



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

2017-2018
Year-end Report



A Message From Our President

2017-18 has been a tremendous year for Audubon Community Nature Center. We have undergone a transition of leadership which has led to new ideas, and new conversations as to what Audubon Community Nature Center is, and what it hopes to be in the future. I am incredibly grateful for the warm welcome that I have received from the staff, volunteers, and the greater Jamestown and Warren Communities as I continue to discover the wonders of this area and our organization.

We are so very fortunate to have such a wealth of community support and involvement which makes Audubon Community Nature Center the unique place that it is.

Leigh Rovegno
President



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Mission

Audubon Community Nature Center builds and nurtures connections between people and nature by providing positive outdoor experiences, opportunities to learn about and understand the natural world, and knowledge to act in environmentally responsible ways.

Statement of Beliefs

- We believe that a positive relationship with nature strengthens and enriches us physically, mentally, and spiritually.
- We believe that all forms of life are interdependent and the diversity of nature is essential to our wellbeing.
- We believe that learning is a lifelong endeavor and we dedicate ourselves to opening the eyes of all people to the wonder, beauty, and variety of the natural world.
- We believe in sharing our passion with others so that they may be inspired to become stewards of the natural world.

October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018

Overview

Facilities

Audubon Community Nature Center is located in Chautauqua County, New York near the Pennsylvania state border. While it primarily serves the people of Chautauqua and Warren Counties, it is recognized as one of the premier nature centers in the country, drawing people from all 50 states, as well as international visitors.

Five and a half miles of trails provide visitors with access to forests, fields, and ponds along with many opportunities to encounter wildlife such as birds, frogs, turtles, squirrels, rabbits, and deer. The Nature Center houses exhibits, meeting space, and the Blue Heron Gift Shop.



History

Jamestown Audubon Society was founded as a chapter of National Audubon in 1957. After incorporation in 1960, the Bentley Sanctuary was donated. In 1963 the Society bought the 189-acre Riverside Swamp, the current location of the Nature Center and grounds. The original Nature Center building was dedicated in 1976 and the addition was dedicated in 1992. Plots of adjacent land were acquired through the years, bringing the current acreage to about 600. The Bentley property was deeded over to the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy during the 2016-2017 year. In 2017, Jamestown Audubon Society successfully rebranded itself as Audubon Community Nature Center.

Staff

- Ruth Lundin, *President* (retired in July)
- Leigh Rovegno, *President*
- Jennifer Schlick, *Program Director*
- Jeff Tome, *Senior Naturalist*
- Sarah Hatfield, *Senior Naturalist*
- Katie Finch, *Naturalist*
- Margaret Foley, *Naturalist*
- Pat Spicer, *Store Manager and Receptionist*
- Kim Turner, *Administrative Assistant*

- Terry LeBaron, *Buildings and Grounds*
- Ruby Miller, Danielle Myers, Joanne Miller, *Receptionists*
- Tiffany Donaldson, *Invasive Species Management Coordinator*
- Ray Carlson and Hailey Gould, *Invasive Species Management Assistants*
- Clare Foley, David Lobb, Shane Murphy, Phoebe Nelson, and Zarah Pratz, *Education Interns*

Education Goals

Learning and growing happen throughout a person's lifetime. It is equally true that everyone is capable of learning and that people learn differently. Audubon Community Nature Center strives to provide opportunities for people to relate to nature in many ways — experientially, emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually.

Experience: Research confirms what people have long known — spending time outside benefits human health and development. Observing and interacting with wildlife in its natural habitat promotes a sense of empathy for the other creatures with whom people share this planet. People who have positive experiences outside are more likely to form a relationship with the natural world that leads to responsible action. Conversely, fear and distress interfere with the ability to form a positive relationship with the natural world. Audubon Community Nature Center strives to provide positive experiences.

Understand: Some people connect to nature intellectually. For them, understanding natural systems and how people fit into them is a necessary step before they are comfortable translating what they think to action. The Nature Center provides programming to advance this understanding.

Act: Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. Sometimes, the act of doing is a person's entry into feeling comfortable outside and creating a positive relationship with the environment. Audubon provides those opportunities.

In the confusing times of the present world, it can be overwhelming to decide what actions will have the greatest positive impact. However, when provided with options and information, people can feel more comfortable making decisions. Audubon Community Nature Center provides skill-building opportunities and shows how each person's actions makes a difference.

Engaging the Community



Audubon Community Nature Center offers a wide variety of programs to the public ranging from small, hands-on workshops to large festivals and events. Many people are surprised to learn that public programs make up less than one tenth of the total programming. Two thirds of programs are actually offered to private groups both at the Nature Center and elsewhere.

Requested programs include classroom lessons, Discovery Walks, Scout badge activities and overnights, birthday parties, presentations for adult groups, and rentals for private gatherings such as weddings or business retreats.



Programs Offered in 2017-2018

Requested Programs and Rentals

Programs	Type / Audience	Attendance
1208	Schools	19483
41	Scouts and Other Youth	701
15	Adults	350
26	Outreach	5707
85	Rentals	1833

Public Programs and Events

Programs	Type / Audience	Attendance
36	Youth	410
68	Adults	1356
8	Intergenerational	2001
30	Volunteer	527

Highlights of 2017 – 2018



New and Different Projects Accomplished During 2017-2018 *(listed in no particular order):*

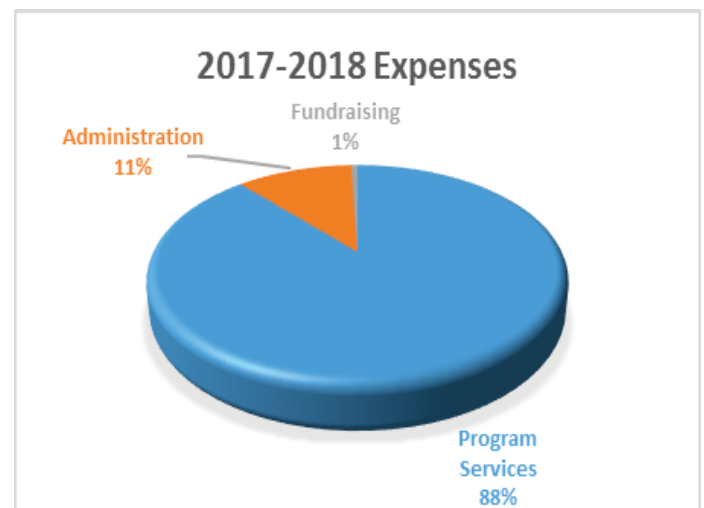
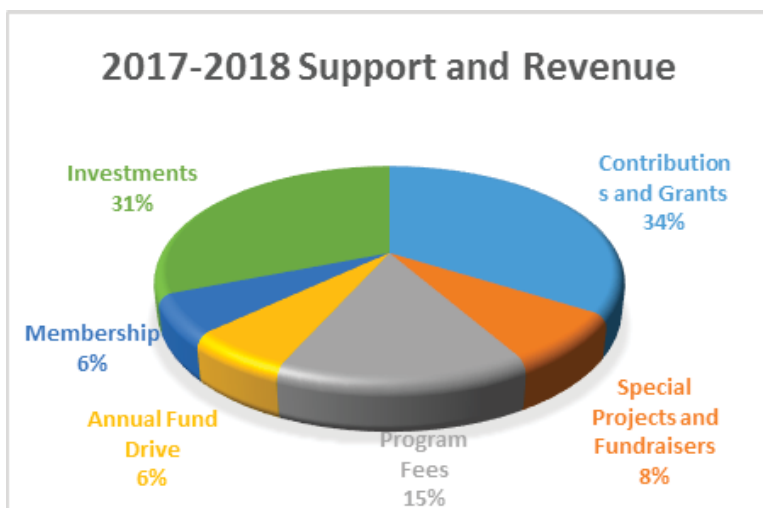
- The legal name change to Audubon Community Nature Center, Inc. became official in December 2017.
- Audubon's education staff began working with Jamestown Public Schools to develop new curricula that aligns with the New York State Science Learning Standards
- The first full year of using Doubleknot as ACNC's online data partner, streamlining membership and program registration.
- Completed the replacement of all 1990's era heating and air conditioning units.
- Celebrated Ruth Lundin's retirement and welcomed Leigh Rovegno as our new president.
- Started new high impact programming with the Randolph School 3rd grade.
- Hired a fourth full-time naturalist.
- An Eagle Scout and volunteers installed a new outdoor turtle enclosure and a turtle enrichment area.
- Installed two new deer exclosures.
- The invasive species management crew eradicated water chestnut without the use of herbicides.
- Volunteers erected a new purple martin house in the backyard.
- CRCF Big Give Campaign helped Audubon get matching funds to replace tables that were falling apart.
- The maintenance crew raised and repaired one of the trail bridges that had sunk two feet into the mud after many years of use.
- The maintenance crew created a new one mile loop trail through parts of the forest that were not previously accessible.
- Two new maps were installed on the trails to help visitors find their way, and arches were built to help locate major attractions at Audubon.
- Volunteer Larry Brown was recognized for completing his ten thousandth hour of volunteer time.
- A new sound system was donated to make it easier to hear programs in the multipurpose room.

Sources of Income

Grants Received 2017 – 2018

- Buffalo Ornithological Society
— support of nest box bird banding
- Carnahan Jackson Foundation
— support of education programs
- Chautauqua Region Community Foundation
— support of outdoor programs for Chautauqua County students, lighting upgrade for the lobby, and water fountain/filling station
- Community Foundation of Warren County
— outdoor programs for Warren County students
- Conarro Family Fund
— support of education programs
- Defrees Family Memorial Fund
— branded outreach tent and table cloth
- Holmberg Foundation
— support of education programs
- Hultquist Foundation
— support of education programs
- Lakeshore Savings Bank
— computer for new Naturalist
- Lenna Foundation
— support of education programs
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation — non-native invasive species
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
— care of collections
- Northern Allegheny Conservation Association
— support of bird banding
- Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation Environmental Fund
— year two of a two-year project with Dunkirk schools
- Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation
— search and transition costs for new President
- Ralph C. Wilson Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
— Play Initiative
- United Arts Appeal
— new Enchanted Forest costume

Audit Snapshot 2017-2018



Volunteers

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, 304 volunteers logged 12,163 hours of service. (Those are just the ones who remembered to record their hours.) These volunteers reached milestones and were honored at the Annual Dinner Volunteer Recognition in September:

10,000+

Lawrence Brown*

7,000+

Edward Yager*

5,000+

Todd Anderson

2,000+

Barb Conklin*
Sandy Fletcher*

1,000+

Bonnie Bowen*
Raymond Carlson
Susan Yauchzy

500+

Mel Feather*
John Hyde
Nancy White

250+

Alexis Berry
Susan Lawton
Marlene Mudge
Deborah Pring
Nathan Weyandt
Catherine Willard*

100+

Charles Conaway
Tracy Kirchhoff
Penny Lester
Elizabeth McIntyre
Kelli Merchant
Julie Nelson
Jennifer Pierce*
Austin Swanson
Akayla Weatherby
Robert Williams

Young Volunteer Award

Gwen Swanson+



These volunteers logged 20 hours or more between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

Civil Air Patrol - 78
Sonna Alm - 46
Dennis Anderson - 150
Linda Anderson - 106
Thom Armella - 422
Wendy Bale - 58
John Barone - 121
Kate Barry - 43
Peter Barry - 56
Mary Beckerink - 61
Sally Beckerink - 20
Heidi Bird - 75
Louise Boutwell - 24
Reg Boutwell - 29
Pat Bringer - 309
Brenda Brook - 23
Alan Brown - 46
Jasmine Buffone - 60
Leah Bullock - 26
Pat Carlson - 54
Pierre Chagnon - 44
William Colter - 29
Arlene Connelly - 22
Cindy Conquer - 28
Jane Conroe - 51
Elaine Crossley - 41
Ethan Dennis - 22
Kimberly Dunnigan - 44
Bonnie Engberg - 26
Cummins Engine - 134
Lee Fletcher - 129

Willow Fodor - 44
Janet Forbes - 122
Dean Frentz - 115
Elaine Frentz - 109
Alex Glazier - 41
Terry Hallock - 177
Cali Housler - 30
Karen Inwood - 102
Lisa Johnson - 26
Pamela Johnson - 54
Ronald Johnson - 142
Kelly Joslyn - 98
Robert Klebacha - 40
Soren Kyser - 29
David Lange - 84
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Judith Long - 103
Janel McIntyre - 82
Jay Mengel - 34
Thomas Mooney - 37
Christina Murphy - 22
Sally Patchen - 24
Isabella Pecina - 88
Logan Pecina - 88
Chloe Petry - 36
Jake Prindle-Cassidy - 25
Blanche Robbins - 22
Rick Rupprecht - 139
Carol Samuelson - 219

Rick Sandberg - 22
Don Sharp - 179
Jarod Smith - 84
Lee Spangler - 22
Chip Spiesman - 96
Kay Stahlman - 23
Rose Stark - 65
Scott Stoleson - 22
Gwendolyn Swanson - 57
Jaylene Swanson - 29
Merle Szydlo - 221
Tom Szydlo - 28
Thomas Tempel - 157
Emily Thomas - 46
Anne Watkins - 44
Donald Weber - 256
Joyce Weber - 121
Darcy Welch - 21
Nathan Welker - 23
Mary Jane Whaley - 23
John Willsie - 229
Steve Zanoni - 30

Nature Center Members and Donors

Every contribution is significant and we thank each and every donor, shopper, program participant, and volunteer from the bottom of our hearts. A full report would have included far more names.



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Supporting - \$500-999

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Contributing - \$300-499

Miss Madeline Miles
Becky and Steve Nystrom

Organizational - \$150

BEI
MHA Chautauqua

Sustaining - \$100-299

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