



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

July – August, 2021
Volume 65, Issue 4

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



Mission

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

Vision

Audubon Community Nature Center envisions a future where every child within our community has a real and healthy connection to nature.



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
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auduboncnc.org

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

Kim Turner, Newsletter Editor
Cover: *Dragonfly Ready for Takeoff*.
Photo by Tiffany Decker

Nature Center Hours

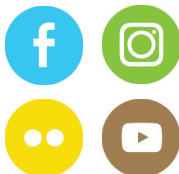
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Saturday
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Sunday

Trails are open from dawn to dusk.

Visit auduboncnc.org
by scanning this code.



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on these platforms:



Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Members and Friends of the Nature Center,

The arrival of July and August means that ACNC's day camps are back in session!

Summer Day Camps cover a variety of topics from 'Animal Architecture' to 'Forest Explorers' which are designed to engage children of all ages with the natural world.

Speaking for myself and my own family, Audubon camps have proved to be a fantastic outdoor educational experience for my kids. They have introduced them to the nature of Western New York, and their camp experience has provided much more than that. Audubon camp kids are tribal. They understand each other... they build relationships together; both with nature and with each other. Being new to the area and new to this environment, forming these connections was absolutely essential for our family. They are what have rooted us in our new home and provided us with stability through a very difficult year.

This 'Audubon tribe' of kids are our future. Because they are creating these connections now, they will take that experience with them into their own lives where they will continue to strengthen their connection to nature and community. They (as their parents have done before them) will bring others into the 'Audubon tribe' to ensure that real and healthy connections to nature provide others with a sense of belonging; a sense of home.

Your ACNC membership at the 'family level' or higher includes a discount on summer camps, and it also provides necessary financial support to keep the Nature Center open and accessible to all. 100% of your membership dollars go directly to supporting ACNC's staff, buildings, grounds, and programs.

Your memberships, donations, store purchases, and program participation keep the Nature Center going. They allow us to continue to build the 'Audubon tribe' as we welcome new members along the way.

Keep building those connections. Keep making time to marvel at the irrefutable magic and beauty of nature. Keep setting down those roots that provide the stability to get you through the tough times.

Thank you for being a part of the 'Audubon tribe'.
We are so very glad to have you.

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.

1961

“On July 14 Mr. Burgeson led a group from the Chautauqua Bird and Tree Club on a field trip to Allegany Park.”

1971

“THE BULLDOZERS HAVE ARRIVED! It has been a long wait but at last work is under way to make the necessary changes so the (Big) pond can be refilled.”

1981

“I am delighted that the Jamestown Audubon is thriving and that the... Sanctuary and... Nature Center are thriving too. I will try to keep you up-to-date from time to time on our activities.” – Roger Tory Peterson

1991

“... the construction of the addition to the... Building is progressing very well.”

2001

“We need to raise \$25,000 to match the (Sheldon Grant) challenge and fully fund the roof repairs... to re-roof the Nature Center that has had chronic leaks...”

2011

“The... 4th annual Art in the Woods art show guarantees to be a memorable event.”



Board Officers

<i>Board Chairman</i>	Andrew Harrington
<i>First Vice Chair</i>	Greg Lyle
<i>Second Vice Chair</i>	Dave Burlee
<i>Secretary</i>	Penny Lester
<i>Treasurer</i>	Robert Klebacha

Board of Directors

Louise Boutwell, Linnea Carlson, Willow Fodor, Elisabeth Hall, Tim Piotrowski, Tim Smeal, 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>	Ashley DeLaCruz
.....	Katerina Farrell
.....	Gwen Swanson
.....	Charlie Townswick
<i>Designer, Education Assistant</i>	Kim Turner
<i>Gift Shop Manager</i>	Joanne Miller
<i>Receptionist</i>	Claire Certo
<i>Building and Grounds</i>	Terry LeBaron
<i>Invasive Species Management Assistant</i>	Ray Carlson
.....	Courtney Jung

Volunteer Chairs

<i>Bird Seed Delivery</i>	Sherwood VanDewark
<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>	Sandy Fletcher
	Linda Trostle
<i>Allegany 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.

The Nature Center addition had begun to really take shape by July of 1991. Photo from ACNC’s Archives.

Volunteer Corner

ACNC depends on its volunteers. There are many ways you can help. Your time and talents are appreciated! For more information, please visit:

auduboncnc.org/volunteer

Ongoing opportunities

- **Buildings and Grounds:** Monday/Tuesday/Thursday mornings — year-round
- **Gardens:** Tuesday/Thursday mornings — seasonal
- **Mailings:** Thursday morning — as needed
- **Animal Care:** Weekdays — year-round
- **Programs, Fundraisers, and Events:** Year-round

Current Volunteer Needs

- **Skilled Trades:** electrical, carpentry, and mechanical
- **Animal Care:** habitat maintenance, feeding, and enrichment
- **Wild 5K:** Saturday, July 31, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.
- **Butterflies and Brews:** Friday, August 27, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **Monarch Butterfly Festival:** Saturday, August 28, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Please contact Tina Preston for more information at tpreston@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345 ext. 103.



ACNC offers volunteer jobs for a variety of skill levels and interests. Find your place at Audubon through the robust volunteer program.

Birdseed

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 at:

- Anderson's Produce, *Jamestown, NY*
- Ashville General Store, *Ashville, NY*
- Chautauqua Book Store, *Chautauqua, NY*
- Everyday's True Value, *Jamestown, NY*
- Howe's True Value, *Warren, PA*
- Lakewood Apothecary, *Lakewood, NY*
- Lighthouse Point Grocery, *Mayville, NY*
- Oneida Lumber, Ace Hardware, *Warren, PA*
- Wegmans, *Jamestown, NY*



New Item in the Blue Heron Gift Shop

Nature Discovery Kit: Pond

This kit includes tools, guides, and other fun items to encourage young naturalists to explore outside and learn about pond life.

Look for upcoming Nature Discovery Kits in a variety of themes including: Survival, Meadow, and Woodland.

Programs and Events

July

Nature Walk (Adult+)

Saturday, July 3

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Free, Donations encouraged

Reservations requested by July 1.

Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Scutes and Scales

Saturday, July 10

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by July 8.

Creature Feature (All)

Liberty, Bald Eagles

Wednesday, July 28

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and Children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

Reservations required by July 26.

Wild 5k Run/Walk (Adult+)

Saturday, July 31

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. registration

9:00 a.m. Race

11:00 a.m. Awards

\$30 Adults

\$25 Nature Center or Striders members

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Deadline to register and get a t-shirt: July 19.



August

Nature Walk (Adult+)

Saturday, August 7

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Free, Donations encouraged

Reservations requested by August 5.

Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Plants and People

Saturday, August 14

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by August 12.

Creature Feature (All)

Caterpillars

Wednesday, August 25

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and \$6 Children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

Reservations required by August 23.

Butterflies and Brews (Adult 21+)

Friday, August 27

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$30 Presale (*through August 23*)

\$35 At the door

Monarch Butterfly Festival (All)

Saturday, August 28

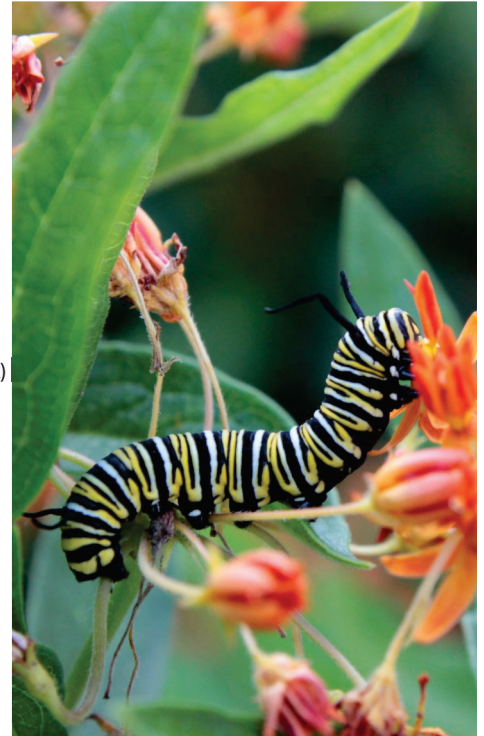
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and Children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

No reservations required.



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.

Registrations required for most programs. Programs may be cancelled if there are not enough registered. Register early to ensure the class fills. Some programs have limited enrollment.

Please Note:

For the most accurate information about ACNC programs and events, please visit auduboncnc.org or call **(716) 569-2345**.

Face coverings are required for all participants ages 3 and up for indoor programs; they are also required for outdoor programs during which participants cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between family groups.

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

Nature Notes — Hell-bent on Hellbenders

Jeff Tome

Eastern Hellbenders are the largest salamander in North America. They inhabit the larger rivers and creeks in the area and prefer to live under large, flat rocks. Hellbenders grow up to 29 inches long, but most are a foot or so long.

Hellbenders walk around in their underwater habitat more than they swim. They poke around and look for small animals to eat, mostly crayfish. Hellbenders are a species of special concern in New York State and the State amphibian in Pennsylvania.

They are also known as snot otters, Allegheny Alligators, Lasagna Lizards, and Devil Dogs.



Meet Oneka and Tweeg

Audubon’s newest Animal Ambassadors

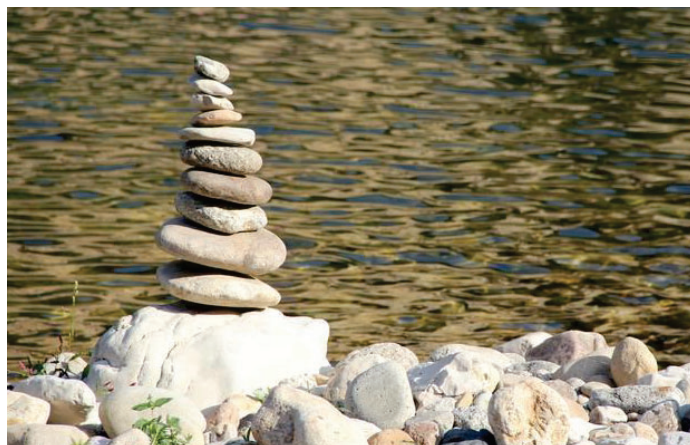
These two Eastern Hellbenders arrived at Audubon in May and have been settling in nicely. They were part of a hellbender head-start program through New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The goal of the program is to increase the declining wild populations of hellbenders. To do this, hellbender eggs were harvested from the wild and raised at the Buffalo and Bronx Zoos and the Seneca Nation of Indians Fish and Wildlife Department. Raised in captivity, these salamanders grow large enough to avoid most predators when reintroduced into rivers and streams. Hundreds of hellbenders have been released into the wild through this conservation program.

Born in 2009, Oneka and Tweeg became part of the Buffalo Zoo’s education program to raise awareness of these mysterious creatures. Most recently, they were housed at Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New York.

Oneka is the Seneca word for water.

Tweeg is the Seneca word for hellbender.

Stop by the Nature Center to visit and learn more about North America’s largest salamander.



Top Right: Hellbenders prefer the cooler water of fast moving streams.

Bottom Right: Oneka and Tweeg. Photo by Twan Leenders.

Left: Although stacking rocks can be meditative, this activity unintentionally harms Hellbenders. Stacking rocks from a river bed removes vital habitat and coverage for Hellbenders and other animals that they rely on as their food source.

Wild 5K

Saturday, July 31
8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

\$30 Adults
 \$25 Nature Center Members/Striders Members

*Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.
 Deadline to register and get a t-shirt: July 19.*

Run or walk Audubon's trails during Audubon's Wild 5k on July 31. This 5K roams through field and forest and across boardwalks along the trail system. This race supports Audubon and the money raised goes towards maintaining the trails.

Visit auduboncnc.org/wild5k for more info.



Butterflies and Brews

Friday, August 27
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$30 Pre-paid
 \$35 At the door

The Nature Center will be set up with food and drink for this 21-and-over night with butterflies as a preview to the Monarch Butterfly Festival. There will be mini educational sessions, butterfly tagging, examples of all stages of the life cycle, and more.



Monarch Butterfly Festival

Saturday, August 28
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

\$8 Adults
 \$6 Members and Children 3 – 15
 Free 2 and under

Explore a room filled with wildflowers and Monarchs as you learn more about the life and times of the Monarch on August 28. There will be Monarch story time, butterfly tagging demonstrations, live caterpillars, butterfly nets to borrow, nature walks, butterfly programs, a food truck and more. The butterfly release will happen at 6:00 p.m. at the end of the festival.

Visit auduboncnc.org/monarchfest for more info.



Welcome, Nature Center Members

Recorded between November 2, 2020 and April 30, 2021

Senior Individual \$35

Katherine Baker Bowley
Mary and Hal Conarro
Donna Di Maio
Sharyn Giardina
Audrey J Goulding
Sherwood Johnson
Lucille Jordan
Daryl Kidder
Tedd Laird
Darlene Lander
Beth Patri
Cinnamon Weaver
Robert Wunder

Individual \$50

Bonny Cowen
Gary Culbertson
Sarah Goebel
Sandra Hatfield
John Linza
Stephanie Morrill
Jill Singer
Dennis Thomas
Kylie Westover
Brittany Wilcox
Deb Yoakum

Senior Family \$45

Katherine Baker
Anne Beck
Dave Bernhardt
Karen Corrigan
Audrey and Donald Dowling
Dan and Joan Hicks
Barry and Marilyn Hurley
John and Sylvia Johnson
Marlene Joy
Mark Mason
Fred Murphy
Nanci Okerlund
Terrie Tucker
Andy and Carol Yurick

Family \$60

Matt and Ashley Abbey
Catherine Alexander
Bobbie Jo Anderson
Liza and Nick Babcock
Michael Blake
Bobbie Jo Carlson
Rose Clarke



One of the perks of ACNC memberships is a discount on facility rentals, including use of the Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion.

Elizabeth Daniels
Malia and Frank Davis
Laurie Desantis
Renee Domenico and Michael Unger
Elizabeth Dropp
Angela Eastman
Joanna Elletson
TJ Frankson
Candi George
Donovan Gray
Stephanie Johnson Haight
Scottie Holtsclaw
Melissa Jones
Cari Kinney
The Laurin Family
Sara Litzau
Dana Lundberg
Rachel and Matthew Mancuso
Carol Mayo
Jessica McElhane
Donelle Melville
Brooke and Garrett Moller
Ashley Myers
Andrea Nichols
Jeffrey and Jill Nordin
Nancy and Tim O'Brien
Erin M. Pangborn
Hannah Pangborn
Heidi Pillittieri
Elise Potter
Robert Raines
Melissa Rechner
Alicia Reiff
Jessica Rex

Jenny Rohlin
April Rotunda
Matt and Ashley Roush
Courtney Sampson
The Selden Family
Christina and Leon Slojkowski
Emily Storms
Norman Swan
Emily Thomas
Todd Thomas
Valerie Thomas
Megan Trask
Kristee Trisler
Brock Wadsworth
Steven and Cheryl Wascher
Kari Wendel

Family Plus \$100

Christa Jo (CJ) Abood
Thomas Baer
Alison and Len Barry
Rochelle Colburn
Matthew and Desiree Emmerling
Tammie Fisher
Sue Genco
Rohit Gosain and Family
George and Jennifer Harper
Brooke Kelly
Jessie Rink
Piper VanOrd

Supporting \$250

Paul Robbins

Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat — Update

Kim Turner

Thank you to those who have supported the Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat (PAWWH) so far: the initial donor who is the root support for the project, those who pledged to Birdathon, everyone who gave to Audubon through Give Big CHQ, our generous funders, and anyone that has given a little extra during checkout online or at the reception desk. Your generosity has been vital, and will continue to be, for this project to succeed.

The construction is complete! Thank you C&R Construction, Jamestown Plumbing and Heating, and Trinity Electric for all of your hard work and professionalism. It has been such a thrill to see the daily progress on the building and aviaries. Liberty is now back on display, and welcoming visitors.

Thank you for your patience as there is still much to do before we can welcome new birds of prey to the Nature Center. Some of the next steps that are in the works include:

- Redirecting the trail around the habitats and start landscaping to help beautify the space.
- Furnishing the interior of the PAWWH with all of the essential care supplies and education tools.
- Continuing with staff training to gain the necessary hours and knowledge to obtain the proper permits for the birds.
- Beginning to design aviaries and educational interpretation.



The Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat is up! Now on to the next steps.

Blue Heron Legacy Society

Audubon Community Nature Center strives to ensure that every child from the local community has a real and healthy connection to nature. You can be a part of this vision, make it stronger, and leave a lasting legacy for the future.

Audubon's vision becomes stronger through long-term commitments made by Nature Center members, donors, and friends; those who wish their legacies to be a part of a thriving, educational, nature-based organization. Commitments can include giving gifts of stocks, donations made from donor advised funds, bequests, and IRA charitable giving.

*What will **your** legacy be?
How will you leave **your** mark on the world?*

Please contact Leigh Rovegno for more information on becoming part of the Blue Heron Legacy Society at lrovegno@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345.



Community Partners

Thank you for your dedicated support.

Curt and Susie Westrom

Carnahan-Jackson Foundation
Chautauqua Region
Community Foundation
Holmberg Foundation
Hultquist Foundation
Lenna Foundation
Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation

Bush Industries, Inc.
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
Jan Simons Boyle
The Scott Electric Foundation
Univera Healthcare
Whirley-DrinkWorks!

Please contact Leigh Rovegno for more information on becoming a Community Partner at lrovegno@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345.



Audubon Community Nature Center

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Jamestown, NY
14701
Permit No. 687

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

Electronic service requested

July/August ACNC Newsletter

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Turtlehead. Photo by Jennifer Schlick.