



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

September – October, 2023
Volume 67, 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.



Nature Center Newsletter

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

Kim Turner, *Newsletter Editor*
Cover: *Gray Squirrel*.
Photo by Laura Wolf.

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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

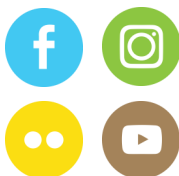
\$6 Adults • \$2 Children • \$15 Max per family
Free admission for Nature Center Members.
Free admission for SNAP/EBT cardholders.
Free admission for non-members on Sundays.



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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's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30, so October feels a lot like January at ACNC (but hopefully not weather-wise)!

All current ACNC members are invited to attend the upcoming annual meeting event scheduled for the evening of Monday, September 25. Join ACNC staff and board members for an evening program that will include celebrations for the year, upcoming projects, and the final vote and approval of ACNC's updated by-laws.

All members have received a copy of the new by-laws as well as a ballot to be completed and returned either by mail or in-person by September 18. Paper ballots are also available at the reception desk.

We need your vote! A minimum of 100 votes are needed in order to approve the by-laws and board members.

This year we are also fortunate to be welcoming two new board members and one returning board member. New to ACNC's board are Pat Evans of Warren, Pennsylvania and Peter Stark of Ashville, New York. Tina Downey is on this year's ballot as a returning board member.

Lifelong Warren County resident Pat Evans retired in 2013 after four decades of working in a variety of jobs that ranged from Fish Fin Clipper to Warren County Commissioner. Pat has been a long-time Audubon supporter and also a pie baker for the annual Pie Auction for the last two years. She lives in a wooded area outside Warren with her British-born husband, Mark.

Peter Stark and his late wife Rose moved to Chautauqua County area in the late 1980s. Rose and Peter became involved with ACNC early on, and developed many lifelong friendships through their involvement. Peter currently serves on both the Finance and IDEA Committees, and has also served on ACNC's board in prior years.

Tina Downey was appointed to ACNC's board of directors in January 2022 to fill the remaining term of a previous board member. She graciously stepped up to serve as Board Chairperson in October 2022. Tina serves as the Director of Development for the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown overseeing its development activities and coordinating the strategic direction of its fundraising efforts. She lives in Mayville with her husband, Ray, and their daughters, Evelyn and Aster.

To register for the Annual Meeting, review the edited by-laws, and learn more about the board of directors, go to auduboncnc.org/vote

Thank you all for continuing to support ACNC through your membership. I look forward to seeing you again very soon.

Sincerely,

Leigh J. Rovegno

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director

This Time in ACNC History

ACNC has been around since 1957, and much has happened in the last 60-plus years. Check out what was happening at this time in decades gone by.

1963

“One of our new members, Dick Miga, attended the Maine Audubon Camp this summer... The poor man is doomed, for now we know his fine talents and how he can be put to work...”

1973

“...the Sanctuary committee has discussed the need to control plant succession in the grasslands... as the only way of assuring that fields will always be a part of the sanctuary’s numerous habitats.”

1983

“The state’s bottle bill is now going into effect. Vending machines have added that extra 5 cents for a can of pop...”

1993

“Bob Hallquist had a favorite expression... for those times that only happened once in a while... he said they were “Moments of Ecological Ecstasy” (Editor’s Note: Bob Hallquist was active throughout the early decades of ACNC, and is the “Bob” of Bob’s Butterfly Garden on the hill. This was from a memorial written in the newsletter.)

2003

“Audubon, with the help of many bird-a-thon sponsors, sent 16-year-old Ryan Exline to Vermont to study reptiles and amphibians for ten days.”

2013

“...the multipurpose room will have a new picture hanging system starting this fall, thanks to donations from the ...photography club.”

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

Thank you to those who contribute time and talents to help ACNC run smoothly and effectively.

Right: This open house introduced people to Audubon on September 11, 1981. The Nature Center was just five years old.

Note: The Nature Center will be closed on Wednesday, October 25 for the annual staff retreat. The grounds and trails are still open to visit.

Board Officers

<i>Board Chairperson</i>	Tina Downey
<i>First Vice Chair</i>	Dave Burlee
<i>Second Vice Chair</i>	Dr. Eugenie Poignard
<i>Secretary</i>	Willow Fodor
<i>Treasurer</i>	Greg Lyle

Board of Directors

Louise Boutwell, Laurie Korb, Netta Lindell, Andrew Harrington, Tim Piotrowski, Dr. Erin Pender

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>	Dr. Eugenie Poignard
<i>IDEA Committee</i>	Willow Fodor
<i>Land Use Management</i>	Dave Burlee
<i>Membership</i>	Sandy Fletcher
.....	Linda Trostle
<i>Publicity</i>	Pat Bringer



Volunteer Corner

Kids back at school? Join in with one of the many ongoing volunteer positions during the week.

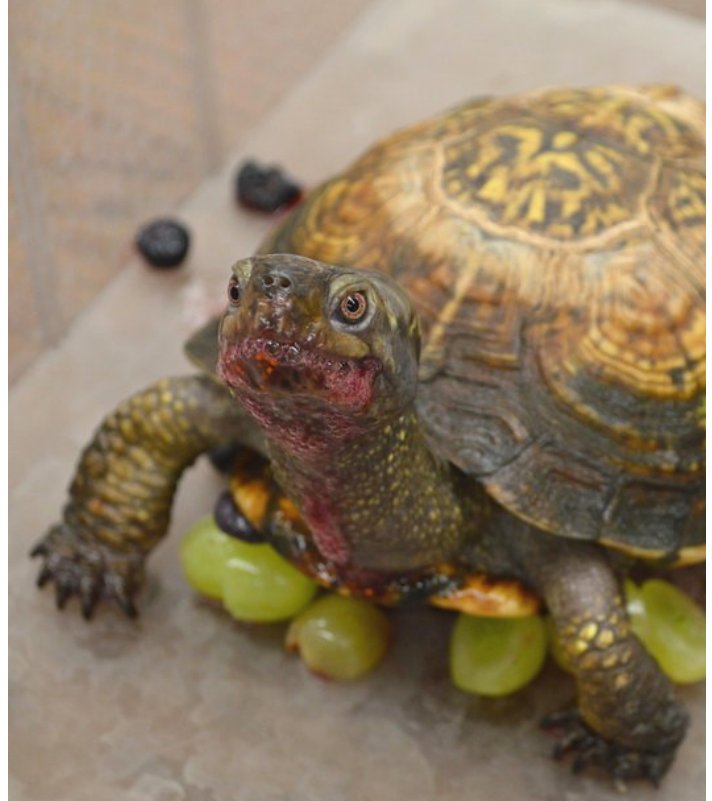
Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Enchanted Forest, October 6 and 7, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.:** animal actors, greeters, trail guides, crafts, refreshments, and more.
- **Birdseed Pick-up, October 14, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.:** Customer check-in, loading vehicles; great opportunity for teen volunteers.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Mailing Committee:** meets second Thursday of even numbered months for mailings.
- **Building and Grounds Maintenance Crew:** meets Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
- **Critter Crew:** weekly animal care opportunities for feeding and cleaning.

For more information about volunteering, contact Emily Nelson at enelson@auduboncnc.org or call (716) 569-2345.



Animals like Lincoln the Box Turtle depend on volunteers for feeding, tank cleaning, and animal enrichment.

Birdseed Sale

Orders due:

Saturday, September 23

Pick up order:

Saturday, October 14,
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Give your feathered friends a mid-fall treat and stock up on their favorite birdseed at a special price.

Audubon Community Nature Center provides birdseed at a discounted rate during sales twice a year. This provides savings for you and support for ACNC. Save 10% – 20% on Audubon's regular birdseed prices by ordering through this sale.

The most popular seeds and mixes are available for you to stock up for the rest of fall and into winter. Order online at auduboncnc.org or call **(716) 569-2345** to order by phone.

If you cannot pick up your order on October 14, please call ahead of time to make other arrangements.



Gift Certificates Available

ACNC gift certificates are the perfect gift for the nature lover in your life. They can be used to buy things in the store, birdseed, festival tickets, attend programs, or even send a child to Summer Day Camp. Gift certificates can be used for anything at the Nature Center.

Your purchase helps the Nature Center while providing great opportunities for the people you care for to learn and experience new things. Gift Certificates are available at the Blue Heron Gift Shop, Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Programs and Events

September

First Friday (Adult+)

Speaker and Topic TBA

Friday, September 1, 11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

No reservations required.

Limited enrollment.

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, September 3, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by September 2.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Fun with Fungi

Saturday, September 9

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by September 7.

Natural Investigators

(Children 8 – 12 with an adult)

Nature at Night

Saturday, September 23

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and Children 8 – 12

Paid reservations required by September 21.

Limited enrollment.

Birdseed Orders Due

Saturday, September 23

See page 3 for more info.

Annual Meeting (Adults)

Monday, September 25

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

See page 6 for more info.

October

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, October 1, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by September 30.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

First Friday (Adult+)

The Geology of Chautauqua Lake — Glenn Wahl

Friday, October 6, 11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

No reservations required.

Enchanted Forest (All)

Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$14 Adults

\$10.50 Members and children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

See page 6 for more info.

October Camp (Children 4 – 12)

Monday, October 9

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$48 Children 4 – 12

\$36 Member children

\$5 Sibling discount

Paid reservations required by October 5.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Skulls, Bones, and Teeth

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

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by October 12.

Limited enrollment.

October (continued)

Birdseed Order Pickup

Saturday, October 14

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Blue Heron Legacy Society

Get-together (Adult)

Sunday, October 15, 2023

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Free for all current and potential Blue Heron Legacy Society Members

See page 8 for more info.

Natural Investigators

(Children 8 – 12 with an adult)

Water's Journey

Saturday, October 28

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and Children 8 – 12

Paid reservations required by October 26.

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.

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.

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

Please Note:

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

Refund Policy

If ACNC cancels the program, participants receive full refunds.

- If a participant cancels **before** the deadline, a refund, less an \$8 processing fee, will be made.
- If the registration is less than \$8, a processing fee will be 25% of the cost of the registration.
- If a participant cancels **after** the deadline, no refund will be made, but please still Notify ACNC of your cancellation.
- No refunds after 30 days from purchase.

Foxes

Chelsea Jandreau, *Nature Educator*

Some animals just match the colors of the season and foxes definitely reside in autumn's color scheme. Gray Foxes and Red Foxes are both found in the region, and these well-known mammals are active throughout the entire year. Although they can be active any time of day or night, they are often spotted moving around at dawn and dusk. Animals with a tendency to be most active at these times are known as crepuscular.

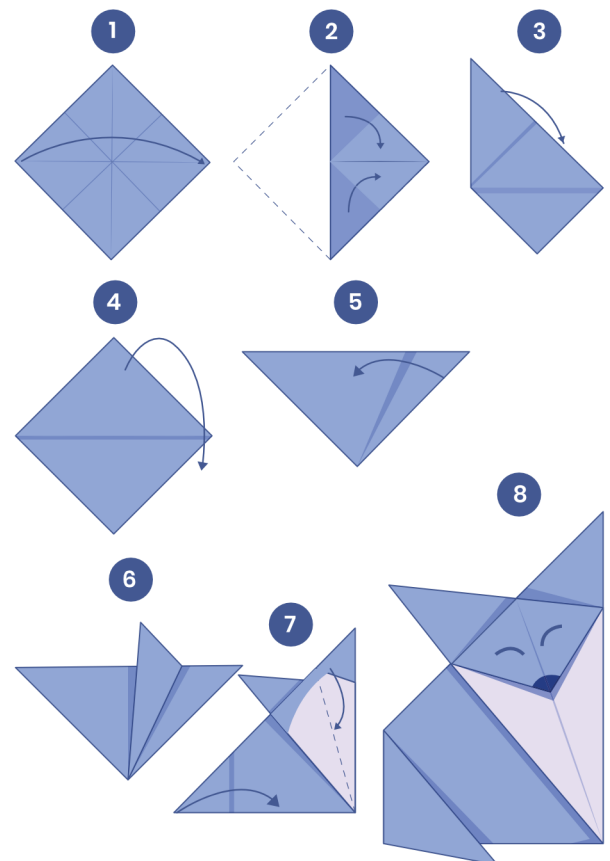
During the fall, foxes, like many other animals, are preparing themselves to survive the winter months. Foxes do not hibernate so they have to find other ways to survive the winter. Currently, they are growing out their winter undercoats. This additional fur helps them to stay warm while they hunt for prey in the cold and snow.

Although they eat an abundance of meat, foxes are omnivores, so they will continue to eat early fall berries and fruits while they are available. When plants go dormant for the winter, they will focus on using their sensitive, independently mobile ears, and excellent sense of smell to search for small prey animals like chipmunks, mice, and birds.

Foxes mate in the winter, so by early spring, foxes will find a den to raise their cubs. Fox cubs will remain with their family group for a few months, but in the late summer and early fall months they begin to strike out on their own. Outside of raising cubs, foxes are largely solitary animals, and in some areas, there may be more sightings in the fall as the male foxes search for and compete over territory.



Make an Origami Fox



Left Top: Thick fur coats allow foxes to be active during the winter. Photo by Neal Herbert/NPS.

Left Bottom: Fox cubs that were born in the early spring are now striking out on their own. Photo by Caleb Alberghene.

Right: Make a paper fox. Origami instructions by Freepik.

Annual Meeting (Adult)

Monday, September 25
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

\$20 Per registrant

Reservations required by Monday, September 18, 2023.

Join Audubon's staff and board in celebrating 63 years of serving the community as a non-profit charitable organization. You'll have the opportunity to learn more about what's happening at ACNC and to ask questions of its leadership.

Part of being a member of ACNC includes the right to vote in the board's annual elections as well as approving the newest updates to ACNC's by-laws.

ACNC board members and Executive Director, Leigh Rovegno, will share reflections on the recent fiscal year and welcome incoming board members. Light appetizers, beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.



Enchanted Forest (All)

Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$14 Adults

\$10.50 Members and Children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

Paid reservations required. No tickets sold at the door. No refunds. Limited enrollment. Walks go out every 10 minutes and last about 40 minutes. Members at the Family level and higher may reserve starting August 15. Regular registration opens September 1.

On this enchanted evening, animals have the ability to speak human language and communicate with visitors. You and your family will follow a guide through the luminary-lit Enchanted Trail to meet them.

This magical, non-scary event is designed for children and their adults. Talking animals engage your imagination, maybe make you laugh, and teach you something about wildlife in the region. After the walk, stop in the backyard to enjoy a campfire, snacks, drinks, and live music. There will be crafts, live animals, and exhibits to explore inside the Nature Center.

Thank You, Nature Center Volunteers!

145 volunteers, including 21 registered with the RSVP program, logged 2,021 hours from January 1 through May 31. These dedicated individuals give freely of their time and talents to make ACNC thrive.

Nancy Aitken
Denny Anderson
Thom Armella
Matt Baran
John Barone
Mac Barone
Terri Bascom
Ashley Bean
Katelyn Bean
Addison Becker
James Beightol
Rachael Belic
Danielle Bertolini
Heidi Bird
Kaylin Blöse
George Bogaraus
Barbara Boone
Patricia Borowski
Dennis Bottomley
Louise Boutwell
Reg Boutwell
Bonnie Bowen
Pat Brininger
Brenda Brook
Alan Brown
Lawrence Brown
David Bull
Angelique Burns
Rejeanne Butzer
Sophia Cama
Kurt Carlson
Linnea Carlson
Ray Carlson
Alex Champman
Mya Clark
Erica Cobbe
Stephanie Cobbe
Patricia Colburn
Jan Coleson
Barb Conklin
Arlene Connelly
Elaine Conti
Kristen Cramer-Belic
Elaine Crossley
Brian Dickinson
Renee Domenico
Don Dove

Martha Dove
Anna Dubej-Phillips
Mel Feather
Patricia Fincher
Sandy Fletcher
Willow Fodor
Janet Forbes
Rich Gifford
Ava Hagelin
Terry Hallock
Tonya Ham
George Harper
Jennifer Harper
Jerry Hildom
Miles Hilton
Alexis Holland
Dinah Hovey
Clarissa Hren
Kendall Hughes
Karen Inwood
Justina Johnson
Michael Johnson
Mira Johnson
Ron Johnson
Alex Kohle
Sue Lampo
Jason Leendels
Gary Lester
Penny Lester
Emma Lewis
Ruth Lundin
Emily Maggio
Jessica Mancan
Mark Mason
Mary Beth Mazzone
Elsa McAvoy
Elizabeth McIntyre
Kelli Merchant
Carol Miller
Joseph Miller
Larry Miller
Ashley Myers
Julie Nelson
Joe O'Hara
Emma Oldon
Brianna Osborne
Bella Parsons



Volunteers help with a wide range of responsibilities at ACNC, including behind the scenes. Linda Trostle and Sandy Fletcher help out weekly to process all of the Nature Center Memberships.

Sally Patchen
Kaleigh Paw
Allyssa Peterson
Michelle Peterson
Abbey Pickert
Jennifer Pierce
Deb Piotrowski
Mae Piotrowski
Eugenie Poignard
Britta Putney
Freda Pyles
Katherine Rieck
Blanche Robbins
Pamela Robbins
Cordelia Rodgers
Charlie Rovegno
Rick Rupprecht
Carol Samuelson
Karen Sanders
Chris Sattelberg
Dave Scholand
Don Sharp
Cathy Simpson
Chris Skoczylas
Dave Skoczylas
Mandy Slagle
Chris Smeraldo

Nick Smeraldo
Brandi Somerton
Kay Stahlman
Peter Stark
Toni Stone
Paul Swanson
Kat Tavitass
Shelly Taylor
Katherine Terra
Maia Tome
Merrick Tome
Linda Trostle
Kevin Verbosly
Kurt Von Kleist
Ann Wallin
Gwenivere Wallin
Oliver Wallin
Don Weber
Peyton Welch
Tyler Welch
Mary Jane Whaley
Nancy White
John Willis
Sue Yauchzy

New and Improved Habitat

Audubon's Snapping Turtle is getting a new home! 'Snapper,' as he is affectionately known, has been at the Nature Center since he was found dehydrated on a parking lot years ago as a tiny hatchling. He spends the summer outside in a large pool, but will move into a new, larger home this fall when he comes back inside.

Construction on the new habitat has been ongoing over the summer. You may have seen the progress of it in the Discovery Room, where it has been built, painted, waterproofed, and worked on.

The Education Staff was excited to welcome back Brenton Maille, a former volunteer who now works as the Director of Life Support Systems and Operations at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium, to help design and create the new habitat. He volunteered as a teen in animal care, went on to make it a career, and made a special return to help build the perfect home for the Snapping Turtle.

Look for Snapper to move inside as nights get cooler in September or October, and check out the progress on the new habitat in the meantime.



Brenton installing the plexi for Snapper's basking area.

Blue Heron Legacy Society Get-together

Sunday, October 15, 2023
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Free for all current and potential
Blue Heron Legacy Society Members
Reservations are requested by October 11.



Join Executive Director, Leigh Rovegno, for a gathering of the Blue Heron Legacy Society. The get-together will include a review of what has happened at ACNC over the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year as well as insights into ongoing and future projects. Light snacks and beverages to be provided.

Society members are individuals who have included Audubon Community Nature Center as a beneficiary in their wills. They believe in ACNC's mission of connecting people to nature, and they have made a commitment to ensure that the organization continues to benefit from their financial support beyond their death.

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
The Lenna Foundation
The Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation
Whirley-DrinkWorks!

Bob Frucella's Tax Service
Bush Industries, Inc.
David Campbell
Hal and Mary Conarro
National Fuel Gas Company
Curt and Susie Westrom
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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14701
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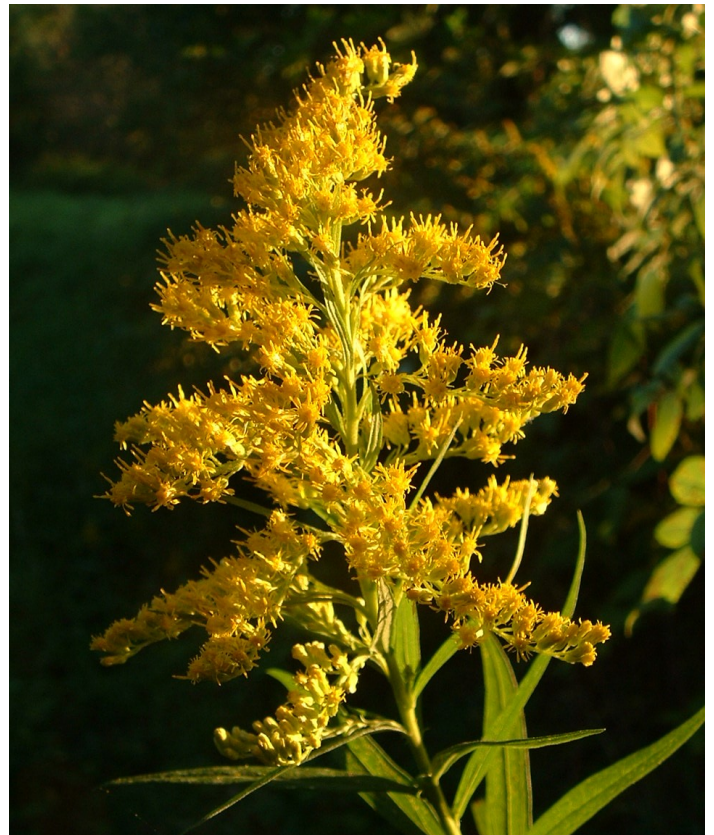
Audubon Community Nature Center, Inc.
1600 Riverside Road
Jamestown, NY 14701

Electronic service requested

September/October ACNC Newsletter

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Goldenrod in the September sun. Photo from ACNC archives.