



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

September – October, 2021
Volume 65, Issue 5

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.

Kim Turner, *Newsletter Editor*
Cover: *American Goldfinch* by Jeff Tome.

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

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.

Building Admission

\$6 Adults • \$2 Children • \$15 Max per family
*Free admission for Nature Center Members.
Free admission for non-members on Sundays.*

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by scanning this code.



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Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Members and Friends of the Nature Center,

The Nature Center's year is coming to a close. Well, its fiscal year is coming to a close at least! Each September we take time to look back at the successes and challenges of the year which inform the future of the Nature Center. We hope that you'll join us at this year's Annual Meeting and New Year's Eve Party on Monday, September 27 when we will review the year and welcome incoming board members.

Speaking of incoming board members, **have you voted yet?** We've recently moved away from mailing the ballot to save on paper and expenses, but your vote still counts! Voting to elect incoming board members is just one of the many ways to be an active member of Audubon Community Nature Center.

This year's ballot includes two individuals from Warren County: Antoinetta (Netta) Lindell and Laurie Korb. Netta is a lifelong resident of Warren County, and is also the owner of Ekey's Florist and Greenhouse. Netta also manages Lindell's Hatch Patch. She is clearly already invested in the Warren community, and she will be a fantastic addition to the ACNC board of directors. Laurie Korb is a former medical professional and she has a long history of getting 'down and dirty' in nature. She grew up spending summers on Puget Sound where she made many of her own natural discoveries.

To register for this year's Annual Meeting/New Year's Eve Party, learn more about this year's board of director candidates, and to submit your vote go to auduboncnc.org/vote.

Soon after the Annual Meeting we will also be hosting a Sunday afternoon event for Audubon's Blue Heron Legacy Society Members. This event will include an up-close look at the newly constructed Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat, and the inside scoop on what (and who) is coming soon to Audubon.

Blue Heron Legacy Society Members are those who have made a commitment to provide lasting financial support to Audubon by including them as a beneficiary in their will, charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, life insurance policy, or retirement account.

Are you ready to make a lasting commitment to providing real and healthy connections to nature for every child within the local community? Then join us on October 17 to learn more.

I look forward to seeing you soon at one of these events, or out enjoying the trails!

Sincerely,

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 September – October newsletters.

1961

“Summary of activity of Buffalo Street Roost: martins – 75,000 starlings – 75,000, redwings – 7,500, cowbirds - 3,500, grackles – 3,500 – Clarence Beal (Editors Note: The Roost was an Audubon property off Buffalo Street that was host to thousands of migrating Purple Martins through the 1960s. It was later abandoned by the birds and eventually sold.)”

1971

“August 14... is one to remember as the day the gates were closed at the large dike so the pond will start to fill. When full, it will cover 42 acres.”

1981

“As the wildlife film lecture enters its 24th year, we fully realize how important your past attendance and support have been.”

1991

“Forty-one enthusiastic children participated in the 1991 Audubon Adventures in Nature Day Camp...”

2001

“...Audubon Summer Campers will lead a tour of the enclosed habitat for the long anticipated Bald Eagle.”

2011

“Thomas Mooney... undertook a mission to record GPS and photo plot locations for... Garlic Mustard.” (He still works on Garlic Mustard removal!)

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>Designer, Education Assistant</i>	Kim Turner
<i>Gift Shop Manager</i>	Joanne Miller
<i>Receptionist</i>	Claire Certo
<i>Building and Grounds Manager</i>	Terry LeBaron

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>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.

2001 Eagle Enclosure Dedication with volunteers who built the enclosure: Ivan Wood, Larry Brown, Dixon Stevens, Hugh Wood, Don Magai, Bob Woodard, and Don Carlson. 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

How do I sign up to volunteer?

Its easy! Just complete Audubon's online application or contact Tina Preston, Volunteer Coordinator, see contact information below.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- **New Year's Eve Party/Annual Meeting, September 27, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.:** Set-up, greeters, servers, clean-up.
- **Enchanted Forest, October 1 and 2, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.:** Set-up, actors, greeters, trail guides, crafts, refreshments, clean-up, and more.
- **Birdseed Pick-up, October 16, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.:** Customer check in, loading vehicles; Great opportunity for teen volunteers.
- **Blue Heron Society Gathering, October 17, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.:** Set-up, greeters, tour guides, servers, clean-up.
- **Trick-or-Treat on the Trail, October 30, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.:** Set-up, greeters, actors, games, refreshments, clean-up, and more. Families and teens are welcome to help.

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



Volunteering at an Audubon event is always a fun experience. All of the animal actors that help at Enchanted Forest, including Kellie Merchant shown here, volunteer their time to make the event a success.

Birdseed Sale

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.

Order online at auduboncnc.org/shop, call the gift shop at (716) 569-2345, or use the yellow birdseed flier insert and return it by mail with a check payable to ACNC. Nature Center Members receive 30% off of retail prices when they purchase seed through this sale.

Orders are due by Friday, October 1, 2021.

Pick up your birdseed order at the Nature Center on Saturday, October 16 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Volunteers will help load your order into your car.



Who is that behind the reception desk?

Left: Joanne Miller
Right: Claire Certo

Claire Certo joined the Audubon family as a Receptionist earlier this year, and she has brought with her a great deal of experience from her previous work at both the Reg Lenna and the Prendergast Library. She happily greets visitors with a smile (even from behind her mask), and she has an infectious laugh! Audubon is fortunate to have such a charismatic and creative new addition to the staff. Please join in officially welcoming Claire to the Audubon family!

Programs and Events

September

First Friday (Adult+)

Summers with the Loomis Creek Ospreys

Friday, September 3

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Nature Walk (Adult+)

Saturday, September 4

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Free, Donations encouraged

Reservations requested by September 2.

Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Seeds, Nuts, and Berries

Saturday, September 11

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by September 9.

Audubon's New Year's Eve Party

(Adult ACNC Members)

Celebration and Annual Business Meeting

Monday, September 27

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Free for all participants.

Reservations required by Monday, September 20.

Creature Feature (All)

Red-eared Slider

Wednesday, September 29

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

Reservations required by September 27.

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.

October

First Friday (Adult+)

To be announced

Friday, October 1

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Enchanted Forest (All)

Friday and Saturday, October 1 and 2

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.*

\$12 Adults

\$9 Nature Center Members

\$6 Children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

Paid reservations required.

Nature Walk (Adult+)

Saturday, October 2

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Free, Donations encouraged

Reservations requested by October 1.

Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

What's in a Tree?

Saturday, October 9

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by October 7.

October Camp (Children 4 – 12)

Monday, October 11

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$40 Children 4 – 12

\$30 Member children

\$5 Sibling discount

Paid reservations required by

Friday, October 8, by noon.

Blue Heron Legacy Society

Get-together (Adults)

Sunday, October 17

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Free for all current and potential

Blue Heron Legacy Society Members

Reservations are requested by October 10.

Trick-or-Treat on the Trail (All)

Saturday, October 30

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\$6 Children 15 and under

Reservations requested by October 28.



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.

Nature Notes — Fall Leaves

Chelsea Jandreau, *Nature Educator*

Every autumn, the leaves fall from the deciduous trees in preparation for winter, but before this happens, many of those trees put on a colorful show of reds, oranges, and yellows. These colors come from pigments produced inside the leaves.

During the spring and summer, the leaves act as a food-making factory for the trees. This process could not occur without a chemical called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is the pigment that both gives leaves their green color and allows them to take in and use sunlight as an energy source to create the food for the entire plant.

When day length starts to decrease in the autumn, the leaves no longer have enough sunlight to continue producing chlorophyll. Without chlorophyll to make the leaves appear green, other pigments will be able to shine through. Two main types of carotenoids, carotenes and xanthophylls, contribute to the ranges of oranges and yellow. Chemical changes can also produce other anthocyanin, which show up as reds, pinks, and purples. The fall foliage also depends on weather and temperature, which is why the timing and exact color of leaves varies and provides a unique show every year.



Autumn leaves. Photo by Terry LeBaron.

Color the Fallen Leaves



From left to right: *Northern Red Oak, Tulip Poplar, Sugar Maple.*

Enchanted Forest

**Friday and Saturday,
October 1 and 2
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.***

\$12 Adults
\$9 Nature Center Members
\$6 Children 3 – 15
Free for children 2 and under

**Reservations for this guided walk are required. Walks go out every 10 minutes. Each walk lasts about 40 minutes.*

On this enchanted evening, animals have the ability to speak human language and communicate with visitors. Follow the luminary-lit enchanted trail to meet them. Enjoy refreshments, crafts, and Nature Center exhibits after the walk.

For more info and to register, please visit: auduboncnc.org/enchantedforest



Trick-or-Treat on the Trail

**Saturday, October, 30
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

\$6 Children 15 and under
Free for adults

Reservations requested by Thursday, October 28.

Dress up in your Halloween costume and hit the trails at Audubon to see what animals and other magical woodland creatures are hanging out for Halloween. Follow along the self-guided, outdoor trail and stop at the candy-light, activity-heavy trick or treating stations. Reservations are helpful to ensure that enough materials are available for participants.



Notice:

The Nature Center building will be closed on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 for an off-site staff retreat. The Bald Eagle, Nature Play Area, and trails will be open from dawn to dusk.

Thank You, Nature Center Volunteers

165 volunteers, including 28 registered with the RSVP program, logged 4,018 hours from January 1 through June 30. These dedicated individuals give freely of their time and talents to make ACNC thrive.

Denny Anderson
 Todd Anderson
 Thom Armella
 Mallory Atwater
 Matt Baran
 Joann Bardo
 John Barone
 Janice Barrelle
 Ashley Bean
 Heidi Bird
 Dennis Bottomley
 Louise Boutwell
 Reg Boutwell
 Bonnie Bowen
 Pat Bringer
 Dave Brinker
 Brenda Brook
 Alan Brown
 Lawrence Brown
 Sydney Brown
 Christopher Buck
 David Bull
 Leah Bullock
 Madison Burgess
 David Burlee
 Linnea Carlson
 Raymond Carlson
 Carey Casillo-Young
 Rose Clarke
 Janette Coleson
 Barb Conklin
 Arlene Connelly
 J. Alex Connor
 Jane Conroe
 Elaine Conti
 Jarren Cotter
 Elaine Crossley
 Jeff Davis
 Ben DeFord
 Don Dove
 Nilla Ecklof
 Connor Ellison
 Patricia Fincher
 Sandy Fletcher
 Willow Fodor
 Janet Forbes
 Karen Frederes
 Dean Frentz
 Elaine Frentz
 Sydney Golden
 Brook Gollab
 Colleen Gollab
 Randy Gollab

Kaelyn Gruver
 Alan Gustafson
 Katie Gustafson
 Mary Hackford
 Terry Hallock
 Andrew Harrington
 Austin Hartenstine
 Zoe Haskins
 Susan Hedberg
 Gerald Hildom
 Jutta Holden
 Cali Housler
 Brad Huelsman
 Adam Hughes
 John Hyde
 Karen Inwood
 Justina Johnson
 Michael Johnson
 Ronald Johnson
 Valerie Johnson
 Kelly Joslyn
 Courtney Jung
 Kyle Keller
 Robert Klebacha
 Tedd Laird
 Margaret Lane
 Janet Laurin
 Nancy LeBaron
 Terry LeBaron
 Leos
 Penny Lester
 Mallory Lohnes
 Judy Long
 Ruth Lundin
 Greg Lyle
 Julianna Main
 Lucy Mason
 Mark Mason
 Mary Beth Mazzone
 Deborah McAndrews
 Elizabeth McIntyre
 Priscilla McKean
 Gregory McNallie
 John Merchant
 Kelli Merchant
 Eddie Meyer
 Andrew Meyers
 Joanne Miller
 Joseph Miller
 Larry Miller
 Deborah Mooney
 Thomas Mooney
 Marlene Mudge



This summer, Audubon welcomed a crew of energetic teen volunteers to help at the Nature Center.

The Naumoff Family
 Emily Nelson
 Julie Nelson
 Shania Nuse
 Joseph O'Hara
 Jarod Oliver
 Sally Patchen
 Kaleigh Paul
 Braelyn Peterson
 Jennifer Pierce
 Deborah Piotrowski
 Tim Piotrowski
 Flannery Plum
 Lauren Prynny
 Freda Pyles
 Johannah Robb
 Blanche Robbins
 Pamela Robbins
 Cadence Rodgers
 Cordelia Rodgers
 Rachel Roushey
 Charlie Rovegno
 Rick Rupprecht
 LeeAnn Russell
 Carol Samuelson
 Jennifer Schlick
 Olivia Sechriest
 Colin Shaffer
 Don Sharp
 Richard Siegel
 Jill Singer

Jerrett Smith
 Patricia Smith
 Becky Spear
 Kay Stahlman
 Devin Straley
 Barb Suckow
 Austin Swanson
 Paul Swanson
 Merle Szydlo
 Tom Szydlo
 Emily Thomas Perlock
 Grace Tillotson
 Maia Tome
 Linda Trostle
 Piper VanOrd
 Kenji Walters
 Dominic Weber
 Don Weber
 Joyce Weber
 Mary Jane Whaley
 Nancy White
 Alaina Whittington
 Brittany Wilcox
 Catherine Willard
 Ro Woodard
 Edward Yager
 Sue Yauchzy
 Addie Zahn

Wood Turtle Habitat Upgrade

Kim Turner, *Animal Care Specialist*

Volunteers are a vital part of the work that happens at Audubon. We would not be able to have the team of education animals without the help of volunteers. Beyond daily care for the critters, volunteers also help to improve the Animal Ambassadors' quality of life.

Last fall we started the project of designing and constructing a new habitat for Ebenezer, the Wood Turtle. From the start, this project was very intimidating, but thanks to the help of two experienced and knowledgeable volunteers the project is now a reality. Twan Leenders lent an experienced hand to put together the glass aquarium and Colin Shaffer put his woodworking skills to the test to build the base and upper section of the habitat. Through lots of troubleshooting and learning as we went, I am happy to say the habitat is now ready for Ebenezer to enjoy!

Come on down to the Nature Center to see Eb in his new habitat in the Discovery Room. While you're here, say "hi" to the rest of the live animals and learn a little bit about animals you might find around Audubon's trails, or even in your own neighborhood.

If you would like to support the live animals, please consider becoming an Animal Advocate. Stop by the reception desk, or visit auduboncnc.org/animaladvocates.



Ebenezer, the Wood Turtle, was overdue for a larger habitat space to call home. Audubon is grateful for the support and helpful hands that made this project a reality.

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

Jessie Smith Darrah Fund

Lenna Foundation

Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation

Bush Industries, Inc.

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

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

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

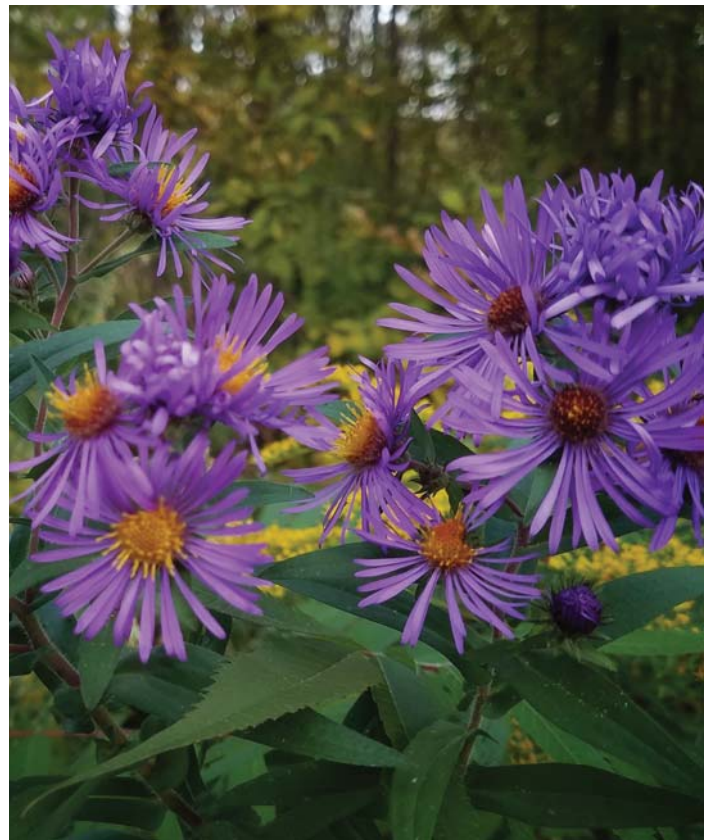
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September/October ACNC Newsletter

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Asters. Photo by Jennifer Schlick.