



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

January – February, 2022
Volume 66, Issue 1

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: *Lichen in Winter*, photo by Jeff Tome.

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info@auduboncnc.org
auduboncnc.org

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 SNAP/EBT cardholders.
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,
Happy New Year!

I have been fortunate enough to lead this incredible organization for the past three and a half years. During that time, we have been through many ‘highs’ and also some ‘lows.’ However, one thing has remained the same — the commitment to the ACNC mission, and the commitment to the ACNC vision.

Each day I am reminded of how precious this place is and how deep the sense of ‘belonging’ is to those who spend time here out on the trails and in the nature center as staff, as members, as volunteers, and as visitors.

ACNC’s vision is to create real and healthy connections to nature for **all** children within the local community. We believe that this is possible and we hope that you, our members, will help us to make our vision a reality.

Over the past year, ACNC staff and board members have made a series of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) commitments which will influence every aspect of the organization moving forward. These commitments include dedicating time, energy, and intention towards making ACNC a place that is welcoming and accessible to all people.

Initial steps that ACNC has taken in this process include the introduction of free building admission for all SNAP/EBT cardholders as well as scheduling staff training related to gender identity provided by Prevention Works, a Chautauqua County based non-profit organization.

These are small but important steps! We recognize that we have a long way to go. In order to fulfill these commitments, we need your help! We welcome you to join the conversation. Read through the list of commitments found on the ACNC website at auduboncnc.org/jedi and let us know what you think. We hope that you will join us in upholding these commitments, and that you will also agree to hold us accountable.

Thank you for believing in us, and thank you for expressing your support by being an ACNC member. Together we can accomplish great things!

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

Sincerely,

Leigh J. Rovegno



ACNC Through the Years

Audubon Community Nature Center started in 1957 and has been active in the community ever since. Check out some of the things that have happened from past January – February newsletters.

1962

“Bill Mealy, home for the holidays, reports seeing in Allegany Park, Red and White Wing Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, Ruffed Grouse, and Purple Finch.”

1972

“Jamestown... was privileged last week to honor Roger Tory Peterson. His stay... was marked by an exciting five-day program which included a testimonial dinner, meetings with the public, a display of his paintings... and the showing of his Wild Africa Today.”

1982

“Feb. 13. No scheduled nature program today for children due to the special event “The First Annual JAS Winter Nature Festival.”

1992

“We are now within a couple of weeks of opening the new addition to our nature building.”

2002

“If you visit Big Pond, you cannot miss the corpulent carp rolling in the shallows.”

2012

“OWLS complete Red Pine Bridge. The new bridge leads from Redwing Trail to the Red Pine Plantation near Spatterdock Pond.”



Board Officers

<i>Board Chairperson</i>	Brittany Wilcox
<i>First Vice Chair</i>	Andrew Harrington
<i>Second Vice Chair</i>	Linnea Carlson
<i>Secretary</i>	Willow Fodor
<i>Treasurer</i>	Greg Lyle

Board of Directors

Louise Boutwell, Dave Burlee, Elisabeth Hall, Laurie Korb, Netta Lindell, Tim Piotrowski, Piper Van Ord

Nature Center Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	Leigh Rovegno
<i>Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator</i> ...	Tina Preston
<i>Public Engagement Specialist</i>	Jeff Tome
<i>Education Coordinator</i>	Sarah Hatfield
<i>Senior Nature Educator, Exhibits Manager</i>	Katie Finch
<i>Nature Educator</i>	Chelsea Jandreau
<i>Nature Educator</i>	Emma Roth
<i>Designer, Animal Care Specialist</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 Pickup</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 Bringer
<i>Roadside Cleanup</i>	Denny Anderson
<i>Wild 5K</i>	Jeff Rupp

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

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

If you would like to stop receiving a paper copy of the ACNC newsletter, please email Tina Preston at tpreston@auduboncnc.org.

The original Red Pine Bridge that was replaced in 2011.
Photo from ACNC’s Archives.

Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are always welcome.

Current winter opportunities:

- Buildings and Grounds (Mon., Tues., Thurs. a.m.)
- Mailing Committee (Thurs. a.m. when needed)
- Events and Fundraisers (times vary)

Upcoming Volunteer opportunities:

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser: January 22, 3:00 – 6:30 p.m.; meal assembly, outside greeting, curbside delivery, clean-up.

Snowflake Festival: February 5, 9:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; set-up, greeters, crafts, refreshments, fire tender, nest box builders, clean-up.

Upcoming Volunteer Event:

VounTeen Exclusive Escape Room: February 12, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration is limited.

For more information, visit auduboncnc.org/volunteer.

To receive the **monthly volunteer email**, or for additional information, please contact Tina Preston tpreston@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345 ext. 103.

VolunTeens at Audubon

Since the spring of 2021, a group of teens has been volunteering in many capacities at Audubon. You might have seen them working in the gardens, setting up for events, or helping in the office. These dedicated teens have become a vital part of ACNC's volunteer family and have helped to form the foundation for a new volunteer initiative, Audubon VolunTeens.



VolunTeens Julianna and Sydney enjoy volunteering at the Dragons and Fairies Festival.

Audubon VolunTeens is an inclusive group of dedicated teens that provides assistance to ACNC year round. Open to teens ages 13 – 18, VolunTeens gain life experience while building new relationships and learning the importance of giving back to their community. New members are welcome.

For more information about the program visit auduboncnc.org/volunteer or contact Tina Preston.

Blue Heron Gift Shop

Great Discounts on Birdseed

Buy birdseed at Audubon's mid-winter birdseed sale to save 20 – 30% on the price of birdseed and suet.



The most popular seeds and mixes are available so you can stock up for the rest of winter and into spring. Conewango Blend, a seed mix unique to ACNC, was developed to attract favorite and common species of the region such as chickadees, cardinals, and titmice. There are also suet cakes and a mix to attract finches.

Order online at auduboncnc.org/shop or by phone at (716) 569-2345 by Friday, January 28.

Pick up your order on February 12. Volunteers will load your birdseed into your car. You also receive a 10% discount on most merchandise, including a variety of bird feeders and nest boxes, in the Blue Heron Gift Shop on that day.



Winter Discovery Kits Now Available

What does a snowflake look like up close? What animal walked through the yard? Children are keen observers and full of questions. Audubon's Winter Discovery Kit provides tools and activities that you can use with your child to explore winter in brand new ways.

A Survival Discovery Kit is also available through the winter. Stop in at the Blue Heron Gift Shop to see these and other great purchases for families.

Programs and Events

January

First Friday (Adult+)

First Peoples and the Natural World

Friday, January 7

11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Non-members

\$6 Nature Center Members

Reservations requested by January 6.

Walk-ins welcome if room.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Oh, Deer

Saturday, January 8

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by January 6.

Limited enrollment.

January Camp (Children 4 – 12)

Monday, January 17

Monday, January 24

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$40 Children 4 – 12

\$30 Member children

\$5 Sibling discount

Paid reservations required by

January 13 or January 20.

Spaghetti Dinner Drive-up (All)

Saturday, January 22

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\$16 per meal

Paid orders requested by January 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Drive-ins welcome if extra meals are available.

Doors Open Jamestown (All)

Saturday, January 22

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Free

Enjoy free admission to the Nature Center.

Monarch Butterfly Seed

Selection Fundraiser

Grow your Love for Audubon this Valentine's Day!

Orders due: Monday, January 31.

Seed Order Pick-up: Friday, February 11 and Saturday, February 12

\$30 for each Monarch Seed Selection

February

First Friday (Adult+)

Topic to be determined

Friday, February 4

11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Non-members

\$6 Nature Center Members

Reservations requested by February 3.

Walk-ins welcome if room.

Snowflake Festival (All)

Saturday, February 5

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Nature Center members

\$6 Children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

See page 6 for more info.

Winter Birdseed Sale Pick-up

Saturday, February 12, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Pick-up

Orders are due by Friday, January 28.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Animal Defenses

Saturday, February 12

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by February 10.

Limited enrollment.

VounTeen Exclusive –

Escape Room (eligible VolunTeens)

Saturday, February 12

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Free to VolunTeens who have logged

8 or more hours since May 2021.

Reservations required by February, 8.

Limited enrollment

Terrarium Make-and-Take (All)

Saturday, February 19

Session 1: 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Session 2: 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

\$10 Adults

\$7.50 Members and Children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

Paid reservations required by February 18.

February (continued)

February Camp (Children 4 – 12)

Monday, February 21

Thursday, February 24

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$40 Children 4 – 12

\$30 Member children

\$5 Sibling discount

Paid reservations required by

February 18 or February 22.



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 — Why don't birds get cold feet?

Katie Finch, *Senior Naturalist*

Many species of birds remain in cold and snowy climates throughout the winter. In order to survive, they have ways of adapting to the changes of weather, food types, and cover. But with bare feet, it seems dangerous to perch on a metal bird feeder, land on an icy branch, or hop through the snow-covered ground in freezing temperatures. One big question asked by bird watchers is “Why don't birds' feet get cold?”

Bird feet are actually pretty cold. Their surface temperature may be just above freezing. But with feet made mostly of tendons, bone, and very few nerves, birds don't really feel the cold.

When human hands and feet get cold, it seems to chill our whole body. However, birds have another adaptation to keep the rest of their body warm, despite cold feet. The veins and arteries in their feet and legs that carry blood to and from their feet are very close together, arranged in a net-like structure. This closeness allows the cooler blood flowing from the feet back to the body to be warmed by the blood coming from the body to the feet. And the blood going to the feet is cooled, which reduces heat loss. This net is called, *rete mirabile*, which is Latin for “wonderful net”.

What other amazing things can you learn about birds this winter?



Canada Goose standing on the icy edge of a pond. Photo by Jeff Tome.

Color This Winter Bird



Snowflake Festival

Saturday, February 5

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Nature Center Members

\$6 Children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Beat the winter doldrums by coming to Audubon's 40th Snowflake Festival. Enjoy a day of outdoor, winter-themed games, nature hikes, and a bonfire with s'mores. Indoors you can explore some different hobbies to help get you through the last of the winter days.

Demonstrations and activities might include knitting, weaving, snowshoes (if there is snow!), miniature terrarium building, making fairy creature friends from natural objects, or crafting a walking stick. If the weather cooperates, look for a mini "skating" rink as a throwback to the first festivals. Get up close and personal with some of Audubon's live animals and maybe more.

Speaking of animals, it is the perfect time to start building nest boxes for the returning spring birds. Kits are available to build for \$6 in the maintenance shop, and include a booklet of where to place them to attract some feathered friends. Pair that with a bird feeder, either purchased or made by you at a booth, and you've got a bird-friendly yard!

Food and hot drinks round out the day. Other activities and vendors may be present, visit auduboncnc.org/snowflakefestival for more information.



Break the winter blues and enjoy a variety of family friendly activities and demonstrations.



Day Camp Registration Opens January 1 for Nature Center Members

Last summer was the most popular year of Day Camp that Audubon has ever seen. Here's to hoping that 2022 is just as successful!

Each week of camp, children ages 4 – 14 can spend four wonder-filled days at ACNC exploring habitats, discovering the plants and animals who call it home, and playing and learning in the best classroom available — nature.

Day Camp registration opens online January 1 for Nature Center Members. Non-member registration opens February 1.

Register online at auduboncnc.org/daycamp or call the Nature Center at (716) 569-2345.

Campers learned how biologists track Wood Turtles during last summer's Reptile Round-Up camp session.

Summer Nature Education Internships

Every summer, passionate and dedicated interns spend time teaching children and learning about the environmental education field. You, or someone you know, might be the perfect fit for this internship. Past interns have used their time at Audubon to shape their futures, some changing direction to include education, others heading into the sciences to protect the spaces, plants, and animals that the students love to learn about.

Paid Summer Nature Education Internships open for applications on January 1. Interns are selected in March from those who apply and start their work with ACNC in May. There are also unpaid opportunities for those looking to gain experience or college credit.

For more information and to apply, visit auduboncnc.org/jobs.



Nature Education Interns are a vital part of ACNC Day Camp.

Welcome, New Nature Center Members

Recorded between May 1, 2021 and October 31, 2021

Senior (65+) Individual \$35

Janice Barrelle
Patti L. Benson
Barbara Butcher
Susan Cooper
Carol Hanson
M.K. Peace
Joe Perez
Diane Shannon
Stephen Smith
Linda Stanton
Cheryl Taylor

Individual \$50

Grace Anderson
Patricia Beagle
Danielle Bertolini
Ashley De La Cruz
Daniel Fafinski
Katerina Farrell
Holly Gatto
Frankie Johnson
Jennifer Knisley
Linda Mazzu
Christine Rowland
Gwen Swanson
Grace Tillotson

Senior Family \$45

Beverly Cavness
Gale A. VerHague
Garry and Sandy Campbell
Jody and Marie Larson
Lynda Barber

Senior Family \$45 (continued)

Natalie Nuttall
Paula Hopkins
Randy and Shelly Teska
Susan Gosden
The Reynolds Family
Timothy and Susan Allen
Toni L. Stone
Vicki and Tom Goon

Family \$60

Monica and Tyler Annis
Michael A. Anzalone
Brannon Billstone
Katrina Bishop
Robert Carlson
Ashlee Chadwick
David and CJ Chase
David and Anna Crowe
Julie and Roger Dahlin
Chris and Meghan Demorest
Chelsea Eck
Chad Ecklof
Melissa Eckman
Faith and Robert Evertsen
Meg George
Molly Hanft
Karen and Steve Hansen
Lis Meiss and Miles Hilton
Ashley Hoffman
Tanya Hoffman
August Johnson
Karey Lawton
Sara McKernan

Family \$60 (continued)

Kelli and John Merchant
Dineen Muniz
Sheila Myers
Brenna Nelson
Lisa Newland
Lincoln, Dan, and Elliott Pascuzzi
Matt Rounds
Melisse Schrope
Colin Shaffer
Megan, Kevin, and Ben Sixbey
Bob and Kathy Strickland
Amy Trask
Karen Turnquist
Courtney Valent
Rebecca Walters
Libby Yaegle

Family Plus \$100

Karen Ashbaugh
Shameka Batchelor
Pati Centi
Heather Edington
Kailey Gastol
Tim and Faye Hammersley
Aimee La Fond
Jennifer Logue
Megan Renard
Erica Richerson
Joseph Sienkiewicz
Luis Vega
Coralee Wenzel

Welcoming a Familiar Face Back to ACNC: Emma Roth, Nature Educator

Emma Roth has always loved nature, but her passion for education began as a summer nature education intern at Audubon Community Nature Center in 2014 when she helped with Day Camp.

Since graduating from Smith College in 2017 with a BA in Geosciences and Biological Sciences, she has been working at the Pocono Environmental Education Center. During her time with PEEC, she worked as an Environmental Education Instructor, Program Planner, and, most recently, the Director of Group and Grant Coordination.

She has spent many a summer and holiday break at her family's cabin just a few miles from Audubon.

She is excited to return to ACNC and focus back on teaching others about the wonders of the natural world.

Emma with her pet cat, Sid.



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. Members of ACNC's Blue Heron Legacy Society (pictured above) have made long-term commitments to support this vision by listing ACNC as a beneficiary in their wills, designated funds, IRA accounts, or retirement plans.

*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.

**Carnahan-Jackson Foundation
Chautauqua Region
Community Foundation
Curt and Susie Westrom
Holmberg Foundation
Hultquist Foundation
Jessie Smith Darrah Fund
Lenna Foundation
Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation
Whirley-DrinkWorks!**

**Bush Industries, Inc.
Hal and ary Conarro
The Scott Electric Foundation
Univera Healthcare**

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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14701
Permit No. 687

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

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January/February ACNC Newsletter

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Sleeping Barred Owl. Photo by Jeff Tome.