



# ANNUAL REPORT



678

People learned why we should do everything we can to support native insects with Doug Tallamy of Homegrown National Park.



1

Fox and numerous turkeys trotted through our Meadow StoryWalk.



22

Mt. Ararat High School Honors Biology students participated in research studies on the Preserve.



45

Events offered to our community.

9450

Camper-hours exploring the wonders of nature.



21

Frogs caught in 30 minutes by a team of 6 year old campers.

5

Headstart teachers trained in outdoor learning.

104

Ecology Center Open House hours.



Students engaged in nature-based learning.

560

65

MSAD75 teachers trained in new hands-on science units.



1359

People learned from CREA speakers online.

30

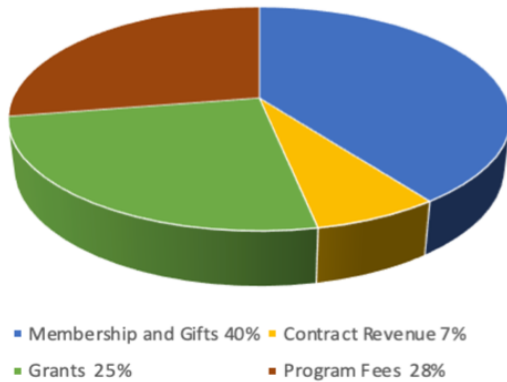
Minutes for CREA Camp to fill all 244 camper spots.

# OUR MISSION

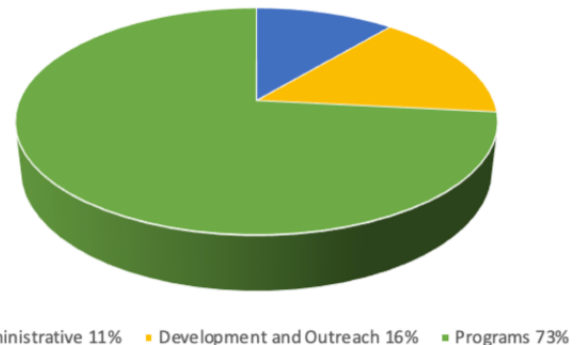
To deepen ecological awareness through nature-based learning among students, educators, and the public; to promote environmental stewardship; and to foster wise use of the Cathance River Nature Preserve.

## FINANCE

2022 Revenue



2022 Expenses



## 2022 - A Year To Remember

“Thank you for what this place does for our children.” These lovely words, written by a parent after visiting the Preserve and Ecology Center with their toddler, aptly express the specialness of our little corner of the universe and its value to youth and the community.

2022 was a special year for us too. It was a year of diving back into what we do best—helping people learn about the natural world by using their senses and powers of observation, while continuing to use now-familiar engagement tools—such as Zoom—to reach a wider audience.

We hosted some truly inspiring speakers. Doug Tallamy’s presentation on why we should care about the health of insect populations attracted 147 attendees and has since been watched online 531 times. Our mini passion project—the six-part climate series created jointly with BTLT—offered over 600 people many different ways to take action to address climate change.

Our educators collaborated with SAD 75 elementary teachers to create 200 engaging science lessons for grades K-5, using teaching concepts designed to get students ‘thinking like a scientist.’ These lessons are getting more science and nature into local schools. CREA educators also led workshops on outdoor learning for local Headstart classroom teachers and Region 10 future daycare providers, showing them how to use the natural world to engage and captivate preschoolers.

CREA camp filled almost instantaneously upon opening registration, setting up 224 campers for glorious sun-baked days of exploring the Preserve, catching frogs and bugs, playing Poison Dart Frog, cooling their heels in the river, making mud tattoos on themselves, and much more. The work we do happens one student, one camper, one person at a time. We touched a lot of lives this year, but there’s much more to do.

2022 was also special because it was the year CREA and BTLT Boards voted unanimously to approve moving forward with our ‘organizational’ passion project of merging. This is an important inflection point in our development. Through this merger, we are strengthening our foundation—ensuring the continuation of our work to engage people with the natural world with the goal of inspiring them to be good caretakers. We are beyond grateful to our donors who make this work possible.



# THANK YOU

CREA is profoundly grateful to the foundations, businesses, and community members that supported our work during 2022. We look forward to continued partnership as our union with Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust creates new opportunities!



“

I think I'm really gonna come here again, because this is really the jackpot!! You guys have everything here! I love it even more than last time." ENTHUSIASTIC 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP STUDENT

“

That was a great/inspiring (virtual) talk. I'm impressed with what CREA offers - even to someone like me who grew up in New England but has lived in Colorado for the last 40 plus years. You personally take it to the next level with your ability to summarize and provide additional resources.

DOUG SWARTZ



“

Thank you so much for having our class last Thursday! All of the students had an incredible time and haven't stopped talking about the trip. It was amazing to watch them make connections between what we have been learning in class and the natural environment around them! This trip opened doors for so many of my students. Many told me that it was their first time hiking. Again, thank you so much for having us and thank you for welcoming Brunswick 4th graders year after year!

4TH GRADE  
TEACHER

“

With genuine enthusiasm and a calm demeanor, two CREA educators recently had an audience of students with varied cognitive challenges and developmental disabilities mimicking the dance of the Bittern, looking for ducks and dragonflies, and touching a young box turtle beside the pond at the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center as part of our first event in our Mascoma Bank Nature Series.

Accessibility is paramount for Adaptive Outdoor Education Center programs. Physical accessibility of course, but also emotional and financial accessibility offered via a welcoming and affordable experience for our diverse participants. Cathance River Education Alliance is able to provide for both those needs.

ZACH STEGEMAN, AOEC Community Outreach Director