

The connection begins with you.

November – December, 2019 Volume 63, Issue 6

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 Ph: (716) 569-2345 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: Barred Owl, by Šarūnas Burdulis

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.





Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Members and Friends of the Nature Center,

We are entering into winter, a time of reflection and gratitude for all that we hold dear to us. I am looking forward to sharing our memories together as we celebrate those who have inspired our connection to nature through two new, exciting opportunities at the Nature Center.

Starting November 5, we will open a temporary exhibit that invites all community members to participate. Through this exhibit, participants may share a memory of someone who connected them to nature.

Looking back on my own life, I have very vivid memories of visiting my aunt in New Hampshire. I remember driving up her long dirt road that led into the woods to a driveway with a broken down wooden sign that read "Fern Hill." While visiting, she would tell me stories of bears who would come and harvest the grapes just outside her bedroom window at night, and there was always a cat or two roaming the property, oftentimes raising a litter of kittens just below her porch steps. I eagerly awoke each morning to fill a giant bowl of cat food and bring it to the porch, and wait for the kittens to emerge from their slumber. There was something wild about this place, something very freeing.

I remember thinking as a child when it was time to leave, "I have to find a way back here. This is where I belong. Someday, I want to be JUST like her." She is my spark. She is my connector. She is the inspiration behind my desire to explore the world of nature, and to adventure outside of the "known" and into the "unknown." I look forward to visiting with her still, and sharing stories of what birds she has seen, and what natural areas she has recently discovered.

Please join us in sharing your own memory either through the "Nurturing our Natural Connections" exhibit, or through the upcoming "Audubon Remembers" event, which will take place on November 23. We would love to see you there.

Also, this is a time for giving. We hope that you consider giving the gift of nature this season by purchasing an ACNC Membership, a Gift Certificate to our Day Camp program, or by making a donation to ACNC in honor or in memory of someone who provided you with that connection to nature in your own life.

Thank you, as always, for being a part of the ACNC community, and I look forward to seeing you at the Nature Center 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 November – December newsletters.

1959

"The first lecture of the Audubon Screen Tours for the 1959/1960 season was well attended and the speaker said we were the largest and most appreciative audience that he has had this year and we all enjoyed Lennord Hall very much."

1969

"Bill Highhouse, as many of us know, has spent untold time and energy the last few years in working for the bluebirds. This was a good year and the 225 nesting boxes produced 775 bluebird fledglings and 246 tree swallow fledglings."

1979

"Sometimes we get so involved with our day to day activities, rushing here to do this, hurrying there to do that, ---going ---doing that we often do not have or take the time for a critical look at what we are doing... Recently, I had an opportunity to get away and attend two conferences... I have returned with a new perspective on our own program. I learned that although we are a relatively small operation we are doing most of the things that much larger organizations do and in some areas we are doing it more effectively." - Naturalist-Director, Jim Yaich

1989

"Audubon offers 'a night out' for parents beginning with our December program. Parents wishing to attend this meeting may bring their young children, four years and older, to the... Discovery room."

1999

"The Nature Center continues to be a part of a new recipe for learning. First, you need a large body of water. Add a large chunk of nature. Spoon in a heaping mound of art and add a large group of children. Mix well and you have the core of the Chautauqua Lake Curriculum Project."

2009

"Spatterdock Pond Project: The beavers and muskrats had tunneled under the embankment so industriously, machine mowing near the edge of the pond was not possible... Audubon's Buildings and Grounds crew snapped into action. The eight-week project required 297 hours to rebuild the embankment."

Board Officers

Board Chairman	Andrew Harrington
Vice Chair	Tim Smeal
Secretary	Penny Lester
Treasurer	Robert Klebacha

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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.

Nurturing Our Natural Connections

Remembering and honoring the people who have inspired connections to nature.

Join Audubon Community Nature Center in recognizing those who have been inspirations to appreciate, preserve, and love nature by participating in a community art installation at the Nature Center. The exhibit will be on display starting November 5, and will run through the winter months.

Participants will be asked to share a memory of a loved one (either living or deceased) who fostered their connection to nature through tending a garden. hiking a trail, or just simply spending time outdoors.

The exhibit will be open to the public to participate in and installed as a lead-in to the "Audubon Remembers" event set to take place on Saturday, November 23.

Please visit auduboncnc.org/programs/ for more info and to register for "Audubon Remembers"

To participate in the exhibit, please stop by the Nature Center starting November 5, 2019.



Audubon is a wonderful place for friends and family to share experiences in nature

Memorials and Honoraria

Recorded between March 18 and September 3, 2019

In Honor of Ann and Steve Abdella Nancy Bargar

In Honor of Dave Anderson's Birthday

Abby Anderson Marie Anderson Nan Belschner Jodie Bender Ellen and David Katje and Jack Benoit Joe and Alison Benoit Martin and Sue Benoit Tom and Mary Benoit Chuck and Pat Brininger Mark E. Conover Andrew Dickson and Janet Chew John and Carol Jablonski Steve Jenks Richard C. Johnson Michael and Barbara Lyons Rusty and PJ Mav Lu And Josh Saul John Sherwood **Richard Stineman** Peter and Holly Sullivan Dave and Marjorie Switala Simon and Jean Benoit Tickell Jack and Donna Wood

In Honor of Louise Boutwell's Birthday Weinberg Financial Group

In Honor of Susan Klebacha Robert Klebacha

In Honor of Leigh Rovegno Robert Klebacha

In Honor of Rose Stark Patricia L. King

In Honor of Bob Ungerer's Birthday Bill and Carole Colter

In Memory of Nancy Aldrich Amy Tilbura

In Memory of Murray Bob Renate Bob

In Memory of George and Jane Campbell David Campbell

In Memory of David Hedberg Todd and Linda Anderson Leah M. Bullock Lynn and Pat Chapel Carol M. Drake I.A.T.S.E. Local 266 Jill E. Jarrett Sherri Jerome

Lorry and Linda Johnson Leonard Michaud Carolyn Pasquale Tom and Sue Priester John and Elaine Sherwood Jim Smith Kay Stahlman

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In Memory of Diane Kelly Aiden and Ashlynn Zawacki

In Memory of Robert W. King Hannah King

In Memory of Valerie A. Kozlowski Jamestown Container Companies

In Memory of Abby Perry Pat and Mark Evans

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In Memory of Becky Weber Mary Dobek James and Martha Schnars

The Sunshine Committee, Gail Chapman Elementary School

In Memory of Sara Moor West Barbara Johnson

In Memory of Norma Willard The Hagel Family Jim Hedley and Cindy Horner

In Memory of Shirley I. Willsie John E. Willsie

In Memory of Barry Wright Gregory L. Burkett

Programs and Events November – December 2019





Audubon Remembers (AII)

Saturday, November 23, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Reservations appreciated by Wednesday, November 20, walk-ins welcome.

Special Information: Although the program is free, optional donations made in memory or in honor of a person who connected you to nature will be accepted. Please bring a dish to share that serves 10 - 20 people, dress for the weather, and bring garden gloves/hand tools that you might use for bulb planting.

The Jamestown chapter of the Audubon Society was founded in 1957 by people who were inspired by the wonder of nature. Individuals including Gib Burgeson, Steve Maggio, Bob and Pat Sundell, Clarence Beal, Claude Parker, Corky Belknap, Annabell Hiller, Dr. A. W. Rappole, and Gustavus Bentley had a dream to create a place where local residents could learn about the many natural treasures found in their own back yards.

Join Audubon in celebrating and honoring the people who have connected us to nature. Who was it that nurtured your connection? Was it a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, camp counselor, teacher, or child? On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, gather together to remember the people who encouraged you to explore the great outdoors. The program will include a guided meditation walk and brief remarks of remembrance, followed by a planting of daffodil bulbs in their honor. A potluck lunch will be served following the planting.

Schedule of Events

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Guided Reflection with Samsara Yoga Center
11:00 a.m. – noon	Audubon Remembers Remarks and daffodil planting.
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Potluck Lunch Please bring a dish that serves 10 – 20 people.
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Stay for conversation, hiking, and exploring the Nature Center

November 2019

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.

Friday 1 _____

First Friday (Adult) Hog Island 11:00 a.m. – noon \$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

The Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine is legendary for creating an amazing experience for adults to experience nature. From puffins to other birds, amazing habitats, and world-class instructors, Hog Island never disappoints.

Learn more about the amazing experiences that former ACNC President Ruth Lundin had as she explored Hog Island last summer.

Special Information: Bring your own brown bag lunch to enjoy lunch with participants and the speaker afterwards.

Saturday 2 _____

Birds of Prey Day (All)

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Programs at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. \$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members \$6 Children 3 – 15, free 2 and under

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Get an up-close look at hawks and owls as you learn more about their personal stories and the amazing adaptations that help them survive. Join Mark Baker, a bird rehabilitator, and his live birds to get an intimate look at birds that normally stay far from people.

Bird of Prey patches will be available for scouts and other patch lovers for an additional \$3.00.



Saturday 9 _____

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult) *Time for Turkeys* 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. \$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members \$6 Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by November 7.

Gobble gobble gobble! While most turkey activity happens in the spring, fall is when people really take notice of them. From their heads to their feet, turkeys are amazing creatures designed to survive in the fields and forests of the region. Learn about them during this program, which includes an indoor lesson and an outdoor adventure. A snack is provided after the hike and a craft is offered if there is time.

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



Saturday 23 _____

Audubon Remembers (All) Formerly Thanksgiving with the Birds 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Free admission; donations welcome.

See page 4 for more info.



Giving Tuesday (Adult)

Giving Tuesday is a National Day of Giving. Always on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, It is a day to give thanks to organizations resonate with you. auduboncnc.org/donate

Friday 6 _____

First Friday (Adult) Eastern Hellbenders: Ancient Salamanders of New York

11:00 a.m. – noon \$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Hellbenders are the largest salamander in the region, reaching lengths of up to 29 inches. They live locally in larger rivers and were recently made Pennsylvania's state amphibian. Retired NYSDEC biologist Ken Roblee will share 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. his knowledge of and experiences with this species.

Special information: Bring your own brown bag lunch for after the program. ACNC provides coffee and tea.

Saturday 7 _____

Decorating with Greens Make and Take (All)

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. \$6 per person

No reservations required. The program is open-house style.

Stop by the nature center to make a table decoration or swag. Examples of decorations, cut greens, and a few other materials are provided. You are encouraged to bring additional decorations such as ribbon, wire, pruners, and holiday décor to aid in making your creation.

Special Information: This is a self-guided activity. Cut green and some materials are provided for you but you are welcome to bring your own.

Tuesday 3 _____ Saturday 14 _____ Saturday 21 _____

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult) Under the Snow 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members \$6 Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by December 12.

Under the snow and frozen ground, the world teems with life. Investigate this snowy underland, first indoors, then take those winter detective skills outdoors to collect evidence of winter inhabitants. A snack is provided after the hike. A craft is offered if there is time.

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

Thursday 19 _____

Holiday Potluck (All)

Free (Dish to pass) Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

All are welcome to gather for a celebration of the Holiday Season. Share your favorite holiday dish and enjoy each other's company.

Special Information: Bring a dish to share and your own table service. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Saturday 21 _____

The Lost Words (Adult+)

Acorn and Ivv 11:00 a.m. – noon \$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members \$6 Children 9 - 15

Paid reservations required by December 19.

Naming things has a power all its own. as Robert McFarlane discovered when certain words were found missing from the Oxford Junior English Dictionary. He and Jackie Morris wrote a book of spells to conjure back 20 of the words.

Based on the book, participants will help to conjure back two natural elements, acorn and ivy.

Winter Solstice Bonfire (All)

Pavilion on the west side of the property 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. \$6 Adults; \$2 Children 3 - 15; free 2 and under Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

The longest night gives way to increasing light on the winter solstice. Celebrate with a bonfire, a guided meditation walk, or just time spent outside on such a night.

Special Information: You will have a short walk on snowy or muddy trails to get to the bonfire. Please wear appropriate footwear. If you have a travel mug, please bring it to enjoy the provided hot chocolate.

Friday 27 _____

Christmas with the Critters (All)

10:30 a.m. - noon \$8 Adults; \$6 Nature Center members \$6 Children 3 – 15; free 2 and under

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

See page 7 for more info.

Monday 30 _____

Holiday Camp (Children)

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$30 Children; \$25 Nature Center member children \$5 sibling discount Paid reservations required by noon, December 27.

Children can enjoy a day at Audubon playing in the snow, exploring nature, or creating winter art while learning about nature and all the cool activities that occur during the snowier months.

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



Christmas with the Critters

December 27, 2019

10:30 a.m. – noon

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

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome. Admission may be a gift from the Giving Tree. Visit ACNC for a holiday open house all about the critters! There will be live animals out and ready to visit with you, some animal specimens and artifacts for you to explore, a craft station so you can make a holiday gift for the wild critters, a behind-the-scenes eagle tour, and a critter scavenger hunt that takes you through the building. The open house culminates at 11:45 a.m. when participants are invited to open the presents for the critters from the Giving Tree (as the animals don't have thumbs).

Admission for this event (or the Nature Center on this day) may be a gift taken and purchased for the Giving Tree, located in ACNC's lobby. Gifts should be wrapped and presented to the receptionist redeemable for admission and a hand stamp. Cash and credit cards are accepted as well.

Special Information: Eagle behind-the-scenes tours are outdoors, please dress for the weather if planning to attend that part.

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

Keep in mind, a program may be cancelled if there are not enough people registered. Register early to ensure the class fills up. Some programs have limited enrollment.

Refund Policy

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

Audubon Nature Notes



Turkeys

Katie Finch, Senior Nature Educator

Turkeys are ubiquitous this time of year, but more so for being found on the dinner table than in binoculars. Wild Turkeys are a non-migratory bird seen throughout the fall and winter.

Wild Turkeys are one of North America's largest birds. They reside in all states except Alaska, as well as Mexico and Canada. Turkeys live in forests and fields where they forage for a variety of plant material. They feed on fruits and nuts, including acorns, beechnuts, hickory nuts, black cherries, as well as buds, roots, and grass seeds. As omnivores, they may also eat snails, salamanders, beetles, and other insects.

Wild Turkeys spend most of their time on the ground but are also agile fliers. They roost in trees at night, generally in flocks. This provides them with some protection from their predators including coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, Golden Eagles, and Great Horned Owls.

Due to hunting pressure and habitat lost, Wild Turkey populations were in drastic decline in the early 1900s. Through reintroduction efforts, Wild Turkey populations recovered. It is a conservation success story.





Top-Right: Male Wild Turkey strutting during spring mating season.; Bottom: Female Wild Turkey with juveniles. Photos listed under Creative Commons from Wikipedia.

Turkey Vocabulary



The Wild Turkey has a vocabulary all its own. Test your turkey smarts. Draw a line from the word to its correct definition. *Answers located below.*

	Caruncle	1. The flap of skin under the turkey's chin. Turns bright red when the turkey is upset or during courtship.
	Gizzard	2. A baby turkey.
	Hen	3. A male turkey. (Also known as a gobbler.)
	Poult	 The brightly colored growths on the throat region. Turns bright red when the turkey is upset or during courtship.
	Snood	5. A part of a bird's stomach that contains tiny stones that help grind up food.
	Tom Wattle	6. The flap of skin that hangs over the turkey's beak. Turns bright red when the turkey is upset or during courtship.
		7. A female turkey.
		Answers: Caruncle = 4, Gizzard = 5, Hen = 7, Poult = 2, Snood = 6, Tom = 3, Wattle = 1
Turkey illustration from supe	recoloring.com	Audubon Community Nature Center 1600 Riverside Road, Jamestown, NY 14701 Ph: (716) 569-2345 • Fx: (716) 569-2765 Auduboncnc.org • info@auduboncnc.org

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Donations made between March 18 and September 3, 2019

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Holiday Hours

The Nature Center will be **closed** to observe the following holidays:

- Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving
- Tuesday, December 24 for Christmas Eve
- Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas
- Wednesday, January 1 for New Years Day

You are welcome to visit the grounds and Liberty the Bald Eagle from dawn to dusk, but the building will be closed.

Holiday Shopping

Looking for the perfect gift for the nature-lover on your holiday shopping list? Stop by ACNC's Blue Heron Gift Shop and browse through the new inventory. Even if you can't decide on a specific item, you can never go wrong with an ACNC gift certificate or gift membership!





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Kathy (holding a photo of Stephanie), Bob, Leigh, and Sarah in front of the pavilion construction site.
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Donor Spotlight — Bob and Kathy Frucella

ACNC is fortunate to have a strong network of donors who make up the backbone of our organization. Donors are an integral part of our organization, and they share with us the vision of providing real and healthy connections to nature for people of all ages.

Bob and Kathy Frucella have supported ACNC over the years in many ways. They created the Stephanie Frucella Memorial Scholarship Fund, a merit-based camp scholarship which is awarded annually based on an applicant's passion for nature and their commitment to community service.

They funded the first year's salary for our new Naturalist position in 2018, when we expressed a need to add staff after increasing our presence in Warren County Schools. When we presented the idea of the third floor nature play area to them, they were delighted to offer financial support to purchase the items that we needed.

Bob and Kathy support ACNC because they believe in what we do, and because their daughter did too. Stephanie enjoyed walking the ACNC trails with her parents as a child making her own nature discoveries. She grew up to become a fourth grade teacher who loved sharing her passion for nature and the community with her students. To lose her so young was something that no one could have anticipated, and she certainly has not been forgotten. The Frucellas choose to continue Stephanie's legacy by supporting ACNC's mission, and we are honored to have her memory be recognized through the work that we do.

We are incredibly excited to see Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion become a reality in ACNC's own back yard. The pavilion was designed to provide additional educational space for camp, school field trips, and public programs. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to expand our capacity for learning through the addition of such a beautiful structure, that comes with a such a beautiful memory. Thank you Stephanie, and thank you Frucella Family. For everything.

The Giving Tree

As thoughts turn to holidays, family, and friends, ACNC will put its Giving Tree up in the lobby of the Nature Center.

On the tree are tags for items that Audubon's live animals, wild animals, campers, and staff need to nurture and grow connections with each other and you.

You may drop gifts off at any point until Friday, December 27. The gifts will be opened at the end of the Christmas with the Critters program that day. Your gift also counts as admission to the program or the Nature Center if you choose to visit that day.

ACNC is grateful to have such dedicated support from its members, volunteers, and community. Your kindness and generosity are remarkable. Thank you.

If you cannot make it to the Nature Center to get a tag, you can also view some of our wish list items online by visiting auduboncnc.org. From the menu, select: Chip In>Giving Tree Wish List



Children opening gifts from the Giving Tree during the Christmas with the Critters program.

Bird Seed

Conewango Blend is a specially-mixed seed that was created by a team of local birders to attract many different birds. It is rich with



black oil sunflower seeds 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
- 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

Carnahan-Jackson Foundation Chautauqua Region Community Foundation Holmberg Foundation Hultquist Foundation Jessie Smith Darrah Fund The Lenna Foundation The Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation

The Boocha Family Community Foundation of Warren County Defrees Family Memorial Fund FSC Security Systems, LLC Hal and Mary Conarro Kinetic by Windstream

For more information about Community Partners, please contact Leigh Rovegno at: Irovegno@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345.



Audubon Community Nature Center, Inc. 1600 Riverside Road Jamestown, NY 14701

Electronic service requested



November/December ACNC Newsletter

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Young White-tailed Deer Buck. Photo by Jeff Tome.