When The Wild Center opened in 2006, one of our key goals was not just to become a destination, but a catalyst in a regional revitalization effort. Communities that are good places to visit are good places to live, after all – and we really wanted to be an anchor in the Adirondacks’ cultural mix. The signs of that revitalization are pretty easy to see, we think. But don’t take our word for it. The numbers agree.

In January, we worked with The Development Corp., a nonprofit agency in Plattsburgh, to determine just how much of an impact we’ve had on the North Country’s economy. The answer: $27 million. That’s how much revenue The Wild Center generated last year, either through spending by visitors to the region or via our operations.

Our economic impact is nearly twice as large as it was the last time we checked, in 2011. The reason, of course, is you: Last year, more than 140,000 people visited The Wild Center and Wild Walk, which was in its second season. In 2011, we welcomed 60,000 guests.

“The evolving experience here isn’t the only thing that keeps people coming back,” says Stephanie Ratcliffe, The Wild Center’s executive director, in explaining The Wild Center’s growing appeal. “The Adirondacks have always been a beautiful place to visit. But every year, the cultural attractions here become more of a draw. This area isn’t just for people who love outdoor recreation, and we’re excited to be part of that mix.”
The 2016 estimated overall economic impacts of The Wild Center, according to this updated information, have nearly doubled in the past five years to nearly $27 million in economic impact annually. The associated positive employment impacts of nearly 400 jobs translates to more than 8 jobs created or maintained in the region for every FTE position at The Wild Center.

– 2016 Update on Economic Impact
When Kevin Stack, a builder from Syracuse, talks about incorporating natural cycles into green construction, he knows better than most: He’s a trained biologist who later pursued a building career.

He’s not just looking to build structures that produce as much energy as they consume, a concept known as net zero. Rather, Stack wants to build structures that are symbiotic with nature. He’ll analyze the trees on a site to see how much water they can absorb, and orient his structures after determining how much solar energy will be reflected as heat.

“This isn’t net zero,” he told an audience of contractors, energy-efficiency experts and others at The Wild Center’s fourth Build a Greener Adirondacks conference, held in March. “This is completely different. This isn’t zero energy, this is life, and this is where all life survives, and this is where our buildings should be going to.”

The conference, typically held every other year, gives builders a chance to get live demonstrations of new technology and learn new energy-efficiency techniques from industry experts and vendors.

“Our experience as a vendor has been great at the BAGA event,” said Chris Winkler of Aztech Geothermal, which designs and installs heating and cooling systems. “All the attendees are truly interested in the type of work we do and everyone stops by before the end of the day. At a bigger expo most people are just rushing by or grabbing candy.”

Brian Crowl, a builder from Keene, N.Y., says that while some clients are still skeptical of green-building methods, more and more are arriving at his doorstep specifically because they’re looking for innovative methods.

That’s what keeps him coming back to BAGA. “It’s a good way to network,” Crowl said. “Nine times out of 10, you’re going to see at least one thing you’ve never seen before.”

Miss the conference? Watch highlights at wildcenter.org/belong/build-a-greener-adirondacks
Every year, The Wild Center brings on more than a dozen interns to help during the busy summer season. And every year, those college-aged interns – who come from across the region, and the country – need someplace to live.

That’s why we’re launching a campaign to raise $125,000 to buy and renovate a home for our interns to live in. And we’d love your help.

“The Wild Center’s intern program is much more than a typical internship,” said Hillarie Logan-Dechene, the Center’s director of philanthropy. “Our interns do everything: They run programs, develop their interpretive skills, help plan events and work in all aspects of customer service. More than anything, though, they develop as leaders.”

While we’ve rented space for interns in the past, we have the opportunity to purchase the home of Muriel Ginsberg, a founding member and advisory board member. With your help, we’ll renovate the property, which is within walking distance of both the museum and downtown Tupper Lake, and make room for eight interns to live there.

“This house gives us a chance to link one of our earliest supporters with the generation that will carry us into the future,” Logan-Dechene says. “I think Muriel would have loved it.”

To learn how to contribute to our interns’ new nest, or get more details on naming opportunities, please contact Hillarie Logan-Dechene at hlogan-dechene@wildcenter.org or 518-359-7800 ext. 1-103.

Contact Emma Congalton, volunteer coordinator, at econgalton@wildcenter.org or 518-359-7800 ext. 1-114 for more info.
Nine years after The Wild Center held its first Youth Climate Summit, Jen Kretser has seen the concept take root around the world. The sessions are meant to get beyond the “what can we possibly do?” stage of learning about climate change, and give high school and college students the tools to return to their home communities and make a difference.

But for all the summits Kretser has helped get off the ground – ones as close as the Catskills and as far away as Seattle and Finland – she’s never been to one where the work wasn’t just a means of healing the climate, but a country itself.

Until she went to the first Youth Climate Summit in Sri Lanka this January.

Kretser traveled to Sri Lanka with Katie Morgan, coordinator of The Wild Center’s Youth Climate Program, and two summit veterans, college students Jack Gallagher and Amanda Bruha. They found a country still raw in places after a 26-year civil war that ended in 2009. That brutal clash claimed as many as 100,000 lives, and pitted members from one minority ethnic group, the Tamils, against the majority Sinhalese.

“Students found common ground by working on climate-change solutions,” Kretser said. “They never expected to find that. They never expected to have friends that were Tamil, or friends that were Sinhala, but climate change brought them together.”
In all, 100 students from about a dozen different Sri Lankan universities attended the three-day summit, which was backed by a $25,000 grant from the U.S. Embassy that will also support several other mini-summits across the nation. The U.S. Department of State and the Sri Lankan Ministry of the Environment also supported the effort.

Climate change is a pressing issue for Sri Lanka, an island of 20 million people off the southeast coast of India. Rising sea levels and changing weather patterns don’t just threaten property there, but the nation’s food supply. As a result, civil unrest is still a distinct threat, and climate justice was featured prominently at the summit.

The challenge has received high-level attention from the Sri Lankan government: The summit was born when the country’s disaster preparedness agency, part of its Ministry of Health, contacted The Wild Center for help putting on the event. Despite the pressing need for Sri Lanka to develop solutions to the problem of climate change, college students in the country have few opportunities to examine it.

The summit gave Bruha and Gallagher an opportunity to examine familiar issues through a new lens. Bruha noticed that the young Sri Lankan women at the conference were hesitant to speak up or state their own opinions. Her presence there as a young woman in a leadership position, she said, was noted by the students in attendance.

“I think our participation showed that anyone can be a part of finding the solution to climate change,” Bruha reflected afterward. “They were clearly inspired, and it felt so good to have so many girls come up to me afterwards to tell me so.”

Gallagher, a Wilmington, N.Y., native attending his ninth summit, told an interviewer in Sri Lanka that climate change is a surmountable challenge. “I know it seems like a big issue that is going to take a lot of people to solve. But everyone needs to do just a little part,” he said. “I’m just one person from a very small town and I’ve been able to be a big voice.”
Views

THE W!LD CENTER

1,000,000!

THAT’S A PRETTY LOFTY NUMBER – ONE WE’RE REALLY PROUD TO REACH SO QUICKLY.
58,000 Students

Since opening 11 years ago, more than 58,000 students have visited us in Tupper Lake, including 6,691 in 2016, our busiest year ever. Groups from more than 220 different schools visited us last year, including the crew from Indian Lake shown here who visited us in March. If your school is interested in joining us, check out wildcenter.org/visit/plan-a-visit/school-visits/

A million of anything is hard to imagine. Take a million people. How many is that?

More than live in San Francisco. More than ride the El in Chicago every day. And nearly as many as have walked through our doors since we opened in 2006.

Sometime in July, we expect our millionth visitor. The group that includes that person will receive an especially warm welcome to The Wild Center. “One of the best parts about this milestone is knowing we reached it so much more quickly because of our members, who come back again and again,” says Tim Holmes, The Wild Center’s membership and appeals officer. “Part of the reason people return is because we’re constantly renewing the experience – but another part is because what we offer is so consistently rewarding.”
Views

Oxbow on Raquette River, Mitch Harriman
For photographers, the Adirondacks have always been a target-rich environment, and *Adirondack Life* magazine has long featured some of the best work created here. This summer, The Wild Center and the magazine are teaming up to share some of those amazing images on the Flammer Theater’s big screen. The show includes work commissioned from some of the most talented photographers working in the region as well as winning entries from the magazine’s annual photo contest, such as this photo by Cassandra Blair of a boy jumping into Chateaugay Lake.
TOP: Pete M. Wyer, composer of The Wild Center’s new iForest exhibit. BOTTOM: Members of The Crossing, a critically hailed professional chamber choir from Philadelphia, are seen here recording a piece for the iForest installation.
British composer Pete M. Wyer got his first taste of the Adirondacks in September 2013, when he participated in a month-long residency at Blue Mountain Center on Eagle Lake. It was enough to make him fall in love: Though his friends in New York City cautioned him to expect raw, wet weather, he was treated to glorious fall days and wound up spending as much time kayaking, hiking and teaching tai chi as working on the opera he was ostensibly there to finish.

Soon after leaving for home, Wyer wrote an orchestral piece called “Utowana,” after the lake. He had an idea to turn it into an immersive installation, filling a forest with sound and giving each listener a one-of-a-kind experience that changed depending on their location. But he didn’t know who would have the space, and the willingness to push the envelope, to make it happen.

Ben Strader, Blue Mountain’s co-director, knew. And in 2015, he put Wyer in touch with The Wild Center.

A year and a half later, Wyer’s creation, iForest, is in place. As listeners walk a circular path in the forest near the Center, they hear a 72-voice choral piece, “I Walk Towards Myself,” on one of 24 speakers installed across the site, which is 400 feet across. Each spot on the path delivers a different aural experience: In one spot, a listener might hear a single sustained note; in another, individually recorded voices spreading out across the land.

“I’ve written works for the London Symphony Orchestra and Juilliard, composed seven operas, and scored films and TV series, but this is one of the hardest things I’ve ever done because wherever you stand, the experience is different and unique.”

A recurring theme in Wyer’s work is humanity’s place in nature, and he was especially drawn to incorporating the language of Native Americans, the people who were on this land first. One story that resonated particularly strongly, he said, was the Ohen:ton Karihwehkwenn, the Mohawk thanksgiving address. It makes a clear connection between people and nature; Wyer worked with a translator, Amalli Nalli, to craft a response to that, which is incorporated throughout the piece.

In all the ways Native Americans are grounded by their animist beliefs, Wyer, who lives in London (albeit in a “leafy part,” as he says), is often dismayed by the ways modern life detaches us from our surroundings. “The Mohawks have lent me their language to express a sentiment I strongly share with them,” Wyer said. “I very much believe we are part of nature, but we often lose track of that. Modern life detaches us from our surroundings and we miss out on so much that’s rich and available to us in nature.”

Wyer hopes iForest is an antidote to that. “In a perfect world, visitors would get a deeper sense of their connection to nature and to each other through the piece,” he said. “But if they simply walk through and find it enjoyable or peaceful, that’s fine by me.”

Special thanks to Amalli Nalli, Kamala Cesar and Tom Porter.
Dan King, an artist-blacksmith in Tupper Lake, has a thick binder of photographs showing off previous projects, such as ornate entry gates for ritzy manors and rustic iron railings meant to look like gnarled wood. And while the sculptures he recently completed for The Wild Center depicting the life cycle of the mayfly aren’t his most elaborate works, they’re pretty special to him, regardless.

“They’ll be, technically, my first museum pieces,” said King, standing alongside a workbench inside his timeworn Main Street studio. “That seems to be a milestone in an artist’s career.”

King’s work is part of a permanent exhibit The Wild Center is installing at Tupper Lake’s Waterfront Municipal Park. The display explores Tupper Lake’s town history, from the time the first railroads opened the wilderness to timber harvesting to its more recent incarnation as a destination for summer and winter recreation.

Dams built in Tupper Lake during the logging era created muddy flats that result in ideal conditions to hatch mayflies – hence King’s sculpture.

“I really like to make organic forms,” King says. “I like to bring life out of the inert metal. I’m very much into the flowers and the trees and the animals.”

Funding for this project was provided to the Village of Tupper Lake by the NYS Department of State’s Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

King moved to the Adirondacks from Tampa, Fla., a decade ago. Business can be a little harder to come by in a rural area, he says, but he’s been bolstered by the deep bench of artisans that surround him in the region.

The Wild Center has long championed the region’s creative community. This summer alone, we’ve re-envisioned our Forest and the Trees exhibit with the help of Cory Card, curator and director of visual arts programming at the View in Old Forge; we’ll welcome theater and musical performances by the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts and Lake Placid Sinfonietta; and give you a chance to tap your own talents with photo workshops and art lessons.
What if we told you that one-third of our food, and $20 billion of agricultural products in the U.S. every year, was facing an existential threat?

And what if we told you one of the best ways to help is to start gardening?

Pollinators – 200,000 species of insects, including bees, beetles, ants and butterflies, as well as an additional 1,000 species of vertebrates such as bats, birds and small mammals – are a critical link in our food chain, helping fertilize three-quarters of flowering plant species.

But climate change, pesticide use and loss of habitat put many of those pollinators in jeopardy. The rusty patched bumblebee, once common in most of the country, is on the endangered species list. And a U.N.-backed report shows up to 40 percent of invertebrate pollinators are facing extinction.

It’s not too late to do something. That’s why The Wild Center, along with AdkAction.org, the Lake Placid Land Conservancy, and Common Ground Garden in Saranac Lake, are partners on the Adirondack Pollinator Project. We’re leading this parkwide effort to teach people about the problem, and give them the tools to act.

“In the Adirondacks, climate change means flowers aren’t blooming on time – sometimes they’re early, and sometimes they’re late,” says Jen Kretser, The Wild Center’s director of programs. “But in a lot of cases, pollinator life cycles and migration patterns are so closely tied to their host flowers that any change can be really disruptive.”
BEE HERE

You can watch films, attend lectures and learn how to make a difference all summer long at The Wild Center.

BACKYARD BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP, Saturday, June 24, 1-4 p.m. Ever think of keeping honeybees? Get an introduction to this popular hobby. $15/person. Space is limited.

HANDS-ON PLANTING WITH POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY FLOWERS, Thursday, July 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Join the Adirondack Garden Club to learn how to turn your garden into a habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Free for members or with admission.

MORE THAN HONEY, Thursday, July 13, 1-3:30 p.m. Watch our only screening of this documentary that tackles why bees worldwide are facing extinction.

THE GLOBAL POLLINATOR CRISIS, Wednesday, July 19, 7-8 p.m. Dr. Christine Grozinger, director of the Center for Pollinator Research at Penn State University, discusses the threats pollinators face. Co-sponsored by AdkAction.org, the Lake Placid Land Conservancy and Common Ground Gardens. Free.

SPACESHIP EARTH: How to Save the Earth and Ourselves, Thursday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m. Award-winning botanist and biologist Dr. Peter Raven will speak about conservation and sustainability. Free.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Pollinators need our help – and there are many easy steps we can take now. Here are a few:

PLANT A POLLINATOR GARDEN. You can start your own garden of native flowers to attract pollinators. The Adirondack Pollinator Project is distributing 30,000 packets of flower seeds in the region this summer – get your free packet at The Wild Center!

PICK WEEDS BY HAND AND SKIP THE POISON. Many pesticides are toxic to pollinators, too.

BUY LOCAL. Big farms often grow just one crop on the same land year after year, a practice known as monocropping that can hurt pollinators. Local farms are typically smaller and grow a variety of crops.

CREATE A NO-MOW ZONE. Convert a third of your lawn to a pollinator garden or no-mow zone. And encourage your workplace to landscape with pollinator-friendly species, too.

For more information, go to AdkAction.org/pollinators.

GET A FULL LIST OF ACTIVITIES AT WILDCENTER.ORG/EVENTS
You keep taking great #WILDCENTER shots – we’ll keep printing them! Here are some of our favorite Instagram pix from the past few months.

1) @kmcgivern67  2) @annehdale  3) @scundered23  4) @megsoul  5) @stevepowersjr

Each of our winners will get a copy of “A Wild Journey,” our photographic history of The Wild Center that was published last year.
Let’s up the ante a little bit this time around: We’ll give the person who shoots our favorite submission four passes, as well as a complementary behind-the-scenes tour.

Rules are the same: Tag your Instagram shots #WILDCENTER, and we’ll keep our eyes peeled!
Here Comes The Sun

On Monday, Aug. 21, a total solar eclipse will be visible in the continental United States for the first time since 1979. In ancient times, solar eclipses were poorly understood and taken as omens – for good and bad. Today, of course, we know when and why they occur. But they’re no less cool! With the help of the Adirondack Public Observatory in Tupper Lake, we’re planning a summer’s worth of events, culminating on the day of the eclipse itself.

WHAT’S A SOLAR ECLIPSE?
A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and sun, casting its shadow on our planet.

CAN I SEE IT ANYWHERE?
The Great Eclipse will be visible anywhere in North America. (If skies are clear, that is.) Some locations, though, will experience a total solar eclipse – the moon will completely cover the sun, the sky will go dark, and only the halo-like corona of the sun will be visible.

WHERE CAN I SEE THAT?
The path of totality will be a roughly 70-mile-wide band stretching from Oregon to South Carolina. It won’t last long: The total eclipse will last less than three minutes. In the North Country, we’ll experience 62 percent totality. That sounds like a lot, but in reality, it will get only a tiny bit darker.

IS THE ECLIPSE SAFE TO LOOK AT?
Looking at the sun, even during a partial eclipse, can cause permanent eye damage. Be sure to use special eclipse glasses — they look like 3-D movie glasses, but with special lenses — or a handheld viewer to look at the eclipse. Glasses must meet the ISO 12312-2 standard. You can get a pair at The Wild Supply Co.

HOW ELSE CAN I SEE THE ECLIPSE?
There are several other low-tech methods of viewing the eclipse, including pinhole cameras and other projectors.

What you need:
• 1 sheet of white posterboard
• Telescope or binoculars

1) Point the telescope or binoculars at the sun. Do not look through the eyepiece at the sun! If you’re using binoculars, put a cap on one of the lenses.
2) Hold the white card about 15 centimeters from the eyepiece. You should see a bright white circle on the card.
3) Focus the lens until the image becomes sharp. That’s the sun! Even if you are wearing proper eyewear, don’t look through unfiltered binoculars, cameras, telescopes or other optical devices.
SunFest in Tupper Lake

Want to watch the eclipse with experts? Make plans to be in Tupper Lake in August! The Wild Center will have plenty of pairs of eclipse glasses on hand to safely view this rare event, with naturalists ready to answer all your astronomical questions.

Also, our friends at the nearby Adirondack Public Observatory (178 Big Wolf Rd.) will be ready with special solar telescopes and eclipse glasses from 12:30-4 p.m. Astronomers will be on hand, scientific materials on display and a slate of kids’ activities, including a sundial-construction project and scavenger hunt, will be offered. For more information: adirondackpublicobservatory.org, 518-359-3538.

Celestial Summer at The Wild Center

Learn more about our universe at the Adirondack Public Observatory Lecture Series

**JUNE 2:** The Great Eclipse of 2017  
**JULY 21:** Juno, Peeking Through Jupiter’s Clouds  
**JULY 7:** Discovering Exoplanets  
**JULY 28:** The Cassini Probe, Journey to Saturn

All lectures from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Flammer Theater.
2017 Summer Events and Programs

Wake Up on the Raquette
Saturdays in June, 8-10 a.m.

Pollinator Week
Monday, June 19 – Sunday, June 25
Bees are an indispensable part of the food chain. Join us as we take a deeper look into the story of these creatures. Events include a beekeeping workshop on Saturday, June 24, and more.

Arts Evening at The Wild Center (members and guests)
Friday, June 30, 6-8 p.m.
View three new exhibits at this after-hours reception: iForest; a re-interpreted Forest & Trees exhibit, featuring works from Lyn DuMoulin, Bob Erickson, Holly Friesen, Ryan Horvath, David Klehm, Maria Rizzo, Richard Skelton & Autumn Richardson; and view Adirondack Life photo contest winners on the big screen, along with a short film on the making of iForest.

Carl Heilman Photo Workshops
Saturday, July 8: Wild Walk Full Moon Photo Tour
Friday, Aug. 11 - Sunday, Aug. 13:
From Dusk to Dawn Photography: Stars, Moonlight and Meteors
Sunday, Oct. 1: Fall Landscapes and Waterfalls Photo Tour
See all the details at wildcenter.org or call 518-359-7800.

Chill Out on Wild Walk (members only)
Tuesday, July 11, 8-10 a.m.
Try yoga, have a quick chair massage and grab a light breakfast while enjoying the views from Wild Walk before it opens to the public. Free for members.

In Praise of Poison Ivy
Saturday, July 15, 1-2 p.m.
Join Anita Sanchez, author of two books about poison ivy, for a book signing and presentation about this reviled, yet ecologically important, plant. Free.

The Global Pollinator Crisis
Wednesday, July 19, 7-8 p.m.; reception, 6 p.m.
A presentation from Dr. Christine Grozinger, director of Penn State’s Center for Pollinator Research and a leading expert on improving the conservation of pollinators and their ecosystem services.
A Walk in the Woods  
**Saturday, July 22, 7-9 p.m.**  
The Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts in Blue Mountain Lake stages a special performance here as part of its 50th anniversary season.

Funky Wild Walk (members only)  
**Thursday, July 27, 6-8 p.m.**  
Head to Wild Walk after hours with craft beers, hot dogs and music. Free.

Capturing the Beauty of Adirondack Birds  
**Saturday, July 29, 3-4 p.m.**  
Wildlife photographer Jeff Nadler presents his breathtaking images of Adirondack birds and shares his techniques. Free with paid admission.

Lake Placid Sinfonietta Concert (and optional dinner)  
**Friday, August 4. Buffet dinner, 5:30-6:45 p.m.; concert, 7-9:30 p.m.**  
Enjoy the Sinfonietta and celebrate its centennial season. Members 15-older, $17; non-members, $20; under 14, free. Buffet extra.

Spaceship Earth: How to Save the Earth and Ourselves  
**Thursday, August 10, 7-8:30 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 p.m.**  
Dr. Peter Raven, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and widely known conservation and biodiversity advocate, discusses threats to endangered plants worldwide.

SunFest  
**Monday, August 21**  
Our naturalists will lead a day of programs and answer your questions about the Great Eclipse. Free with paid admission.

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

Farmers Markets  
**Thursdays, June 8 - September 14**  
Meet local farmers and purchase food grown and raised in the region.

Art in the Park  
**Monday mornings, July and August**  
Explore the natural world through art with experienced Adirondack artists. Members, $25; non-members, $30. Space is limited.

Wednesday Mornings on Wild Walk (members only)  
**Wednesdays in July and August, 8-10 a.m.**  
Take a treeline stroll on Wild Walk before our doors open to the public.

Guided Stand-Up Paddleboarding and Canoeing on the Raquette River  
**Daily in July and August**  
Take out one of our eight boards or five canoes for a paddle with our naturalists. These often sell out – reserve online or by phone.

Behind the Scenes Tours  
**Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, May 30 - September 1, 3-4 p.m.**  
Get a backstage look. Members, free; non-members, $10 (adults), $7 (youth).

Find updates and additional event info at wildcenter.org/events
The Wild Center
45 Museum Drive
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED