



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

March – April, 2020
Volume 64, Issue 2

The bi-monthly newsletter of ACNC,
featuring upcoming programs and events.



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.



Nature Center Newsletter

The free, bi-monthly publication of Audubon Community Nature Center, Inc.

1600 Riverside Road
Jamestown, NY 14701
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Fx: (716) 569-2765
info@auduboncnc.org
auduboncnc.org

*Hosting a chapter of National Audubon Society
Serving Chautauqua and Warren Counties*

Kim Turner, Newsletter Editor

Cover Photo: *Common Snapping Turtle,*
by Tom Murray

Nature Center Hours

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Saturday
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Sunday

Trails are open from dawn to dusk.

Visit auduboncnc.org
by scanning this code.



Follow Audubon
on these platforms:



Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Members and Friends of the Nature Center,

One of the many ways that you support Audubon Community Nature Center is through your membership. We are very fortunate to have such a strong membership base that is made up of people from all over the country. 100% of your membership dollars go directly to supporting the Nature Center's facility and programs. Thank you!

New this spring at Audubon! ACNC's Membership Program will be updated starting April 1 to include additional benefits at the \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 levels. Additional benefits include: free passes to one of Audubon's signature events, gift memberships to be used for a family member or friend, as well as "Behind the Scenes" live animal experiences with some of Audubon's favorite Animal Ambassadors.

Family Plus Memberships will also be newly made available at the \$100 level, and will include building admission for three generations of family members in addition to event passes, day camp discounts, and more. A modest increase in some membership level prices will also take place starting April 1 to help support ACNC's vision that every child within our community has a real and healthy connection to nature.

Updated membership information can be found online at: auduboncnc.org/memberships

April is National Volunteer Month! Did you know that ACNC had over 300 volunteers who contributed more than 11,000 of service in 2019? ACNC volunteers range from 8 to 80+ years old. Volunteers help with everything from feeding the animals to delivering birdseed, and we are so incredibly grateful for their support.

Please join Audubon in saying 'thank you' to our volunteers at the Volunteer Recognition Event on Saturday, April 4, or join us for the annual Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 25 (more information on both events can be found in this newsletter).

Thank you as always for being a part of the Audubon Community Nature Center family, whether it's through your membership, volunteering, donating, or all of the above!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Nature Center again soon,

Leigh J. Rovegno



ACNC Through the Years

Audubon has changed a lot since it was founded in 1957 around a kitchen table. The following excerpts are from past March – April newsletters.

1960

“Plans are being formulated for the Nature Pilgrimage to Allegany State Park June 17th, 18th and 19th, 1960. An advance registration of those wishing to attend will be appreciated as this program is in cooperation with the Buffalo Audubon Society.”

1970

Roger Peterson, on the death of Gus Bentley: “I was saddened to hear of Gus Bentley’s death. Somehow I had expected he would live into his 90’s. Certainly no man in Jamestown made more of a consistent contribution to the community nor had more integrity as a teacher and a scholar.”

1980

“By now some of you who have bought sunflower seeds through the BSSD program have noticed a smaller, shiny black seed known as the ‘oilseed.’ Our labs started using these seeds... after studying a report issued by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University... There was a clear preference for the oilseeds over the white striped seeds.” (On the introduction of black oil sunflower seeds into birdseed.)

1990

“In its celebration of Earth Day 1990, JAS affirms its commitment to continuing education about and for Earth by developing and implementing quality programs for all ages and by providing a place where the beauty and wonder of nature is preserved for the enjoyment and education of all ages.”

2000

“We are celebrating another wonderfully successful event. Snowflake Festival chairperson Patricia Spicer, once again shepherded an interesting collection of exhibitors... to ensure that over 1,800 people had an enjoyable, educational Sunday.”

2010

“Dr. Scott Stoleson and his merry band of ornithologists are generously donating their time again this spring to bring you... the chance to see some of our most beautiful birds up close...”

Board Officers

<i>Board Chairman</i>	Andrew Harrington
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Tim Smeal
<i>Secretary</i>	Penny Lester
<i>Treasurer</i>	Robert Klebacha

Board of Directors

Louise Boutwell, Dave Burlee, Linnea Carlson, Willow Fodor, Greg Lyle, Timothy Piotrowski, Joe Rollman, Piper Van Ord, Brittany Wilcox

Nature Center Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	Leigh Rovegno
<i>Operations/Volunteers</i>	Jennifer Schlick
<i>Education Coordinator</i>	Sarah Hatfield
<i>Senior Nature Educator, Marketing</i>	Jeff Tome
<i>Senior Nature Educator, Exhibits Manager</i>	Katie Finch
<i>Nature Educator</i>	Chelsea Jandreau
<i>Seasonal Nature Educator</i>	Emily Anderson
	Kayla Anderson
<i>Designer, Education Assistant</i>	Kim Turner
<i>Gift Shop Manager, Receptionist</i>	Patricia Spicer
<i>Receptionist, Resource Person</i>	Joanne Miller
	Kate Bowley
<i>Buildings and Grounds</i>	Terry LeBaron

Volunteer Chairs

<i>Bird Seed Delivery</i>	Sherwood VanDewark
	Bob Schlick
<i>Bird Seed Sales</i>	Mel Feather
<i>Eagle Keeper</i>	Thom Armella
<i>Enchanted Forest</i>	Bob Ungerer
	Amanda Meleen
<i>Garden Chair</i>	Janet Forbes
<i>Mailing</i>	Leah Bullock
	Blanche Robbins
<i>Membership</i>	Linda Anderson
	Sandy Fletcher
<i>Allegany Nature Pilgrimage</i>	Jim Backlas
	Barb Conklin
	Judy Long
	Ro Woodard
<i>Publicity</i>	Pat Bringer
<i>Roadside Cleanup</i>	Denny Anderson
<i>Wild 5K</i>	Jeff Rupp

Audubon Community Nature Center’s Board of Directors, Chairs, and Committee Members are volunteers.

Thank you to those listed above who contribute time, thought, and energy to help ACNC run smoothly and effectively.

Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion Ribbon Cutting

Bob and Kathy Frucella and ACNC are hosting a ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion on Saturday, April 25. Located in ACNC's backyard, this pavilion greatly increases the space available for education programs, lunches for school groups and day campers, events, and even rentals. Its inaugural use was for Snowflake Festival 2020. Learn more about the building, the remarkable woman for whom it is named, and enjoy a dedication ceremony on April 25, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Food to be provided.



Snowflake Festival was the first event to make use of the Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion.

Upcoming Volunteer Needs

ACNC relies on volunteers for many of the programs, events, and opportunities offered. There are a few training opportunities coming up for volunteers interested in a more active role in the organization.

Pop-Up Nature Play Facilitator (Adult volunteers) Training Session

Thursday, March 5, 2020

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Reservations appreciated by March 3, walk-ins welcome.

Audubon is taking nature play on the road and needs your help. Audubon is looking for interested volunteers to go to community events and other local sites to host a pop-up nature play area. This training will walk through the importance of nature play for children, strategies to interact with players and their caregivers, as well as set up of materials. Come join the nature play team!



Trail Guides are a vital asset to ACNC as they offer positive experiences in nature to children.

Outreach Representative (Adult volunteers) Training Session

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

10:00 a.m. – noon

Reservations appreciated by March 13, walk-ins welcome.

Not everybody knows about Audubon, but everybody should!

Audubon is looking for outgoing people to attend community events, fairs, garden markets, and other places to host a booth and get people excited about Audubon. This training will walk through basic Audubon information and provide you with skills to represent Audubon in a professional and appropriate manner.

Follow-up training will be provided for some outreach opportunities.

Discovery Walk Trail Guide (Adult volunteers) Training Sessions TBD

Trail Guide Training is intended for volunteers wishing to lead students on the trails in the spring as part of school field trips. Trail Guides provide Discovery Walks, which are one to one and a half hour long outdoor programs that are discovery based. The multi-day training will happen in April, exact times and dates to be determined.

Please keep up to date with more information by visiting auduboncnc.org, or calling (716) 569-2345 for more details.

Programs and Events

March – April 2020



Meet Your Rehabber (All)

Saturday, April 18, 2020
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

\$8 Adults
\$6 Nature Center members
\$6 Children 3 – 15
free 2 and under

No reservations required.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the local rehabilitators to benefit their good work.



Tamarack Wildlife Center releasing a rehabilitated Bald Eagle back into the wild.

Did you find a baby bird out of its nest? Did your cat catch a squirrel and now it is hurt? Wildlife sometimes needs help. There is a group of people qualified who provide aid to those animals in need, wildlife rehabilitators. Meet them and some of their education animals, ask questions, and find out how to best help wildlife you find in distress.

Some local rehabilitators will be on hand to explain what to do with certain animals, which animals they can help and which they can't, and which animals might not need help at all. These people are a great resource to wildlife and Audubon, helping to protect the creatures with whom you share the world. This event is open house style and will feature some non-releasable animal ambassadors.

Volunteer Day (All)

April 25, 2020
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Free, donations accepted.

Reservations required by April 20, to help ACNC to plan for food.

Special Information: *This event will happen rain, snow, or shine. Please come dressed for the weather and plan on getting dirty.*

The lunch menu will include vegetarian and meat chili, veggies and fruit, corn chips, and cookies.

In celebration of Earth Day's 50th Anniversary, join a team at Audubon to help with a project for the earth.

There will be projects available for all ages and abilities.

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Registration
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
Work parties organized
- 9:15 a.m. – noon
Work completed
- Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Lunch is served and accomplishments are shared



Friday 6

First Friday (Adult)

Sustainable Forest Management

11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Your favorite forest might need your help. Learn what you can do at this month's First Friday with Annie Maloney and Guy Dunkle, experts in forest stewardship.

Special Information: *Bring a lunch or snack to eat after the program.*

Saturday 7

Terrarium Make-and-Take (All)

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

\$10 Adults

\$7.50 Nature Center members

\$7.50 Children 3 – 15; free 2 and under

Paid reservations required by March 5.

Walk-ins accepted if room, call for availability.

Create a little touch a green by making a terrarium. This mini garden can brighten up your indoor space – and your spirits – this spring.

Special Information: *This is a self-guided activity. Basic materials and directions are provided but you are welcome to bring additional materials.*

Program Registration

- Online at auduboncnc.org
 - Phone: (716) 569-2345
 - By mail with credit card information or a check payable to ACNC
- Audubon Community Nature Center**
1600 Riverside Road,
Jamestown, NY, 14701

Refund Policy

- If Audubon Community Nature Center cancels the program, participants receive full refunds.
- If a participant cancels **before** the deadline, a refund, with \$5 withheld as a processing fee, will be made.
- If a participant cancels **after** the deadline, no refund will be made, but ACNC still needs to know of your cancellation.

Note: *Programs may be cancelled if there are not enough registered. Register early to ensure the class fills. Some programs have limited enrollment.*

Thursday 12

Winter Walking Meditation (Adult)

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

\$16 Adults

\$12 Nature Center members

Paid reservations required by March 11.

Walk-ins accepted if room, call for availability.

Also happening on Thursday, April 8.

Walking meditation allows us to find calm and connection through movement, breath, mindfulness and nature. Join Karen from Samsara Yoga Center and explore different styles of Walking Meditation at ACNC.

Special Information: *Please dress for the weather, this is an outdoor walking program.*

Saturday 14

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Chipmunks and Squirrels

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members

\$6 Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by March 12.

Both chipmunks and squirrels are squirrels – yes, it's true! Come learn how to tell these two squirrels apart and what their lives are like as the seasons change from winter into spring.

Special Information: *This program takes place rain, snow, or shine, please dress for the weather.*

Thursday 19

Family Yoga (Children ages 4 – 15 and adults)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\$16 Adults; \$12 Nature Center members

\$9 Children 4 – 15

Paid reservations required by March 17.

Walk-ins accepted if room, call for availability.

Certified Kidding Around Yoga instructor, Loretta Cheney, will be hosting a one-hour Family Yoga class at ACNC.

Special Information: *Please wear or bring comfortable clothing.*

Thursday 19 (continued)

Spring Paint n' Sip Night (Adult)

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

\$40 Adults

\$30 Nature Center members

Paid reservations required by March 12.

Join seasonal naturalist Emily Rechin for a Paint n' Sip Nature Art Night. One drink ticket, hors d'oeuvres, and painting materials are included with registration. Local white and red wines will be available along with non-alcoholic drinks.

Special Information: *Come dressed to paint.*

Saturday 21

The Balance of Spring (Adult)

1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

\$32 Adults

\$24 Nature Center members

Paid reservations required by March 19.

Join Karen Hansen of Samsara Yoga for a Spring Equinox workshop that blends a discussion on the Wheel of the Year and how you can apply it to your life.

The Lost Words (Adult+)

Otter and Bramble

11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members

\$6 Children 9 – 15

Paid reservations required by March 19.

Mischievous and playful, both otter and bramble will find a way into your heart and mind in the Lost Words program.

Thursday 26

Three Pillars of Meditation (Adults)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\$16 Adults; \$12 Nature Center members

Paid reservations required by March 24.

Walk-ins accepted if room, call for availability.

Begin the evening by reducing stress in a natural setting through meditation and mindfulness with Loretta Cheney.

Special Information: *Bring a warm blanket.*



Muskrats

Katie Finch, Senior Nature Educator

Looking out at Audubon's backyard pond, one could see any number of animals from deer and otter to frogs and dragonflies. Wetlands are very busy places. The high diversity of plant life supports a diversity of animal life.

Often there is a small, brown swimmer in the water, propelled by its skinny scaly tail. Its body is visible just above the surface of the water before it disappears under the island. It has to be a muskrat.

Muskrats are mostly herbivores, searching the ponds and wetland edges for cattails, sedges, water lilies, duckweed, and other aquatic plants. On occasion they do eat frogs, insects, snails, and crayfish.

Muskrats are in the rodent family. They are native to North America and can be found in most wet habitats across the country. They can be mistaken for beaver, with whom they share habitat. Muskrats are much smaller, at one and a half to four and a half pounds versus 27 – 70 pounds for

a Beaver.

Muskrats are well adapted to a semi-aquatic life. Their thick fur is waterproof and keeps them warm in colder temperatures. They are able to seal off their ears underwater as well as their lips so they can still chew underwater. And they can stay underwater for close to twenty minutes.



Top: Muskrat lodges across Big Pond at Audubon. Muskrats build and take shelter in lodges. They also serve as platforms for animals such as snake and turtles to bask or birds, such as Canada Geese to nest. Photo by Audubon staff.

Bottom: Muskrats have large front teeth for biting plant material. Photo by Terry LeBaron.

Muskrat Coloring Sheet



Muskrat Coloring Sheet
From Small Animals of North America Coloring Book
by Elizabeth A. McClelland,
Dover Publications, Inc. 1981

Audubon Community Nature Center

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auduboncnc.org • info@auduboncnc.org

Friday 3

First Friday (Adult)

Pennsylvania Elk

11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Discover the history and ecology of the largest wild Elk herd in the Northeast with the Keystone Elk Country Alliance.

Special Information: Bring a lunch or snack to eat after the program.

Saturday 4

Chautauqua County Landfill Tour (Adult)

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

\$32 Adults;

\$24 Nature Center members

Paid reservations required by April 1. Limited enrollment.

Do you wonder where your garbage goes after you put it in the trash? This tour of the Chautauqua County landfill will enlighten participants.

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon (All)

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Free for all current ACNC Volunteers

Non-volunteers: \$8 per person;

\$6 Nature Center Members

Reservations required by March 29. Volunteers, call the Nature Center at (716) 569-2345 to register. Non-volunteers call, or register online.

Join ACNC to recognize and show appreciation for the many volunteers that make Audubon a gem of the community. Celebrate those who have reached significant milestones by sharing a lunch together in their honor.

Thursday 9

Spring Walking Meditation (Adult)

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

\$12 Adults; \$9 Nature Center members

Paid reservations required by April 8.

Walk-ins accepted if room, call for availability.

See March 12 listing for more info.

Saturday 11

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Creature Camo

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members

\$6 Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by April 9.

Both predator and prey animals use camouflage as an important survival tool to remain hidden, whether they are matching the colors and patterns of their surroundings or mimicking other plants or animals.

After a short indoor lesson, join Audubon on an outdoor hike to look for examples and test your camouflage skills in the forests and fields.

Special Information: This program takes place rain or shine, please dress for the weather.

Monday 13

Mud Camp (Children 4 – 12)

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$40 Children;

\$30 Nature Center member children

\$5 sibling discount

Paid reservations required by April 10 by noon. Limited enrollment.

The natural world is waking up, pushing dormant energy into growth and renewal. Children can explore the natural events outdoors, play, learn, and discover in the spring landscape.

Special Information: Children should come prepared to go outside with a complete change of clothing. Pack extras of things that tend to get wet like mittens, gloves, socks, and pants and a non-refrigerated lunch and water bottle.

Thursday 16

Spring Paint n' Sip Night (Adult)

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

\$40 Adults;

\$30 Nature Center members

Paid reservations required by April 9.

See March 19 listing for more info.

Saturday 18

The Lost Words (Adult+)

Bluebell and Kingfisher

11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members

\$6 Children 9 – 15

Paid reservations required by April 16.

The brilliant colors of spring burst forth with bluebells and kingfishers, emerging and returning color to the landscape. Based on the book "The Lost Words," participants will hear the spells, speak the spells, and through a variety of activities conjure back these two natural elements.

Meet Your Rehabber (All)

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

\$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members

\$6 Children 3 – 15; free 2 and under

No reservations required.

See page 4 for more info.

Thursday 23

Three Pillars of Meditation (Adults)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\$16 Adults; \$12 Nature Center members

Paid reservations required by April 21.

Walk-ins accepted if room, call for availability.

See March 26 listing for more info.

Saturday 25

Volunteer Day (All) – Ninth annual

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

See page 4 for more info.

Intended Audience Key

Adult = designed for adults

Adult + = designed for adults, mature, and interested children 9 and up when accompanied by an adult.

All = Something for everyone, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Children = designed for kids — drop them off and pick them up later.

Audubon Exclusives

These special events and services are offered as fundraisers by ACNC staff, volunteers, members, and friends. Please consider supporting Audubon by participating in one of these opportunities, or by purchasing the experience as a gift!

To learn more and reserve, visit auduboncnc.org/exclusives or call (716) 569-2345

Events

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29

Audubon Rummage Sale Fundraiser

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Free. Nature Center admission is also free on these days.

'Tis the season for spring cleaning! Audubon will be cleaning out their closets this spring, and they invite you to do the same. Donate your gently used items to the rummage sale March 24 through 27, and return and shop the sale on March 28 and 29. All items will be available for purchase by donation, with only a select few items set at "suggested prices."

Special Information: Please be considerate when donating items. Items that are severely damaged or dirty are unlikely to be purchased, leaving ACNC to dispose of leftover/unwanted items. Donated items will be accepted from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 24 and 25, and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on March 26 and 27. No electronics or clothing, please.

Wednesday, April 22

Earth Day with Audubon at Ekey Florist and Greenhouses

Ekey Florist and Greenhouses
3800 Market St, Warren, PA 16365

4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$10 Adults 21+

Reservations appreciated by April 21.
Walk-ins welcome.

2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! What better way to celebrate than by sipping Arrowhead Wine at Ekey Florist and Greenhouses while perusing their incredible selection of plants for your home?

Enjoy wine tasting and snacks, plus a sneak peek at a nearby wild Bald Eagle's nest with ACNC Nature Educator, Jeff Tome. Arrowhead Wine Cellars has been producing internationally recognized award-winning wines, with over 30 varieties to choose from.

Special Information: This event is for adults 21 and older only.

Ekey Florist
& Greenhouses



Services

Venison Dinner for Four to Six People

Date and time to be mutually determined by you and the host, between January and June.

\$200 for up to four people.

Can add up to two additional guests at \$50 each.

Paid reservations and scheduling required by May 1.

Whether you know you love venison or this is your first taste, this will be a meal and an evening you will long remember.

Dinner will include venison swiss steak, mashed potatoes, summer squash, and homemade bread. Appetizers, salad, and dessert are included. Guests will bring their "beverage of choice." Appetizers may include homemade smoked cheese and homemade German smoked sausage.

Pennsylvania Timber Rattlesnake "Hunt" (Adults aged 16+)

Date and time to be mutually determined by you and the host, between June 15 and July 21.

\$250 for up to two adults, includes bottled water, snacks and one meal.

Paid reservations required by May 15.

On a mutually agreeable date participants will travel to St. Marys, Pennsylvania, and from there to areas where rattlesnakes can be found. If snakes are located, participants will be able to take photographs.

Special Information: *Participants must be able to hike at least one mile over medium-rough terrain. To handle snakes, participants would need to have a current Pennsylvania fishing license AND a permit obtained through the Pennsylvania DCNR.

Birdathon

Supporting the Ryan Exline Memorial Fund
Saturday, May 2, 2020, starting at 6:00 a.m.

Call by April 30 to be part of the birding team.
Donate to the fund at auduboncnc.org/donate.

Join the birding team of educators and volunteers — either in person or by pledging — to support a local student pursuing a natural sciences career or education and to provide habitat upgrades to Audubon’s live animals.

The Ryan Exline Memorial Fund is supported through Birdathon. This is an (almost) all-day event in which Audubon educators, staff, and volunteers try to find as many species of birds as possible. Generous supporters pledge an amount, either per species or in total, to fund a \$500 scholarship for a local student pursuing a career or education in the natural sciences.



Last year's birdathon crew, searching for species to add to the list.

Additional funds help improve habitats for the live animals in the Nature Center, one of Ryan Exline’s favorite aspects of volunteering. Ryan was a volunteer, intern, nature-lover, and attending graduate school at Duke University when he died in a car accident. His love of nature and of nurturing future generations of “nature nerds” lives on through this fund.

You can bird with the team or show your support by pledging online at auduboncnc.org/donate. If you know of a student who might qualify for the scholarship, share this site: auduboncnc.org/scholarships

Special Information: Birdathon happens rain or shine. Single amount pledges can be taken anytime online or by calling or stopping at the Nature Center. To pledge per species please stop in or call.

Bird Banding Demonstrations

Saturdays, dates below
7:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Join Ornithologists near the Nature Center Pavilion at the West entrance for intimate looks of birds at bird banding opportunities throughout the Spring and Summer. Trained scientists capture birds in mist nets, take measurements, and place a small, metal band around one of each birds’ legs.

Spring Banding is a general bird banding session whereas MAPS is a part of an ongoing scientific study. More information is available online.

Dates are subject to cancellation or change based on weather conditions.

Spring Banding: April 25, May 2, 9, and 16

MAPS: June 6, 13, 20, July 1 (Wednesday due to July 4th), 11, 25, and August 1



A pair of Magnolia Warblers to be tagged at bird banding. Photo by Jennifer Schlick.

Save the Date

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Saturday, April 4
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Free for all *current* ACNC Volunteers
Non-volunteers: \$8 per person;
\$6 Nature Center Members

Reservations required by March 29. Volunteers, call the Nature Center at (716) 569-2345 to register. Non-volunteers call, or register online.

In 2018 – 2019, 324 individuals logged 11,467 volunteer work hours. Volunteers work in every department at ACNC, taking care of the trails, gardens, and buildings; performing data entry, store inventory, animal care, and cleaning; leading nature walks, working festivals and events, providing programs and outreach; in addition to serving on the board and other administrative committees — just to name a few!

Please join ACNC in celebrating those who have reached significant milestones ranging from 100 to 6,000 hours of service by sharing a lunch together in their honor.

Milestone Hours

6,000+

Thom Armella

4,000+

Terry LeBaron

3,000+

Pat Brininger
Don Weber

1,000+

Bonnie Bowen
Carol Samuelson
Don Sharp
Nancy White

500+

Elaine Crossley
Dean Frenz
Elaine Frenz

250+

Reg Boutwell
Alan Brown
Karen Lobe
Jennifer Pierce
Rick Sandberg
Donald Watts
Bob Williams

100+

Sonna Alm
Wendy Bale
Mary Beckerink
David Bull
Willow Fodor
Marty Grunzweig
Pamela Johnson
Robert Klebacha
Joseph O'Hara
Isabella Pecina
Logan Pecina
Jarod Smith

Volunteer Hours

198 volunteers (including 34 RSVP volunteers) logged 5,467.5 hours from July through December 2019.

Sara Abriatis • Becky Adams • Berkley Adams • Jill Adams • Nancy Aitken • Amy Anderson • Ann Anderson • Denny Anderson • Linda Anderson • Todd Anderson • Thom Armella • Mardy Backstrom • Wendy Bale • John Barone • Chelsea Beck • Aquila Becker • Mary Beckerink • Sally Beckerink • Edith Bensink • Janet Bevevino • Heidi Bird • Barbara Boone • Patricia Borowski • Louise Boutwell • Reg Boutwell • Bonnie Bowen • Katherine Bowley • Mallory Brannon • Pat Brininger • Jeff Brockelbank • Brenda Brook • Alan Brown • Larry Brown • David Bull • Leah Bullock • David Burlee • Ray Carlson • Pierre Chagnon • Devin Chimera • Janette Coleson • Bill Colter • Barb Conklin • Arlene Connelly • Jane Conroe • Elaine Conti • Elaine Crossley • Irene Culpepper • Gavin Cuoco • Hannah D'Angelo • Don Dove • Christopher Duckett • Nancy Duink • Kimberly Dunnigan • Kyle Eddy • Shonda El Monhandis • Connor Ellison • Cummins Engine • Mary Erlandson • Tom Erlandson • Mel Feather • Patricia Fincher • Lee Fletcher • Sandy Fletcher • Aidan Fodor • Kieran Fodor • Willow Fodor • Janet Forbes • Calob Franklin • Erik Franze • Dean Frenz • Elaine Frenz • Elizabeth Gattman • Patty Gordacki • Mary Hackford • Jamie Haight • Logan Hallenbeck • Terry Hallock • Andrew Harrington • Austin Hartenstine • Susan Hedberg • Hannah Hornyak • Cali Housler • Lil Hunkele • John Hyde • Karen Inwood • Uri Isaacovich • Anne Jackson • Elliott Jackson • Wyatt Jackson • Dick Johnson • Frankie Johnson • Lisa Johnson • Pamela Johnson • Ron Johnson • Valerie Johnson • Peyton Joly • Liz Jones • Kelly Joslyn • Kyle Keller • Kaitlyn Kennedy • Matt Kestler • Evan Kirchhoff • Tracy Kirchhoff • Robert Klebacha • Dave Lange • Rose Lark • Sue Lawton • Nancy LeBaron • Terry LeBaron • Justin Leid • Gary Lester • Penny Lester • Ned Lindstrom • Karen Lobe • Judy Lockwood • Judy Long • Ruth Lundin • Greg Lyle • Sydney Maggio • Natalie Maschensic • Cheryl Mawhinney • Mary Beth Mazzone • Lillith McGuire • Elizabeth McIntyre • Gregory McNallie • Kelli Merchant • Antoinette Meyer • Abrielle Monaghan • Tom Mooney • Justina Joy Moore • Marlene Mudge • Julie Nelson • Alyssa Nowicki • Joseph O'Hara • Sally Patchen • Jennifer Pierce • Tim Piotrowski • Sandy Potts • Deb Pring • Freda Pyles • Ryan Restivo • Johannah Robb • Blanche Robbins • Rachel Roushey • Joe Rupprecht • Rick Rupprecht • Stephen Rupprecht • LeeAnn Russell • Avery Salvaggio • Carol Samuelson • Alan Sandberg • Rick Sandberg • Robert Schlick • Alex Sharp • Don Sharp • Chris Short • Jacob Short • Tina Short • Veronica Short • Lynea Silk • Matt Sirianno • Timothy Smeal • Patricia Smith • Lasharie Sparks • Becky Spear • Ryan Spencer • Chip Spiesman • Kay Stahlman • Rose Stark • Barb Suckow • Austin Swanson • Paul Swanson • Merle Szydlo • Tom Szydlo • Emily Thomas • Craig Thompson • Linda Trostle • Robert Ungerer • Bob VanEvery • Piper VanOrd • Ruth Wahl • Tracy Wall • Donald Watts • Don Weber • Joyce Weber • Sharon Weiler • Nathan Welker • Mary Jane Whaley • Nancy White • Brittany Wilcox • Catherine Willard • Bob Williams • John Willsie • Rhonda Willsie • Ro Woodard • Kendall Wright • Ed Yager • Sue Yauchzy

Alex Shipherd to Judge the 2020 Photo Contest

The tenth annual ACNC Photo Contest opened on February 1. Over the years Audubon has relied on volunteers to judge the contest. This year, the judge is photographer Alex Shipherd.

Shipherd eagerly anticipates studying and appreciating the submissions. To prospective contest entrants he advises, “The contest categories — Wildlife Portraits, Macro Abstracts, and Habitats and Landscapes — leave the field wide open for whatever fascinates you as a nature photographer. Don’t be shy. Search out something that captivates you, and take your best shot!”

While Shipherd’s background as a photographer includes shooting weddings, portraits, landscapes, and numerous sports, nature photography has always been his real love.

Observing how the light changes in a scene and making the correct exposure to capture that light is critical to his own photography. Not a fan of photo editing, he notes, “Who wants to spend hours behind a computer editing pictures instead of being in the field capturing magical moments!”

Shipherd has been the first-place winner in a number of photo contests, and his images have been printed in a variety of publications, including the New York State Conservationist.

To learn more and submit your photos to the contest, visit: acncphotocontest.com



Rolling Storm — Beartooth Highway. Photo by Alex Shipherd.

Bird Seed

Conewango Blend is a specially-mixed seed that was created by a team of local birders. It is rich with black oil sunflower seed and also includes canary seed, millet, corn, safflower seed, and sunflower hearts. The goal is to attract many different birds without wasting seed. This mix is available in the Blue Heron Gift Shop at ACNC. You can also find Conewango Blend year round at the following locations:



- Ashville General Store, *Ashville, NY*
- Chautauqua Booke Store, *Chautauqua, NY*
- Howe’s True Value, *Warren, PA*
- Lakewood Apothecary, *Lakewood, NY*
- Lighthouse Point Grocery, *Mayville, NY*
- Oneida Lumber, *Ace Hardware, Warren, PA*
- Russell Veterinary Hospital, *Russell, PA*
- Wegmans, *Jamestown, NY*

Community Partners

Thank you for your dedicated support this year.

Bob and Kathy Frucella

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Jessie Smith Darrah Fund
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March/April ACNC Newsletter

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- Volunteer Recognition



Yellow-rumped Warbler Photo by Jeff Tome.