteers. Wintergreen has availed itself of government assistance to support staff salaries, but with no revenue coming in from events for the past half-year, we are actively seeking new ways to continue our work. We are convinced that our work is even more important now that people are finally realizing the devastating effects of the climate crisis: COVID and the climate are intimately linked. Furthermore, we are proud to offer the land as a sanctuary at a time when the natural world is a great healer. We hope to see you at Wintergreen in the coming months and years.

RENA UPITIS

President, Wintergreen Studios

WHAT IS WINTERGREEN STUDIOS?

Wintergreen Studios embodies joyful ways of living in balance with the natural world. Our programs and facilities inspire people to live harmoniously, to become more resilient, and to return to their homes, workplaces, and communities nurtured and rejuvenated—ready to make a difference.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Virtual Land Art BioBlitz

1,686

species observations
catalogued via
iNaturalist

30

digital resources
created

300

live stream
attendees



Wild Edibles Series

100%

increase in website
cookbook sales
since 2019

8

videos created
in 2020

78

YouTube views

ACTIVITY REPORT

57%

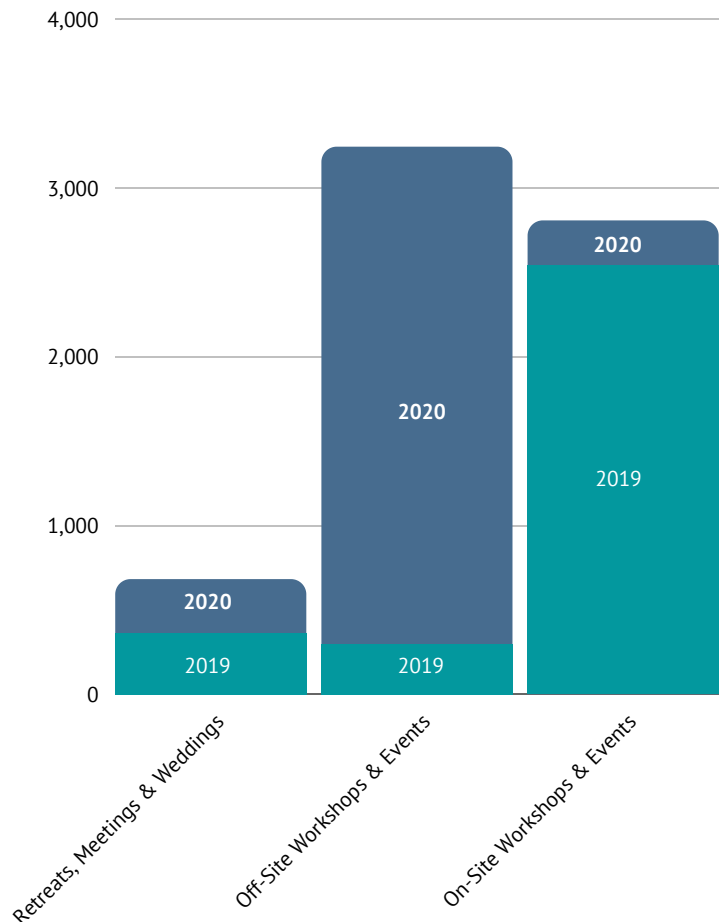
TOTAL INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE

For retreats, meetings and weddings
held at Wintergreen Studios

755%

TOTAL INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE

For off-site workshops and events



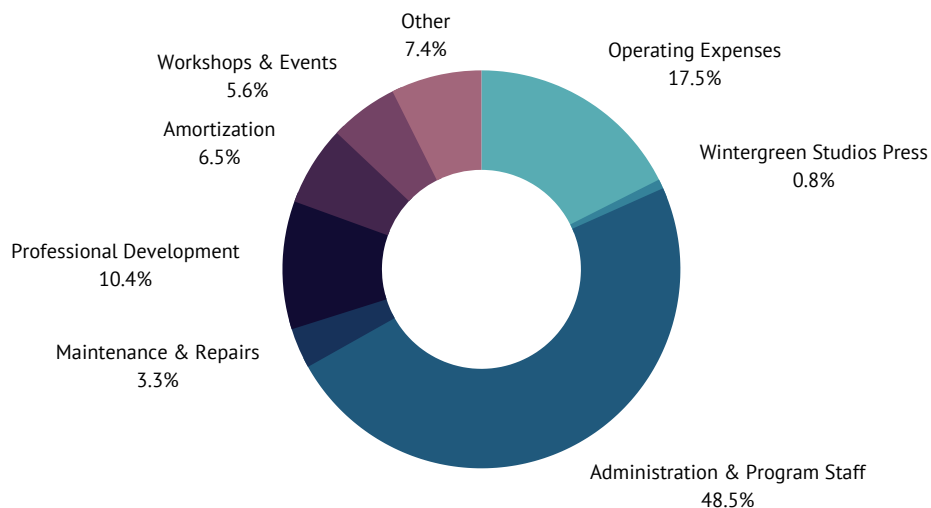
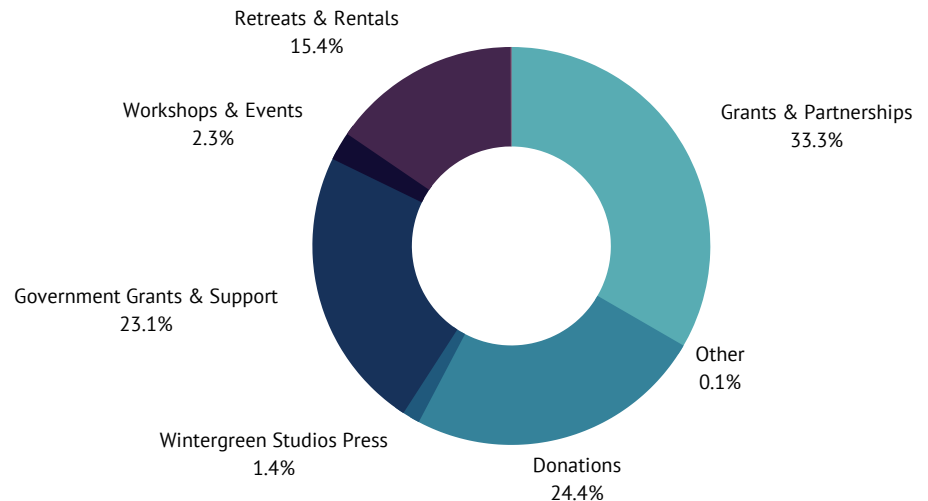
In this stressful time, when COVID-19 is keeping us physically and mentally, this weekend at the Hobbit House has been a special treat. For a weekend, life was normal, the weather was perfect, the hiking beautiful, and when I went for a paddle, the only wind was at my back! Thank you Wintergreen!

- D. Gray



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE
\$183,218



EXPENDITURES
\$175,207



We NEEDED your Virtual BioBlitz. We spend a lot of time together – but this was an event that really got us focusing on the natural world around us. I cannot believe how many wonderful living things there are in our backyard, down the trail and at close provincial parks. You helped us all open our eyes, ears, and heart to the beauty we live in.

- The Schachow Family

VOLUNTEERS

Ryan Benvenuti
Shelly Candel
Sharon Carr
Peter Coffman
Justin Connidis
Louise Cooper
Lorna Crozier
Gerald Dimnik

Ashley Gervais-Leclair
Jared Hines
Kristina Inrig
Sam King
Diane Laundry
Stana Luxford Oddie
Sue Lyon

Julia McArthur
Kelly McGann
Holly Ogden
James Pagé
Alexandra Pedersen
Lorrie Potvin
Meg Quinn

Gary Rasberry
Hayden Rasberry
Michael Rusu
Jessica Sauve
Lawrence Scanlan
Bryan Scholes
Alyssa Scott

Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim
Aileen Stewart
Helen Turnbull
Rena Upitis
Zinta Upitis
Alfred von Mirbach

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Jane Lapointe
Scott Lee

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Susan Pelow

Lynn Rainboth
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Maureen Scott Harris
Walt Sepic
Patty Smith
Katharine Smithrim
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