

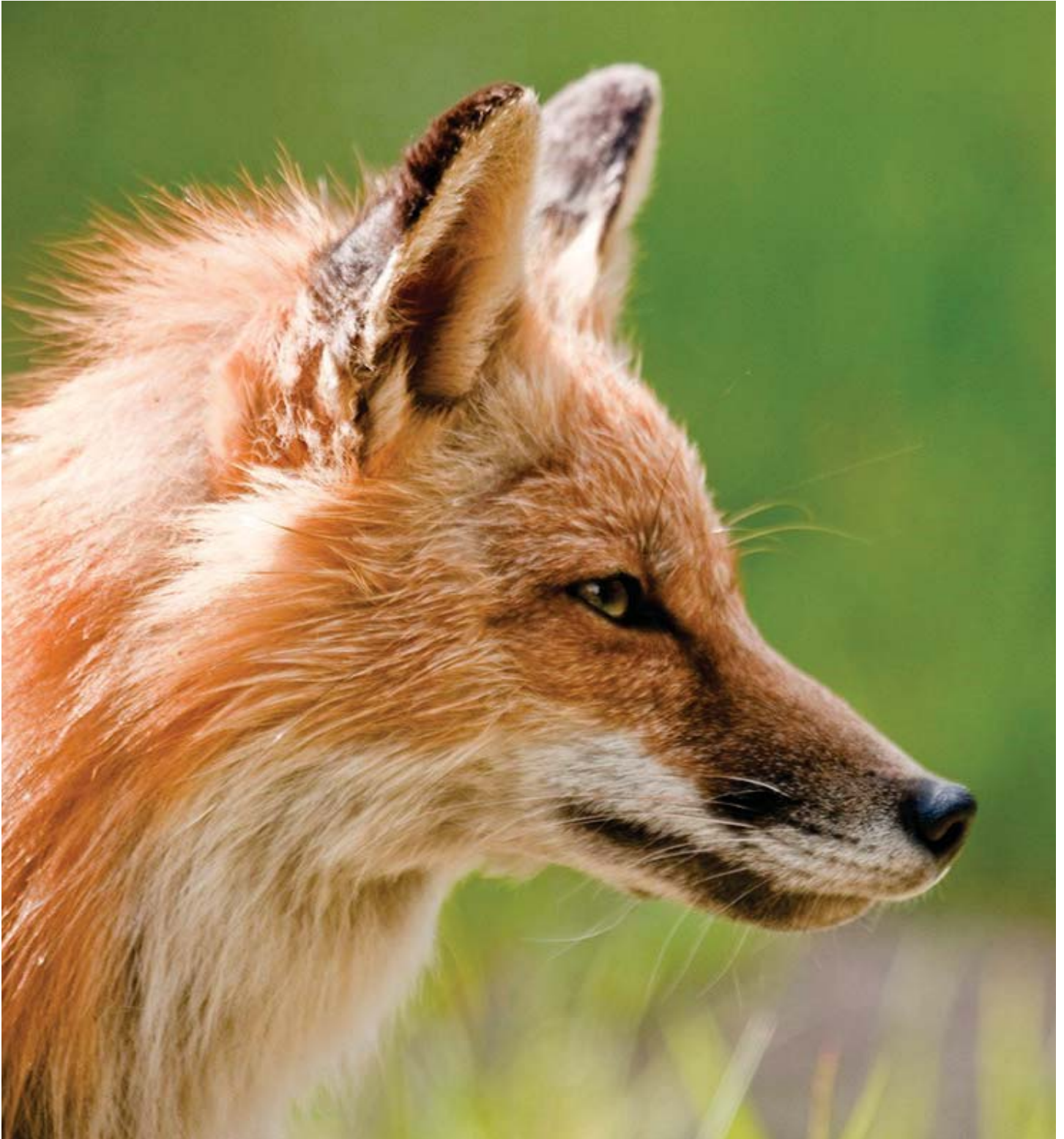


# Audubon Community Nature Center

*The connection begins with you.*

July – August, 2020  
Volume 64, Issue 4

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.

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Jamestown, NY 14701  
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info@auduboncnc.org  
auduboncnc.org

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

Kim Turner, Newsletter Editor

Cover Photo: Red Fox, by NPS / Kevyn Jalone

### Nature Center Hours

Please visit [auduboncnc.org](http://auduboncnc.org) or call (716) 569-2345 for up-to-date information.

Trails are open from dawn to dusk.

Visit [auduboncnc.org](http://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,

Summer is here! Despite what feels like a pause in our lives, nature continues to thrive and it reminds us that life does go on despite the daily challenges that we face.

The Nature Center trails have provided a much needed respite for people during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are happy to see so many new faces visiting the grounds. The Nature Center building will continue to remain closed until we receive permission to reopen from New York State.

In the meantime, the Nature Center staff have been busy maintaining the trails for safety, caring for the Audubon animals, and finding creative ways to continue engaging with the local community. Audubon educators have also been working with local school districts to redesign educational programs so that they can be presented virtually, and they have been filling in for many of the roles typically performed by Audubon's incredible team of volunteers.

Also during this time, the Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion was completed in Audubon's back yard, our new colorful roadside sign was installed, and the indoor nature play area now has air conditioning and new carpet!

So, in reality, despite being closed, the Nature Center is as busy as ever! None of this would have been possible without Audubon's incredibly dedicated staff members. Together, we are choosing to THRIVE rather than just survive. The staff's creativity, flexibility, and overall willingness to embrace this transition has been absolutely amazing to witness, and I am so very proud of each and every one of them.

Thank you for choosing to support the ACNC staff through your donations, memberships, online store purchases, and program participation. I can guarantee you that not a single one of your donation dollars goes to waste. Every dollar counts, every person counts.

Please remember to continue to stay safe, stay sane, and get outside to enjoy the mental, physical and emotional health benefits that nature provides.

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 July – August newsletters.

## 1960

“Our first Nature Pilgrimage . . . was most successful and will no doubt be made an annual affair.”

## 1970

“One thing our founder and ten-year president will not stand for is a late dinner. Mr. Burgeson rang the dinner bell and we were off, where did all those pies and cakes and desserts go? Wow!”

## 1980

“Bretta Pearson reports that ‘scads of youngsters’ have made tours in the Sanctuary on school group field trips.”

## 1990

On seeing a Great Horned Owl, Great Blue Heron, and deer: “What a wonderful place is our 600-acre Sanctuary! When was the last time you visited? Come. Walk the trails. See what you can see.”  
— Tom Simmons

## 2000

ACNC “has the distinction of being the only site in New York where a certain wildflower grows. It is floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) a plant of the parsley family.”

## 2010

“The one thing that can be said about the gas well at Audubon is that it has required patience... the gas produced by the well is producing royalties that pay more than the cost of the gas used by the building.”



## 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>Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator</i> ...	Tina Preston
<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>Summer Nature Education Intern</i> .....	Emily Nelson
	Asha Deharder
	Meg Stewart
<i>Designer, Education Assistant</i> .....	Kim Turner
<i>Gift Shop Manager, Receptionist</i> .....	Patricia Spicer
<i>Receptionist, Resource Person</i> .....	Joanne Miller
<i>Buildings and Grounds</i> .....	Terry LeBaron
<i>Invasive Species Management Coordinator</i> .....	Chloe Petry
<i>Invasive Species Management</i> .....	Ray Carlson

## 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>Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage</i> .....	Jim Backlas
	Barb Conklin
	Judy Long
	Ro Woodard
<i>Photo Club</i> .....	John Brustrom
<i>Publicity</i> .....	Pat Brininger
<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.*

Northern Leopard Frog, Photo by Ryan Hodnett

## How is ACNC responding to COVID-19 and the restrictions put in place?

First, public safety is the primary concern. ACNC has suspended programs and events through June 2020 and the restrooms are closed until the threat has largely passed. ACNC continues to update practices and recommendations based on state and local recommendations as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. You can find the most up-to-date information at [auduboncnc.org](http://auduboncnc.org).

ACNC trails remain open to the public. Time spent outdoors with your family is one of the best things that you can do right now for your mental, physical, and emotional health. ACNC has posted guidelines at the trail kiosk and online to help you stay as safe as possible while visiting.

- Visits to ACNC should be solitary or with small family groups. Please do not encourage large gatherings of people to meet.
- Keep at least six feet of distance between you and others at all times. Visitors do not have to wear a face covering, however we ask that you have them available in case you cannot maintain distance from other visitors.
- Avoid activities where you may come in close contact with other people. This includes the Nature Play Area at this time.
- Use caution when climbing on Tank (the turtle) and Sara (the salamander). The surfaces are only as clean as the last person who climbed on them.
- Stay home if you do not feel well.



## Please Welcome ACNC's Newest Staff Member — Tina Preston

There's a new face at Audubon Community Nature Center! ACNC staff welcomed Tina Preston as the new Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator in early June.

Tina lives at Point Chautauqua with her husband, three dogs, and one very old cat. She moved from Buffalo to the area a year ago and is enjoying the lake life and exploring all that the area has to offer. She has three grown children, loves to hike, bike, browse antiques stores, and most importantly travel across the country visiting national parks and historic sites.

Tina is passionate about building strong and healthy communities, which she has been working to do through various professional roles within the public health sector for the last 30 years. She graduated from the University of Montana with a BS in Forest Resource Management and worked summers for the US Forest Service. During that time, she was active in many environmental organizations and it was there where she solidified her love and passion for the preservation of the environment.

Tina has also spent a great deal of time giving back to the community through volunteer work including her participation in the Adirondack Mountain Club and the Girl Scouts of Western New York. Please join Audubon in welcoming Tina into the ACNC family! She is very excited to meet everyone, and Audubon is so very happy to have her as a part of the team.



# Programs and Events

## July – August 2020



### Please Note:

As of printing this newsletter, ACNC is still closed due to COVID-19. Without being able to predict how things will unfold as the region re-opens, these programs may or may not happen as planned. For the most accurate information about ACNC programs and events, please visit [auduboncnc.org](http://auduboncnc.org) or call (716) 569-2345.



## Wild 5K Run/Walk

(Adult+)

Saturday, July 25, 2020  
 8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Registration  
 9:00 a.m. Race Starts  
 10:30 a.m. Award Ceremony  
 \$30 Adults  
 \$25 Nature Center and  
 Chautauque Striders members

*Early Bird registration due by July 12  
 to get a t-shirt.*

**Special Information:** Race takes place  
 rain or shine.

Walk and run through Audubon's trails in one of the area's only 5K trail races! Race through fields and forests and across boardwalks as you speed toward the finish line. The money raised at this race benefits the trails and bridges on the property. Registration runs from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m. and the starting gun goes off at 9:00 a.m. The awards ceremony typically occurs at 10:30 a.m.

ACNC's trails have been used more by the public this year than usual, and staff and volunteers have worked hard to keep them dry and safe for walking and trail running.

Wild 5k is put together by a committee of volunteers and staff. If you would like to help, please contact the Nature Center at (716) 569-2345.





## Date TBD

### Summer Socially Distant Paint 'n' Sip (Adult)

Date TBD based on reopening  
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
\$40 Adults  
\$30 Nature Center members

Register to be on the call/email list for when this program can run.

The world is in its height of life! Join seasonal naturalist Emily Rechin for a **socially distant** Paint n' Sip Art Night as summer truly gets rolling! Each person will be seated at their own table situated 6 feet apart from other participants. All materials will already be at the table and any hors d'oeuvres or refreshments will be safely served to you at your table. Local white and red wines will be available to those 21 and up, with non-alcoholic drinks also available. Create your own masterpiece with step-by-step instruction from Emily at the Nature Center.

**Special Information:** Please wear clothes you do not mind getting paint on and bring a face covering as they will not be provided.

## Wednesday 1

### MAPS Bird Banding Demonstration (All)

Nature Center Pavilion at West Entrance

Also scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 25, and August 1

6:00 a.m. – noon

Free; donations encouraged

No reservations required.

If weather is inclement, the nets are not opened.

Join ornithologists on the west side of ACNC on select dates through the summer, weather permitting. Watch how they capture migrating and resident birds, fit them with ID bands, measure, weigh, and release them.

Bird banding is an established technique used to discover details about the behaviors of birds. You can stop by to learn from the ornithologists exactly how it is done and why.

**Special Information:** This program is open-house style. If the weather is inclement, the nets are not opened. No dogs.

## Saturday 11

### MAPS Bird Banding Demonstrations (All)

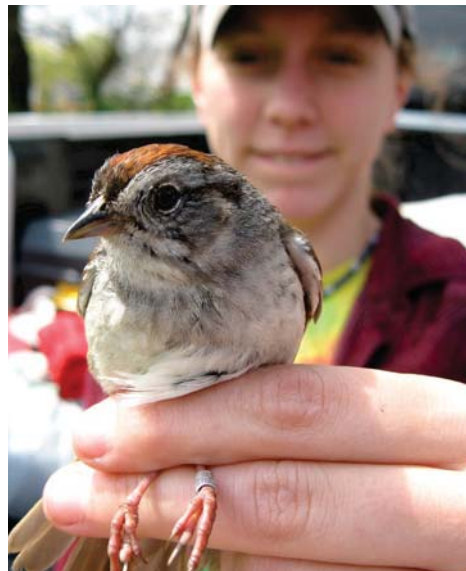
(All)

Nature Center Pavilion at West Entrance

Also scheduled for Saturday, July 25 and August 1

6:00 a.m. – noon

See Wednesday, July 1 for more details.



## Saturday 11 (continued)

### Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult) Butterflies

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Nature Center members

\$6 Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by July 9.

Butterflies float by in a rainbow of colors as they flutter on the breeze from flower to flower. However, they are more than just a pretty, fleeting sight on a sunny day. Join Audubon to learn more about their life cycles, habitats, importance in the food chain, and how they can help humans, along with some ways to help the butterflies in return.

This program is sponsored by Univera Healthcare.

**Special Information:** Visit [auduboncnc.org](http://auduboncnc.org) for more information on if this program will happen virtually or at the Nature Center.

## Saturday 25

### MAPS Bird Banding Demonstrations (All)

(All)

Nature Center Pavilion at West Entrance

Also scheduled for Saturday, August 1  
6:00 a.m. – noon

See Wednesday, July 1 for more details.

### Wild 5k (Adult+)

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. registration

9:00 a.m. race starts

\$30 Adults

\$25 Nature Center members

\$25 Chautauqua Striders members

See page 4 for more details.



## American Goldfinch

Katie Finch Senior Nature Educator

The American Goldfinch is a common visitor to backyard birdfeeders year-round. But when it comes to nesting, it is unusual. Most songbirds, having started the process of reproduction in early spring, are wrapping up the care for their young come mid-summer. But the goldfinch is just getting started with nesting and raising young.

Like so many happenings in the natural world, it is all about timing. These bright yellow and black birds time their nesting with the seed production of plants they use for both building material and food. After finding a suitable location in a shrub or small tree, the female first constructs a cup-shaped nest of small twigs, rootlets and other plant parts. She holds it all together with spider silk. Then she lines the cup with the soft fibers of seeds from plants such as milkweed and thistle.

Goldfinches also rely on the seeds of plants for food. They are almost exclusively seed eaters from plants including asters, sunflowers, grasses, and thistle. They also feed on the seed of trees such as alder, birch, and elm. Even the rapidly growing nestlings eat mostly regurgitated seeds.

To everything there is a season. Even if it seems a little later than usual.

Top Right: American Goldfinch on thistle. Photo by Mdf.

Middle Right: American Goldfinch nest. Photo by Jennifer Schlick.

Bottom: Male and female goldfinches caught at bird banding. Photo by Jennifer Schlick.



# Goldfinch Coloring Sheet



American Goldfinch nests are an open cup of rootlets and plant fibers lined with plant down, often woven so tightly that it can hold water. The female connects the foundation to supporting branches using spider silk, and makes a downy lining often using the fluffy “pappus” material taken from the same types of seed heads that goldfinches so commonly feed on.



## Saturday 8

**Little Explorers** (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)  
*Soil, Rocks, and Mud*

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Nature Center members

\$6 Children 3 – 8

*Paid reservations required by August 6.*

Learn about the ground under your feet? What is dirt made of, anyway? How did that rock get so smooth? Join Audubon to learn what different kinds of rocks and soil are made of, how they change over time and explore the soil, sand, rocks, and minerals you walk and climb on all the time.

*This program is sponsored by Univera Healthcare.*

**Special Information:** Visit [auduboncnc.org](http://auduboncnc.org) for more information on if this program will happen virtually or at the Nature Center.

### 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.

### Program Registration

- Online at [auduboncnc.org](http://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.



## Friday 28

**Monarchs and Margaritas** (Adult)

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

\$30 prepaid

\$35 at the door

*Paid reservations required by August 25.*

Enjoy margaritas, plentiful appetizers, and fun in celebration of summer and the amazing Monarch butterfly.

Take a closer look at the amazing lifecycle of one of nature's most charismatic insects. See all stages of the Monarch's life cycle, including an up-close experience in the butterfly room. It is stocked with Monarch butterflies and the hundreds of flowers arranged to feed them in this temporary home. Also enjoy Mexican-themed appetizers, extra activities, and margaritas to honor the Monarch's migration to Mexico.

Enjoy this adult-only sneak peek the night before the family-friendly Monarch Festival the following day. Participate in basket raffles that support ACNC and the Monarch conservation efforts at the nature center. Admission includes two drink tickets. Beer and non-alcoholic beverages available.

**Special Information:** For extra drinks and game activities, you may want to bring cash.

## Saturday 29

**Monarch Butterfly Festival** (All)

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Sensory Friendly

11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Open to All

6:00 p.m. Butterfly Release

\$8 Adults

\$6 Nature Center members

\$6 Children 9 – 16; free 2 and under

Discover the life and times of the Monarch Butterfly by walking into a room filled with free-flying butterflies, holding caterpillars, and watching citizen scientists tag butterflies before they travel to Mexico. Butterflies will be released at 6:00 p.m.

Audubon staff has been working with Warren-based HEROES to turn the first hour and a half of the festival into a sensory friendly event with a calming area, as well as quieter, less crowded space. This quieter time at the festival will be reserved for those on the autism spectrum or who have other special needs so that they can enjoy and learn from the butterflies.

The event will last into the evening, providing more time for people to visit and enjoy everything the festival has to offer. There will be crafts, nature walks, Monarch speakers, food, interpretive trails, and more throughout the day.

# What is Doubleknot?

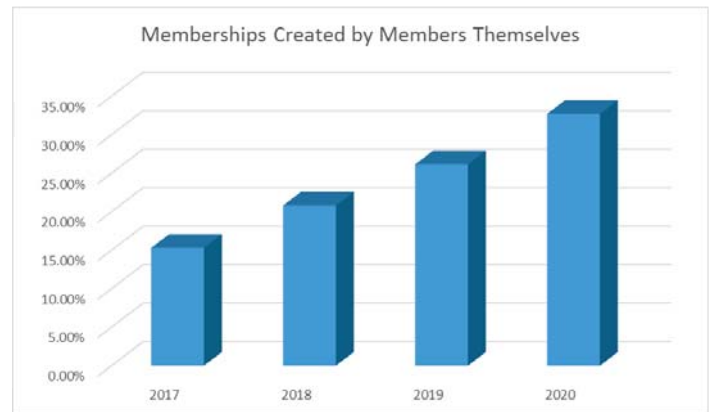
If you ever eavesdrop on staff and office volunteers at ACNC, you might hear them say things like, “Did you check Doubleknot?” and “Is his membership up-to-date in Doubleknot?” or you may have noticed that your email receipts come from Doubleknot. You may have wondered, what is Doubleknot, aka DK?

In November of 2016, ACNC took the plunge and migrated from a collection of in-house databases and spreadsheets to an integrated online system that manages memberships, donations, program registrations, and communications. The company ACNC chose as a partner in this migration is called Doubleknot. The Doubleknot system is extremely powerful; ACNC has yet to implement all the tools available and staff are still learning the intricacies of the tools currently in use.

Doubleknot has proved to be incredibly helpful for program registration, especially Day Camp and Enchanted Forest, both of which required large amounts of staff time in the past when registrations were made manually.

In the Membership area, Doubleknot allows members themselves to join and renew online. The percentage of members who join and renew online has been steadily rising. Around 15% of all memberships created in 2017 were created by the members themselves. So far in 2020, over 30% of memberships have been created by members. When members manage their own renewals, staff and volunteer time is freed up for other tasks, such as recruiting new members, making upgrades to the membership program, or teaching.

If you haven't yet tried renewing your membership online, you're encouraged to give it a whirl. If you run in to any trouble, just give Audubon a call at (716) 569-2345. And don't worry if you are technophobic; ACNC staff will always be willing to process your memberships for you in person, by phone, or by mail.



*The ease and organization of Day Camp registrations is one of the biggest benefits Doubleknot has offered to Audubon.*

## Membership Matters

The updated membership program went into effect on April 1. A few names were changed, and some pricing adjusted. In addition, benefits were clarified and new incentives were put in place at the Family Plus level and higher.

All membership levels include free building admission, program and gift shop discounts, and complimentary building admission passes for your non-member guests, as well as a vote at all ACNC business meetings.

Starting at the Family Plus (\$100) level, you also receive event passes, good at one of our signature events, such as the Monarch Butterfly Festival. When you join at even higher levels, you receive gift memberships that you can give to family and friends, and behind-the-scenes live animal encounters.

To see all the details, please visit the ACNC website at [auduboncnc.org/memberships](http://auduboncnc.org/memberships).

All members are eligible to receive the bimonthly newsletter by mail. Please notify us if your address changes. If you prefer to receive the newsletter strictly by email, send your request to [info@auduboncnc.org](mailto:info@auduboncnc.org).

Thank you for supporting ACNC with your membership.

## Welcome New Nature Center Members

Joined between November 1, 2019 and May 15, 2020

### Family Plus

Nicole Betts — Warren, PA

### Family

Kayla Anderson — Stockton, NY  
 Erika Beichner and Jeff Remington —  
 Sinclairville, NY  
 Jenny and Jason Beichner — Sinclairville, NY  
 Kate Bowley — Warren, PA  
 Casey and Cassie Brown — Jamestown, NY  
 Silvia Cable — Russell, PA  
 Cristine Capozzi — Olean, NY  
 Terry and Katie Card — Warren, PA  
 Linnea Carlson and Ben Haskin — Jamestown, NY  
 Carl and Cynthia Corbelli — Jamestown, NY  
 Ken Corey — Jamestown, NY  
 Gina Cusimano and Ben Probst — Frewsburg, NY  
 Sandra Emke — Kennedy, NY  
 Karlee Foti — Falconer, NY  
 Megan Frederickson — Falconer, NY  
 Dahlie Family — Chautauqua, NY  
 Sarah Garber — Conewango Valley, NY  
 Jason and Casey Gernatt — Jamestown, NY  
 Jean Gomory — Warren, PA  
 Carrie Gould — Ashville, NY  
 Ed Gray — Jamestown, NY  
 Joni and Andrew Hale — Falconer, NY  
 Courtney Hammond — Jamestown, NY  
 Kyle and Mary Hellman — Warren, PA  
 Jillianne Higgs — Jamestown, NY  
 Karl and Yvonne Holmgren — Lakewood, NY  
 Rachel Irish — Jamestown, NY  
 Chelsea Jandreau — Celoron, NY  
 Sue Jenkins — Jamestown, NY  
 Justina and Michael Johnson — Jamestown, NY  
 Lindsey Kaufman — Westfield, NY  
 Eric, Nicole, and Ivy Huntington — Russell, PA  
 Gregory and Allison Kolenda — Tiona, PA  
 Sarah Sherry — Warren, PA  
 Tom and Jessica Labart — Kennedy, NY  
 Kayla and Damion Wise — Warren, PA  
 Reid Martin — Warren, PA  
 Kelsey Martinez — Fredonia, NY

### Family (continued)

Lisa and Ben McLaughlin — Jamestown, NY  
 Lil and G Brown — Mayville, NY  
 Honor and Tom Miller — Edina, MN  
 Kathleen Muntz — Jamestown, NY  
 Meghan Murray — Jamestown, NY  
 Betsy and John Healy — Bemus Point, NY  
 Crystal Peterson — Jamestown, NY  
 Kelley Peterson — Warren, PA  
 Zach Phillips — Cataraugus, NY  
 Wendy Pitoniak — Jamestown, NY  
 Preston family — Dewittville, NY  
 Irys Gedz-Balaskas and Family — Jamestown, NY  
 Timothy and Gabby Carlson — Russell, PA  
 Shauna Erickson — Conewango Valley, NY  
 Bruce Robinson and Elizabeth Burgess —  
 Gerry, NY  
 Joy Russo — Sinclairville, NY  
 Marc Samworth — Frewsburg, NY  
 Katie Santelli — Fairport, NY  
 James and Bonnie Schnars — Jamestown, NY  
 James Schnors — Jamestown, NY  
 Beth Starks — Mayville, NY  
 Ryan Sullivan — Lakewood, OH  
 Bill and Anne Thomas — Lakewood, NY  
 James and Jill Vincent — Cherry Creek, NY  
 Bill Wadsworth and Daryl Wadsworth —  
 Randolph, NY  
 Beth Waite — Silver Creek, NY  
 Nicole Waite — Dunkirk, NY  
 Kari Wendel — Mayville, NY  
 Samantha Whippo — Frewsburg, NY  
 Jamie Yeskey — Frewsburg, NY

### Individual

Jodel Carlson — Frewsburg, NY  
 Ann Carpenter — Jamestown, NY  
 Amanda Dove — Frewsburg, NY  
 Matthea Ross — Frewsburg, NY  
 LeeAnn Russell — Sugar Grove, PA  
 Wendy Samuelson — Jamestown, NY  
 Heidi Schwab — Lakewood, NY  
 Caroline Zatyko — Chautauqua, NY

### Senior Family

Jack and Rosemary Angove — Russell, PA  
 Bruno and Marie Bruni — Westfield, NY  
 Jack Hemink and Dave Bull — Ashville, NY  
 Linda and Tony Conte — Buffalo, NY  
 Sue and Russel Cusimano — Jamestown, NY  
 Dianne French — Lakewood, NY  
 Sue and Mark Grohol — Westfield, NY  
 Dann Gulvin — Westfield, NY  
 Julie Heilman — Kennedy, NY  
 Christy Simons and Simon Pontin — Webster, NY  
 Steve and Susan Boyle — Asheville, NC  
 Rich Siegel — Johns Island, SC  
 Sarah and John Siwula — Jamestown, NY  
 Kate Spry — Cleveland Heights, OH  
 Nick and Sandi Stupiansky — Mayville, NY  
 Virginia and Scott Sweet — Jamestown, NY  
 Susan and Rick Turnquist — Ashville, NY  
 Regina and Lloyd Weatherbee — Ashville, NY

### Senior Individual

Joann Bardo — Milford, DE  
 Brian Beebe — Humble, TX  
 Donna Bloomquist — Jamestown, NY  
 Kathleen Caruso — Great Valley, NY  
 Loretta Lange — Conewango Valley, NY  
 Judie Robinson — Jamestown, NY  
 Snow Family — Lakewood, NY  
 Daniel Sorensen — Russell, PA  
 Barbara Wakzak — Warren, PA  
 ALice Kerper — Warren, PA  
 Mark Williams — Warren, PA

### Fulltime Student

Sarah Olow — Fredonia, NY

## Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus

This past spring gave us glimpses of warmer days, but those persistent cold snaps kept the number of mosquitoes to a minimum. However, as summer brings an end to the late-spring snow, the warmth brings back the mosquitoes. It's safe to say that almost no one enjoys being outside on a relaxing summer evening only to have it interrupted by a persistent buzz and a sudden bite. Mosquitoes are an important food source for many animals, but that doesn't mean you want to be a meal for them.



Mosquito (*Psorophora ferox*) photo by Katja Schulz

Besides the itchy aftermath, mosquito bites can have other unwanted side effects. Since they feed on blood, mosquitoes can easily transfer viruses and other blood-borne illnesses. In the United States, the most common of those mosquito-borne diseases is West Nile Virus. Mosquitoes that feed on birds infected with the virus carry it in their body. When they feed on humans, they can transfer that virus through their salivary glands.

Many people infected with West Nile Virus do not show symptoms, but in those that do, the symptoms have the potential to be damaging and severe. Currently, there is no vaccine, so prevention is the best method. Wear insect repellent if you are spending time outside during warm months. It is helpful to wear long sleeves and pants as well, especially in areas or times of day where the mosquitoes are numerous and seem relentless.

## Blue Heron Gift Shop Annual Inventory Sale

August 22 – September 20

**All merchandise\* 20% off**  
**Select items 40% off**

*\*Excludes birdseed, suet, and gift cards.  
Not to be combined with member discount.*

The Blue Heron Gift Shop focuses on items that strengthen the connection between people and nature. The shop carries field guides for plants, birds, and other wildlife of the area for adults and children. ACNC has many nature-themed picture books, and outdoor play and activity books. Other children's products include finger puppets, stuffed animals, and wildlife toys. Adults can find a wide selection of jewelry, Laura Wilder Audubon art items, local jam, and honey products. Gift Cards are also available.

ACNC has its own Conewango Blend birdseed in 40 pound, 20 pound, and 10 pound bag sizes.

**Please visit [auduboncnc.org/shop](http://auduboncnc.org/shop)  
for more information.**



A sample of just some of the items available in the Blue Heron Gift Shop at ACNC.

## Poison Ivy

Outdoor adventures are once again full of greenery, but some of that green is Poison Ivy. Poison Ivy has several basic features you can use in identification, but it can look a little different depending on where it's growing and time of year. It can be a groundcover or a vine climbing up a tree. Remembering this rhyme is a helpful starting point:

"Leaves of three, let them be. Vines with hair, beware."

Poison Ivy is not the only plant with clusters of three leaves, but that does narrow it down. The leaves have smooth edges, can be shiny and turn red towards the fall. Some of the leaves have a mitten shape. As vines, they have the same leaf structure, but the vine itself is hairy looking, as the rhyme says.



Poison Ivy photo by Zen Sutherland.

Since Poison Ivy is such a common plant, it can be hard to avoid. Touching Poison Ivy sometimes results in a red, itchy rash a few days after exposure. This is caused by urushiol, an oil in the plant.

Wearing long pants and closed-toed shoes can help keep the plant from touching skin but remember to wash your clothes when you get home. If you do come into direct contact with Poison Ivy, make sure not to touch other parts of your body, since the oil can spread. Rinse off as soon as you can with cool water and a soap meant to remove oils. Dish soap is an effective option to get the urushiol off your skin. Learning to identify Poison Ivy means a safer and less itchy hike, so put this one on your list of plants to know.

## 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 Book 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.

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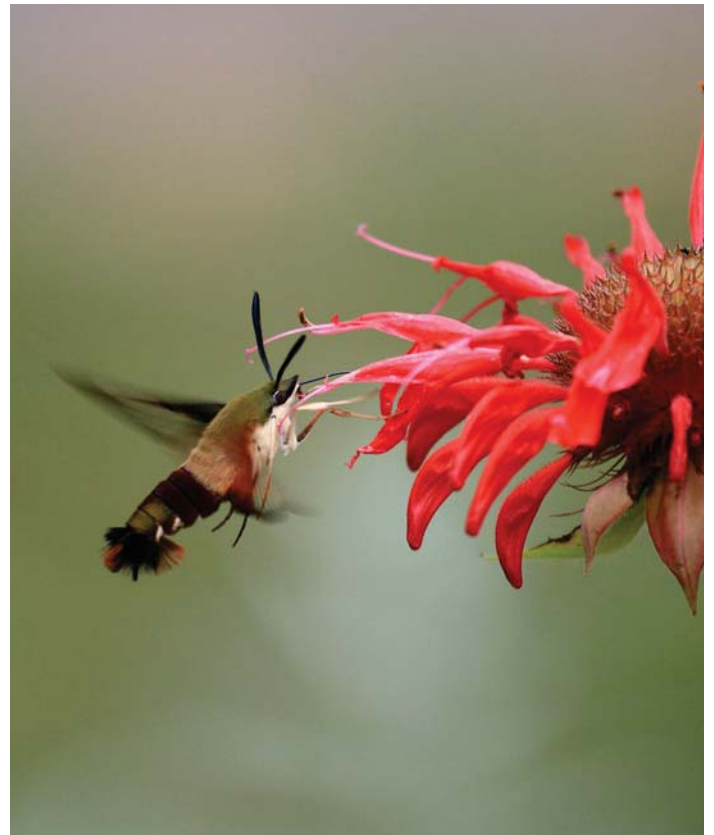
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## July/August ACNC Newsletter

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Hummingbird Moth. Photo by Dave Cooney.