

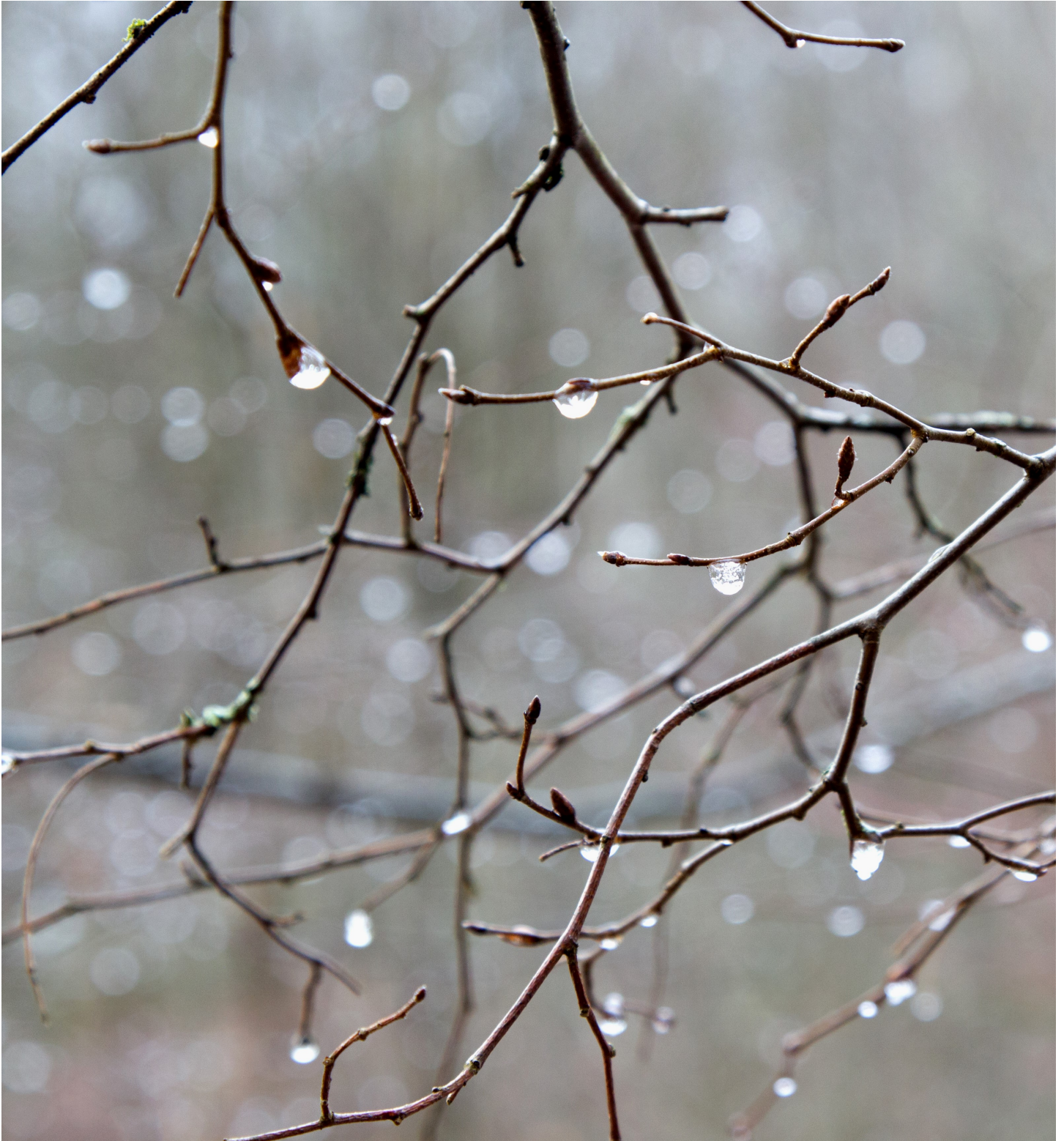


Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

January – February, 2023
Volume 67, 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: *Ice Droplets*. Photo by Jennifer Schlick.

1600 Riverside Road
Jamestown, NY 14701
Ph: (716) 569-2345
Fx: (716) 569-2765
info@auduboncnc.org
auduboncnc.org

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

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.

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,

'Tis the season to reflect on what we've learned from the past, and to envision a better future ahead. Audubon's 2019 – 2022 strategic plan has now come to a close, with many accomplishments to celebrate. With your help, Audubon's capacity grew significantly from 2019 – 2022 through the addition of the Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion, the construction of the Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat, and the creation of the Public Engagement Specialist staff position.

We welcomed two new non-releasable birds of prey, as well as other animal advocates, including two hellbenders. We also said our goodbyes to our dear friends, Liberty the Bald Eagle and Ebenezer the Wood Turtle.

The work certainly doesn't stop here. This January, Audubon Community Nature Center will begin implementation of its 2022 – 2025 strategic plan, which will take what we have learned from the past and focus our priorities for the future.

Audubon's 2022 – 2025 strategic plan goals include:

- Upgrading aging infrastructure and equipment to ensure overall efficiency and reduce conflict of use.
- Improving the accessibility and design of the main building and immediate grounds to provide a more inclusive and welcoming visitor experience.
- Maintaining and improving financial sustainability.
- Developing and implementing strategies to retain the knowledge, skill sets, and human assets of ACNC.
- Expanding and strengthening existing programs and resources to improve the overall visitor experience.
- Increasing internal efficiency through the coordination of plans to increase staff effectiveness.

We've learned that many of these goals are ongoing and will never be officially "checked off" our list. They are big picture goals that require revisiting and revising every three years to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the organization. Stay tuned for more information as to how Audubon plans to accomplish these goals over the next three years.

Thank you for believing in us, and for continuing to support Audubon Community Nature Center's vision of creating real and healthy connections to nature for every child within the local community.

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

Sincerely,

Leigh J. Rovegno

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director

ACNC Through the Years

Audubon has been a part of the local community since 1957. It started with meetings in schools, churches, and hospitals before the first building was built in the 1970's. Here are some things from past newsletters to celebrate that history.

1963

"...the dream... of making that swampland and beaver ponds at Riverside a Sanctuary for the many birds that come there, is no longer a dream but a reality."

1973

"No Golden Eagles raise young in the Adirondacks. The sole active nest observed during the 1972 survey... failed to raise young and was abandoned." (Editor's note: They are not currently nesting in the Adirondacks, though the DEC still monitors historic nesting sites.)

1983

"Be sure to mail those orders for the BSSD. (Bird Seed Savings Day). Ken and Barb Eggleston are hard at work to make the Feb. 19 BSSD event another financial success for the JAS educational program."

1993

"Becky Albaugh, by action of the JAS personnel committee, has been promoted to the full-time position of Head Teacher Naturalist."

2003

"Bruce Kershner, old growth forest ecologist and speaker for *Thanksgiving with the Birds*, found 'significant' old growth in the Burgeson Sanctuary."

2013

"The education staff and many volunteers are working hard this winter to create an exhibit about pollination."

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

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

Right: The 2006 Snowflake Festival was so warm that the sled dogs pulled bicycles.

Board Officers

<i>Board Chairperson</i>	Tina Downey
<i>First Vice Chair</i>	Dave Burlee
<i>Second Vice Chair</i>	Linnea Carlson
<i>Secretary</i>	Willow Fodor
<i>Treasurer</i>	Greg Lyle

Board of Directors

Louise Boutwell, Elisabeth Hall, Laurie Korb, Netta Lindell, Andrew Harrington, Tim Piotrowski, Dr. Erin Pender, Dr. Eugenie Pognard

Nature Center Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	Leigh Rovegno
<i>Public Engagement Specialist</i>	Jeff Tome
<i>Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator</i> ...	Emily Nelson
<i>Education Coordinator</i>	Sarah Hatfield
<i>Senior Nature Educator,</i>	
<i>Interpretive Projects 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>Fundraising and Development</i>	Linnea Carlson
<i>Garden Committee</i>	Janet Forbes
<i>IDEA Committee</i>	Willow Fodor
<i>Land Use Management</i>	Dave Burlee
<i>Mailing Committee</i>	Leah Bullock
.....	Blanche Robbins
<i>Membership</i>	Sandy Fletcher
.....	Linda Trostle
<i>Publicity</i>	Pat Bringer



Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are always welcome. For more information on how to become a volunteer, please visit auduboncnc.org/volunteer

Current winter opportunities:

- **Buildings and Grounds Team:** Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Specialty skills such as electrical, mechanical, and carpentry are useful for the team, and there are always opportunities to learn through volunteering.
- **Mailing Committee:** Thursdays, as needed.
- **Animal Care:** Weekly, during business hours
- **Festivals, Events, and Fundraisers:** Year-round, times vary

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser:** January 21, 3:00 – 6:30 p.m.; volunteer positions: meal assembly, outside greeting, curb-side delivery, clean-up.

To receive the monthly volunteer email, please contact Emily Nelson at: enelson@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345 x103



Bring your appetite and ideas to this volunteer appreciation event.

Volunteer Potluck Brunch January 26, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Calling all volunteers! ACNC would like to invite you to a potluck brunch to brainstorm recruitment ideas with volunteers from all corners of the organization.

Bring your favorite potluck dish, as well as your ideas for how ACNC can spread the word about volunteering. Brunch will be followed by a brief discussion concerning recruitment and retention. Your participation is appreciated! Share your thoughts in this conversation to help ACNC discover individuals and encourage them to join the ACNC volunteer community.

Great Discounts on Birdseed

Buy birdseed at Audubon's 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.

Conewango Blend, unique to ACNC, was developed by birders to attract a variety of birds to the birdfeeder without a lot of seed going to waste. There are also suet cakes and a mix to attract finches. **Place your order online or by phone by Friday, February 3.**

Volunteers will load your birdseed into your car on Saturday, February 18. The Blue Heron Gift Shop will also sell things at an extra 10% off that day.

Place your order online at auduboncnc.org/shop, by mailing the included birdseed sale flier with your payment, or call the Nature Center at (716) 569-2345.



There is still plenty to discover in the winter weather.

Winter Discovery Kits Now Available

What does a snowflake look like up close? What animal walked through the yard? Children are close 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.

The Winter Discovery Kit was developed by Audubon's Nature Educators and the Blue Heron Gift Shop. A Survival Discovery Kit is also available. Stop in at the Blue Heron Gift Shop to see these and other great purchases for families.

Programs and Events

January

First Friday (Adult+)

Nature as my Art Studio Partner with Deb Eck

Friday, January 6, 11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

*BYO lunch to stay after if you wish

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, January 8, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by January 7.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)

Snow Scientists

Saturday, January 14, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by January 12.

Limited enrollment.

January Camp (Ages 4 – 12)

Monday, January 16

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$48 Children 4 – 12

\$36 Member children

\$5 Sibling discount

Paid reservations required by January 12.

Spaghetti Dinner Drive-up (All)

Saturday, January 21

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\$18 per meal

Paid orders requested by January 16, at 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer Potluck Brunch (Volunteers)

Thursday, January 26

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Free, please bring a dish to pass

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Natural Investigators

(Children 8 – 12 with an adult)

Owls

Saturday, January 28, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and Children 9 – 15

Paid reservations required by January 26.

Limited enrollment.

February

Winter Treasure Hunt (All)

Saturday, February 1 – Tuesday,

February 28

\$5 for treasure map

No reservations required.

First Friday (Adult+)

There's a Beaver For That with Grace Tillotson

Friday, February 3, 11:00 a.m. – Noon

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, February 5, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by February 4.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Tracks and Traces

Saturday, February 11

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by February 9.

Limited enrollment.

Birdseed Sale — Order Pick-up

Saturday, February 18

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Orders due by Friday, February 3.

February Camp

Monday, February 20 and

Wednesday, February 22

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$48 Children 4 – 12

\$36 Member children

\$5 Sibling discount

Paid reservations required by February 16 or 20.



February (continued)

February Tween Treks (Children 12 – 15)

Thursday, February 23,

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$48 Teens

\$36 Nature Center members

\$5 Sibling Discount

Paid reservations required by February 21.

Natural Investigators

(Children 8 – 12 with an adult)

Fire Building

Saturday, February 25

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and Children 9 – 15

Paid reservations required by February 23.

Limited enrollment.

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.

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.
- No refunds after 30 days from purchase.

Registrations required for most programs. Programs may be cancelled if there are not enough registered. Register early to ensure the class runs. 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**.

Nature Notes — Deciduous Trees in Winter

Katie Finch, *Senior Nature Educator*

Deciduous trees have myriad unique leaf shapes. They all serve the same purpose for the growing tree — collecting sun and air, both critical to the process to photosynthesis. Leaves also release extra air and water. As part of a larger ecosystem, leaves provide shade, food, and shelter for other living things. Come fall, deciduous trees have evolved to lose their leaves to save energy, water, and reduce the buildup of snow and ice.

Tree identification is most readily done with leaves. But with the leaves dropped to the ground, there are still multiple ways to identify trees, including bark, buds, and tree shape.

Many trees have distinctive bark color, texture, or patterns. For example, older Black Cherry bark looks like burnt potato chips. American Sycamore bark flakes off on the upper trunk and branches, leaving a camouflage-like pattern of browns, grays, and white behind.

The buds of next years leaves are also available to examine all winter. American Beech buds are long, brown, and pointy. The fuzzy, yellow buds of a Bitternut Hickory stand out in a winter landscape.

Some trees have distinctive shapes too. For example, American Elm grows in a vase shape with branches flaring up and out at the top. Willow branches droop or weep toward the ground. But take note, a tree's shape is also dependent on the conditions in which it grows.

You can also look at what might be left behind from the growing season. Oaks and beeches hold on to their leaves through much of winter. The round seed pods of Sweet Gum and American Sycamore often hang on the branches like holiday decorations.



Left Top: American Beech leaves hang on through the winter, alongside the buds, ready to open in spring. Photo by Katie Finch

Left Bottom: Staghorn Sumac berry clusters are a good food source for many birds throughout the winter. Photo by Jeff Tome.

Right: The flaky bark of Shagbark Hickory provides shelter for many overwintering insects and even bats. Photo by Katie Finch

Dine Out for Audubon at Shawbucks Press Room

212 W. 2nd Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

Tuesday, February 7
4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

No reservations required.

Support Audubon Community Nature Center by doing something you do anyway: eating out! Join the Audubon crew at a dinner out at Shawbucks Press Room on Tuesday, February 7 between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Shawbucks will donate a portion of the proceeds from that night to ACNC. Bring some cash to win chances on some great baskets at the basket raffle.

More information on Shawbucks can be found at shawbucks.com. To learn more about this fundraiser, visit auduboncnc.org or call (716) 569-2345



Gather your friends for a night out to support ACNC.

New Monthly Education Series: Natural Investigators

The fourth Saturday each month
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Reservations required by the Thursday before the program.

Children ages 8 – 12 with a grown-up are invited to delve deeper into some nature and outdoor topics during Natural Investigators, held the fourth Saturday of each month. This series is designed to tap into the natural curiosity that children have about the world around them, digging into the nitty-gritty of the science, tools, processes, and how-to of topics like owls, fire, map and compass reading, microscopes, water purification, and more. Sharing experiences with a mentor improves learning, so each child brings one adult with them.

The program is designed to provide both content and hands-on experiences, as studies show that children learn better by doing and when given information in multiple methods. Classes include an outdoor component, and the topics are designed so that the accompanying adult can build on and reinforce the information and activity after the program.



For February's program, children can learn how to responsibly build and maintain a fire.

Welcome, New and Renewed Nature Center Members

Recorded between May 1 and October 27, 2022

Family \$60

Aletha Armstrong
Lacey Bailey
Tayanna Blackwell
Sydney Brown
Chelsea and Josh Burkett
Joe and Leslie Calimeri
Jacob and Vanessa Campbell
Caring For Life
Raymond Carlson
Alyssa and Nathan Chamberlin
Aaron Costello
Hannah Connor
Emily and Richard Daly
Kyle and Magnolia Dunlap
Tamara Dustin
Shawna Eastman
David and Lynn Finlan
Molly Forbes
Emilie Gifford
Jay Gutknecht
Christopher D. Hammond
Serina Harris
Sabah Hashmi
Genevieve Hayton
Jennifer Heinrich
Kory Hiller
Daryl Huber
Nicholas Madden
Christina McGee
Emma Murphy
Kate Palmer Owens
Ashlee and Jeff Patton
Will Pekrul
Anna Peterson
Bethany Peterson
Michael and Trina Pisko
Holly and Stephen Reed
Darcy Rex
Megan Reynolds
Caleb Roller
Amy Schattine
Alex Smith
Jaci Spoon
Diedra and Dustin Stewart

Claire Tomassini
Sharaya Vivian
Roger and Kristy Wallace
Leslie Weber
Sunset Weinert
Vanessa Weinert

Family Plus \$100

Janis Bowman
Emily Hampton
Esther Mast
Melissa Olson
Rachel Peace
Erin Pender
Renjilian Family
John Riggle
Emric and Shannon Taylor
Katherine Tidwell

Individual \$50

Lori Abel
Joella Liddle
Doris Pappalardo
Bill Schmidt

Organizational \$160

Lakeshore Community Services

Senior (65+) Individual \$35

Carol L. Anthony
Paul Baglia
Celeste Currie
Herbert H. Gibbs
Barbara Graziano
Michael Philip Griffith
Emma McCreary
Lee O'Brien
Jerry Oliphant
Taryn Wilson-Wheatley

Senior Family \$45

Jeff and Sue Barnes
Gary and Heidi N. Bletsch



Become a member to experience all that ACNC has to offer.

Doug Hearn and Steve Blume
Martha Boyland
Cathy and Scott Brown
Alison and Jay Churchill
Sandy and Russ Clark
Mark and Dyan Eisenberger
Margo Firestack
Lee and Sandy Fletcher
Alison and Dennis Fronczak
Dianne Gaddis
Goose Creek Aviation
Leslie Hallock
Margaret and Neil Himer
Robert Hovan
James Johnson
Daniel and Sandra Josephson
Laurel Lampson
Addy Landrio
Nora Mahan
Thomas and Donna Minett
Alice and Richard Pedersen
Janice Phillips
Pat Piteo
Kim Richir
Cathy and Matt Smith
Jerome and Kay Swanson
Leslie and Peter Vattimo

Education for all ages

Day Camp is a great opportunity for a child in your life to strengthen their foundation in the natural world, broaden their knowledge, and grow through play and exploration. During eight weeks of Day Camp, starting the last week of June and running through the third week of August, children ages 4 – 14 play, explore, learn, build, grow, and experiment in fields, forests, ponds, and marshes. You can find camp session information on auduboncnc.org/daycamp.

Registration opens January 1, 2023 for members and February 1, 2023 for non-members.

Internships are a great way for older students ages 15 – 24 to gain experience in a camp setting. Paid and unpaid internships are available depending on experience and age. Interns can learn camp skills such as lesson planning, group management, developmentally appropriate activities for different ages, and how to use the natural world as a classroom. Unpaid internship applications for students 15 – 18 are available through the CIT/JC section of the Day Camp page, auduboncnc.org/daycamp.

Paid internship applications are available at online auduboncnc.org/jobs.



An Education Intern shows a Garter Snake to Day Campers.

Contact Sarah Hatfield at (716) 569-2345 or shatfield@auduboncnc.org for more information.

Blue Heron Legacy Society

ACNC 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.



ACNC'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 listing ACNC as a beneficiary in your will, IRA account, retirement plan, or designated fund.

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

Please contact Leigh Rovegno for more information at lrovegno@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345 x101.

Community Partners

Thank you for your dedicated support.

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

Bob Frucella's Tax Service
Curt and Susie Westrom
David Campbell
Hal and Mary Conarro
Univera Healthcare
Weinberg Financial Group

Please contact Leigh Rovegno for more information at lrovegno@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345 x101.



Audubon Community Nature Center

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

Electronic service requested

Non-Profit Org.
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PAID
Jamestown, NY
14701
Permit No. 687

January/February ACNC Newsletter

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Red-breasted Nuthatch. Photo by Jeff Tome.