

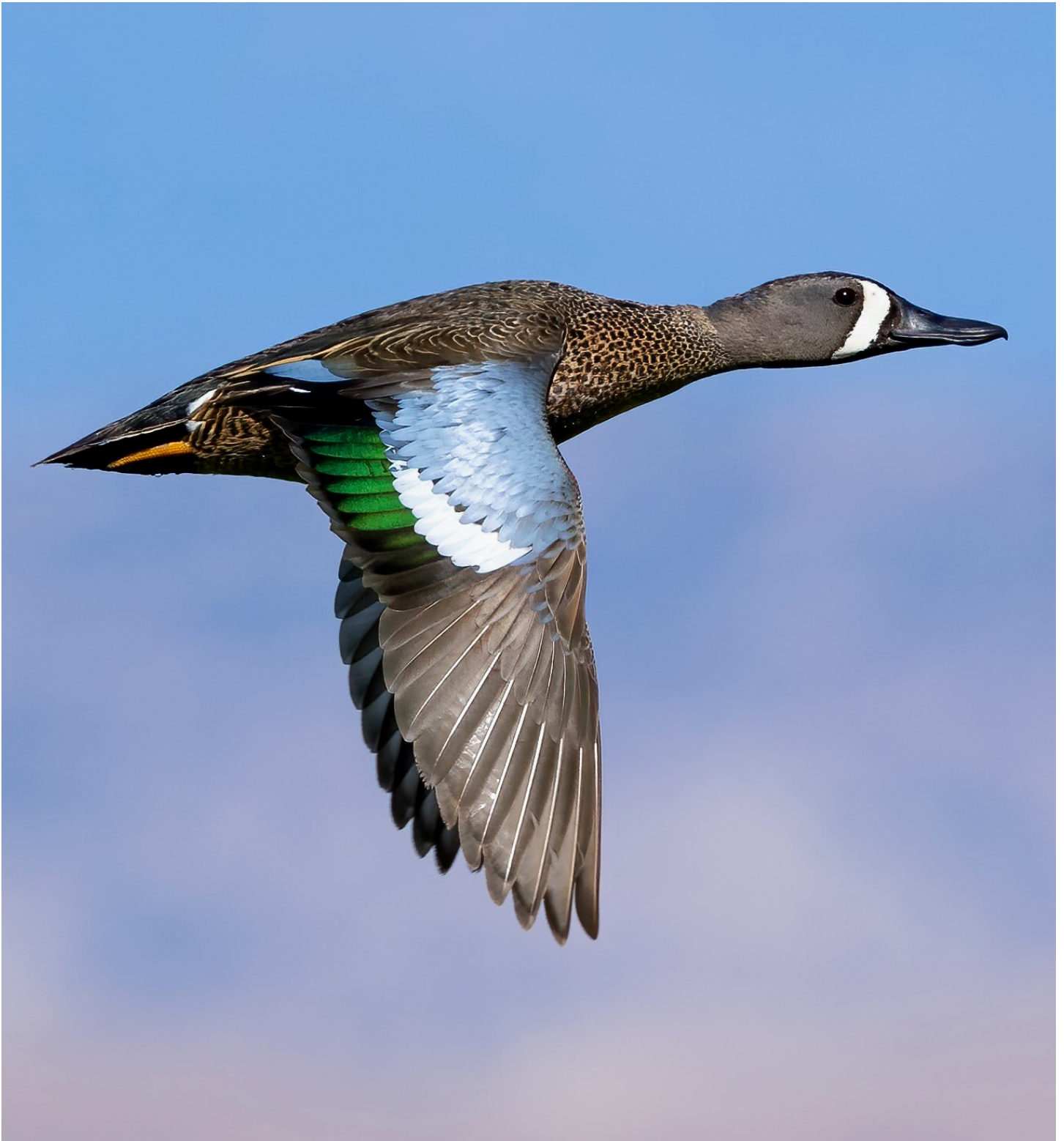


Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

March – April, 2023
Volume 67, Issue 2

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.



Nature Center Newsletter

The free, bi-monthly publication of Audubon Community Nature Center, Inc.

Kim Turner, *Newsletter Editor*
Cover: *Blue-winged Teal*.

Photo by Frank Schulenburg.

1600 Riverside Road
Jamestown, NY 14701
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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,

Audubon Community Nature Center is known for many things including its kempt trails, knowledgeable staff, and nature-based programs. It has a long history that includes an even longer list of individuals who have ensured that the organization continues to thrive.

Audubon's volunteers are the organization's most treasured resource. Since 2007, more than 600 individuals have contributed 140,165 hours of service. Before that, volunteer hours were not yet accurately recorded, but they certainly still counted!

Some volunteers have contributed an incredible amount of time and energy: people such as Ted and Sylvia Grisez who created Audubon's native tree arboretum; Roger Tory Peterson, who played an essential role in the early days of the then named 'Jamestown Audubon Society'; Bob Sundell, a founding member of the Jamestown Audubon, local biology teacher, and extraordinary birder.

These individuals (and so many more) made a choice to spend their time with Audubon, and we owe them a debt of gratitude! It is up to us to ensure that Audubon's incredible volunteer program continues to thrive, and that we find ways to bring new individuals into the fold.

Volunteering provides a sense of belonging, an appreciation of what it means to give back to the community while doing something that you love. Volunteers make new friends, and they learn new skills while building community together over coffee (and sometimes sweet treats)!

For me, volunteering in my community has taught me the value of human relationships. It opened my awareness up to new ways of life, the struggles that people may be facing, and most importantly, it taught me empathy for others who may be less fortunate than myself.

I am grateful that I grew up understanding that volunteering in the community was a regular part of life; from working in an inner-city soup kitchen, raking leaves for elderly neighbors as a teen, to harvesting olives, painting fences, and herding goats as a young twenty-something, to running a school garden program in my thirties, and now helping out with community garden initiatives in my forties. Volunteering is a life-long gift that we give to ourselves — and to the community.

Thank you to all of you who choose to volunteer with Audubon. Your time and talents are extraordinarily valuable to us, and we are thrilled that you choose to share them with us.

With gratitude,

Leigh J. Rovegno

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director



ACNC Through the Years

Audubon was founded in 1957 by a dedicated group of birders and environmentally minded people. The group met on porches and at houses, churches and schools before the Nature Center opened in 1976. Here are some notes from past newsletters about what was happening.

1963

A bill “has been introduced into the New York Legislature to allow payment of bounties of \$5.00 for each adult or fledgling Great Horned Owl killed.”

1973

“One of the outstanding features of this winter is the variety of boreal finches, crossbills, and grosbeaks.” Bob Sundell reported flocks of Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, and nesting Red Crossbills at St. Bonaventure University.

1983

“National Audubon Speaker Arthur C. Twomey will... present his film ‘Saguaro Country’ at Lincoln School. Twomey is a former... curator of the Ornithology Dept. at Carnegie Museum.”

1993

“The field trip committee has scheduled our 8th annual trek to the Oak Orchard — Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for Saturday, April 17.”

2003

“Come down... for the Grand Opening of our Fur, Paws, Teeth, and Claws exhibit. Get a chance to see what the mammals you never get to see up close *really* look like.”

2013

“The Pollinator Garden was completed by Adam Carlson last summer as his Eagle Scout project.”

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: Do you remember getting on the Nature Trail Express back in 1984?

Board Officers

<i>Board Chairperson</i>	Tina Downey
<i>First Vice Chair</i>	Dave Burlee
<i>Second Vice Chair</i>	Linnea Haskin
<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>Seasonal Educator</i>	Becky Wolcott
<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 Haskin
<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

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

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Audubon Lights: Fridays and Saturdays from March 24 – April 8, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.**
Volunteers are needed for electrical set up, admission booth, fire tending, and trail monitoring.
- **Spring Roadside Clean Up: Friday, April 20, 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.**
Spring cleaning starts here! Join ACNC to clean up Route 62 and keep litter out of local environments.
- **Volunteer Day: Saturday, April 22, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
Bring friends, families, community groups, and school clubs for ACNC's annual Volunteer Day. There are multiple projects to help with, including pulling invasives, setting up goose fences, and indoor spring cleaning.



The annual Volunteer Day is a great way to dip your toes into the volunteering experience.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

Have you ever wanted to explore a new hobby or put your specific skill set to work for the community? Come check out ACNC's year-round volunteer groups, where there is always something to do!

- **Buildings and Grounds Team:** Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m.
- **Mailing Committee:** Thursday mornings, as needed.
- **Office/Administration:** Days vary, as needed.

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. This mix is available in the Blue Heron Gift Shop at ACNC.



You can also find Conewango Blend at:

- Ashville General Store, Ashville, NY
- BioDome Project, Jamestown, NY
- Ekey Marketplace, Warren, PA
- 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



Terrarium Kits Available

Are you eager to get something green and growing this spring? Audubon's Blue Heron Gift Shop has Terrarium Kits for sale. Everything you need (except for the plants) to begin your indoor garden are put together in one kit.

The kits include a glass terrarium, soil, stones, charcoal, accessories and a how-to manual to create a unique miniature garden inside a glass world.

The Blue Heron Gift Shop also has puppets, games, books, puzzles, birdhouse kits and other nature-related items that help you wrap up winter.

Programs and Events

March

Pie Auction (Adult)

Friday, March 3 – Wednesday, March 8
Pie Pick-up on Saturday, March 11,
Noon – 4:00 p.m.

See page 6 for more info.

Bid online at 32auctions.com/ACNC23

First Friday (Adult+)

Chautauqua County, An Angler's Paradise with
Taylor West

Friday, March 3, 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, March 5, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.
Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by March 4.
Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)

A Family of Squirrels

Saturday, March 11, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
\$12 Adults
\$9 Members and Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by March 9.
Limited enrollment.

Nature Paint Night (Adult+)

Wednesday, March 22, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
\$28 Adults
\$21 Members and children 9 – 15

Paid reservations required by March 19.

Audubon Lights (All)

Fridays and Saturdays from
March 24 – April 8
Ranging times from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
\$12 Adults
\$9 Members and children 3 – 15
Free 2 and under

See page 6 for more info

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Natural Investigators

(Children 8 – 12 with an adult)
Microscopic Nature

Saturday, March 25, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
\$12 Adults
\$9 Members and Children 8 – 12

Paid reservations required by March 22.
Limited enrollment.

April

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, April 2, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.
Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by April 1.
Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Mud Camp (Children 4 – 12)

Tuesday, April 4 and/or
Wednesday, April 5
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
\$48 Children 4 – 12
\$36 Member children
\$5 Sibling discount

Paid reservations required by
Friday, March 31 and Monday, April 3.

April Tween Treks (Children 12 – 15)

Thursday, April 6, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
\$48 Teens
\$36 Nature Center members
\$5 Sibling Discount

Paid reservations required by April 4.

First Friday (Adult+)

Exploring Africa with Bonnie Bowen

Friday, April 7, 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

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Animal Hide and Seek

Saturday, April 8, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
\$12 Adults
\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by April 6.
Limited enrollment.

Natural Investigators

(Children 8 – 12 with an adult)
Invasive Species

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
\$12 Adults
\$9 Members and Children 8 – 12

Paid reservations required by April 20.
Limited enrollment.

Nature Paint Night (Adult+)

Wednesday, April 26, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
\$28 Adults
\$21 Members and children 9 – 15

Paid reservations required by April 23.

April (continued)

Bird Banding (All)

Pavilion on west side of ACNC property

Saturday, April 29, 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.
See page 8 for more info.

No reservations required.



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 (excludes day camp).

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**.

Spring for Rabbits

Chelsea Jandreau, *Nature Educator*

Rabbits are a common sight in the spring, both in the wild and in the seasonal aisle of any store. However, rabbits, or at least signs of rabbits, can be found outside just about any time of the year. The wild ones found around here are generally the Eastern Cottontail. Cottontails are named for their fluffy tails, but only the underside is actually white. The top of the tail, like most of their body, is made up of shades of brown to help them camouflage. Often, you will not see the rabbit's tail until it is hopping away.

Since cottontails are common prey animals, they rely on their large ears to detect predators, like foxes or birds of prey. Their ears are slightly cupped and can turn independently of each other to help figure out exactly where a sound is coming from. Once they hear the sound of a possible predator, rabbits often freeze in place. This helps them further camouflage into the surrounding brush and grasses. If that fails, they use their large back feet to hop away quickly in a zig-zag pattern.

Rabbits are herbivores that are especially active near sunrise and sunset. In addition to their regular diet of plants, they also produce and ingest a type of feces called a cecotroph. These are made in a special part of their body called the cecum and they are full of vital nutrients. The rabbits eat them to get all of those necessary vitamins and minerals, rather than letting them go to waste.

Cottontail rabbits start mating and giving birth in early spring. They will make a nest in a small depression on the ground and cover it with grasses and their own fur. Rabbit babies are quick learners and can start heading out on their own after three weeks, but before that mom is usually watching from a distance and will return periodically to feed them. Most of the day, mom is away from the nest though, so don't panic if you see a group of baby bunnies on their own!



Top Right: *Eastern Cottontail.* Photo by Jeff Tome.

Bottom Right: *Rabbit tracks in the snow.*

Left: *Look closely to find the babies.*

Pie Auction

Friday, March 3 – Wednesday, March 8

Pie Pick-up on Saturday, March 11, Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate Pi Day (March 14) by bidding on a homemade pie.

There will be twenty different pies to bid on. This year's list of pies includes a classic French Canadian Tourtiere, a Canadian meat pie that comes paired with beer. There will also be a Chicken-less Pot Pie and a Chicken Pot Pie. There will even be a Key Lime Pie that comes with a recipe and kit to make another.

100% of the proceeds from this auction support Audubon's staff, buildings, and grounds so the community has a safe space to get outside and enjoy the benefits of nature. The auction begins at 5:00 a.m. on March 3 and ends at 9:00 p.m. on March 8 at [32auctions.com/ACNC23](https://www.32auctions.com/ACNC23). Winners can pick up their pies from noon – 4:30 p.m. on March 11.



Bid on one (or more) of the 20 homemade pies available ranging from sweet to savory to meat.

Audubon Lights

Friday, March 24, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 25, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Friday, March 31, 8:15 – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 1, 8:15 – 10:00 p.m.

Friday, April 7, 8:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 8, 8:30 – 10:00 p.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Audubon lights up the spring with a half-mile long trail of lights. Walk a luminary-lit trail past ponds that reflect the illuminated trees and stars above. Creative light displays and laser light shows highlight natural features.

The trail ends at the Nature Center with a warm fire, hot drinks, popcorn, and other food for sale, as well as alternating nights of music and LED hula hoops.

Purchase small LED lights at the entrance for additional fun, as well as glasses that refract the light to make the trail even more amazing! Bring cash to make purchasing easier.



This after-hours event offers a different perspective of the ACNC trails and grounds.

Stay tuned for more information on a “pop-up” night of lights to take place in addition to the listed dates.

Thank You, Nature Center Volunteers

190 volunteers (including 26 registered with the national AmeriCorps retired senior volunteer program — RSVP) logged 4,130 hours from July 1 through December 31, 2022. Audubon is grateful for these dedicated individuals who give freely of their time and talents.

Griffin Abdo	Elaine Crossley	Mike Krott	Tucker Pierce
Berkley Adams	Paige Dalrymple	Jessica LaBadie	Deborah Piotrowski
Jill Adams	Carly Davis	Kehda LaBadie	Mae Piotrowski
Nancy Aitken	Brian Dickinson	Ruhjeannea LaBadie	Tim Piotrowski
Denny Anderson	Don Dove	Susan Lampo	Freda Pyles
Todd Anderson	Martha Dove	Margaret Lane	Emily Rechin
Thom Armella	Tina Downey	Brody Larson	Chris Reil
Mardy Backstrom	Sean Eaton	Michelle Lauffenburger	Johannah Robb
Kyle Baggiano	Kate Ebersole	Janet Laurin	Blanche Robbins
Matt Baran	Devin Ecklof	Huntley Lavigne	Pamela Robbins
Joann Bardo	Nilla Ecklof	Nancy LeBaron	Rachel Roushey
John Barone	Piper Ecklof	Terry LeBaron	Charlie Rovegno
Janice Barrelle	Caitlyn Ellsworth	Madilyn Lent	LeeAnn Russell
Len Barry	Laurie Enders	Gregg Leonard	Victoria Sasserson
Sally Beckerink	Mel Feather	Penny Lester	Carol Samuelson
Rachael Belic	Patricia Fincher	Shannon Lewis	Karen Sanders
Danielle Bertolini	Sandy Fletcher	Netta Lindell	William Schmidt
Heidi Bird	Willow Fodor	Judy Long	Kylee Schrader
Barbara Boone	Janet Forbes	Elsa Lumia	Olivia Sechrist
Patricia Borowski	Patricia Gardocki	Ruth Lundin	Diane Shannon
Dennis Bottomley	Sylvia Grisez	Greg Lyle	Don Sharp
Louise Boutwell	Mary Hackford	Julianna Main	Catherine Simpson
Reg Boutwell	Beth Hall	Lucy Mason	Robbie Stearns
Bonnie Bowen	Terry Hallock	Mark Mason	Toni Stone
Hailey Bratz	Genevieve Hanlon	Cheryl Mawhinney	Barb Suckow
Pat Brininger	Grace Hanson	Mary Beth Mazzone	Paul Swanson
Brenda Brook	Judd Harris	Janel McIntyre	Merle Szydlo
Alan Brown	Chase Hartnett	John Merchant	Katherine Tavitvas
Lawrence Brown	Owen Hayes	Kelli Merchant	Amy Thompson
Chelsea Bryant	Susan Hedberg	Corbin Micciche	Craig Thompson
David Bull	Patrick Heffern	Mike Micciche	Erich Thompson
Leah Bullock	Matt Henry	Carol Miller	Grace Tillotson
David Burlee	Gerald Hildom	Marlene Mudge	Linda Trostle
Rejeanne Butzer	Miles Hilton	Danielle Myers	Don Weber
Adam Carlson	Dianne Hovey	Julie Nelson	Joyce Weber
Raymond Carlson	Clarissa Hren	Madelyn Nelson	Mary Jane Whaley
Carey Casillo-Young	John Hyde	Northwest HR	Nancy White
Alex Champman	Karen Inwood	Management Team	Brittany Wilcox
Erica Cobbe	Skyler Irish	Joseph O'Hara	Catherine Willard
Stephanie Cobbe	Michael Johnson	Daniel Ortega	Jim Williams
Maria Cole	Ronald Johnson	Brianna Osborne	Ro Woodard
Jan Coleson	Kelly Joslyn	Pete Pannes	Sue Yauchzy
Barb Conklin	Holly Katta	Sally Patchen	Connor Young
Arlene Connelly	Grey Kidder	Persell Honor Society	
Cindy Conner	Laurie Korb	Allyssa Peterson	
Elaine Conti	Mary Lou Krott	Anna Phillips	
		Jennifer Pierce	

See Live Birds up Close at Bird Banding

Birds can be hard to see, flitting amongst the trees and bushes. Birds are busy finding food, collecting nesting material, or singing away to mark their territory. Audubon's bird banders make it possible to see hard-to-see birds up close.

Each spring, a group of biologists gather at Audubon on Saturday mornings to band birds. They capture them in large nets, identify, weigh, age, and band them with a tiny anklet that has a personalized number on it. That bird may be caught at Audubon again this year or next, or could be found by a bander in South America.

Bird banders have been banding birds at Audubon since the 1960's. Some birds have been found as far away as Texas. These banded birds help scientists understand more about bird migration and breeding.

You can watch the bird banding process and see birds up close at Audubon by the Urban Pavilion on April 29, May 6, May 13, and May 20. There will be further dates in the summer.



Bird banding is a great opportunity to see birds up-close, like the Tufted Titmouse shown here, and learn a little more about how this research helps monitor populations.

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
Whirley-DrinkWorks!

Bob Frucella's Tax Service
Capacity Lab
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

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1600 Riverside Road
Jamestown, NY 14701

Electronic service requested

March/April ACNC Newsletter

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Long-Spurred Violet. Photo by Jennifer Schlick.