



# Audubon Community Nature Center

*The connection begins with you.*

January – February, 2024  
Volume 68, 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.



### Nature Center Newsletter

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

Kim Turner, *Newsletter Editor*  
Cover: *Pixie Cup Lichen*  
Photo by Jeff Tome.

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](http://auduboncnc.org) by scanning this code.



Follow Audubon on these platforms:



## Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Members and Friends of the Nature Center,

Happy (almost) New Year!

Winter in Western New York brings with it a quiet and calm that we can all appreciate after a busy holiday season. It is a time to reflect and be grateful for the friends, family, and favorite places that make this place our home.

We at the Nature Center are grateful to you, our members who provide year-round support to ensure that together we continue to provide real and healthy connections to nature.

### Your membership dollars support:

- More than 1,400 nature-based educational programs at the Nature Center, in school classrooms throughout Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Warren Counties, and within the greater community each year.
- Six miles of trails that are kept open and accessible year-round for the more than 16,000 visitors who use them.
- A robust volunteer program that engages more than 200 individuals from teens to retirees.
- Eleven year-round staff members who dedicate their time and talents to care for the Nature Center's animal ambassadors, maintain the building and grounds, host a variety of events and programs, and provide a safe place for community members to gather in celebration of the natural world.

Audubon Community Nature Center'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 this vision a reality.

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

I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,

*Leigh J. Rovegno*

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director



## ACNC Through the Years

ACNC has a rich history going back to the 1950's. Years ending in the number 4 seemed to have a lot going on, from paying off debt from buying the land ACNC sits on to the beginning steps of obtaining the Simpson Bird Collection. Here are some highlights from the last 60 years.

### 1964

"...payments are being made on the loan our Society took out to pay for the property that now makes up our Riverside Sanctuary (ACNC). The loan was for \$10,000. Already \$5,500 has been paid off..."

### 1974

"(ACNC) may inherit a fine collection of native avifauna if your society can avail itself of an extraordinarily generous offer by the Forestry Sciences Lab." (Simpson Bird Collection)

### 1984

"An attractive display booth featuring Tony the turtle and Billy the Snake was manned... at Winterama, the trade show at the Chautauqua Mall."

### 1994

"We would like to introduce Julie Novakovich as the new Teacher/naturalist for the Jamestown Audubon Society at the Olean BOCES center."

### 2004

"Audubon now offers Birthday parties! Have a Wild Birthday party down at the Audubon! We provide everything from a great party space to fun games — even a cake and party favors!"

### 2014

"It's time to look forward to... introducing students from Russell, Sugar Grove and Eisenhower schools to discovery walks and classroom programs"

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.

## 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> .....	Antoinetta Lindell
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Robert Klebacha

## Board of Directors

Louise Boutwell, Pat Evans, Andrew Harrington, Miles Hilton, Laurie Korb, Greg Lyle, Dr. Erin Pender, Peter Stark

## 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 Jandreaux
<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



Right: Winter Festival Ice Skating, 1984

## Volunteer Corner

ACNC's Volunteer Program provides opportunities to people looking to put special skills to use, make a difference in the local community, or learn something new. For more information on how to become a volunteer, please visit [auduboncnrc.org/volunteer](http://auduboncnrc.org/volunteer)

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser:**  
January 20, 3:00 – 6:30 p.m.; volunteer positions: meal assembly, outside greeting, curb-side delivery, clean-up.
- **Volunteer Potluck Brunch:**  
January 25, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join Emily Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator, to discuss development of the volunteer program. Bring a dish to pass and ideas to share. Free for all current volunteers.
- **Breakfast with the Birds:**  
February 17, 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. Can you make the perfect pancake? Put your skills to use at ACNC for this fun bird-themed breakfast.

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



Volunteers from the 2023 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, putting the finishing touches on meals.

Over 100 spaghetti dinners were assembled by a team of volunteers in 2023.

Start the New Year off by giving back to your local community by volunteering! Fundraisers like this are a good way to see if volunteering at ACNC is the right for you.

Join ACNC for the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, or contact [enelson@auduboncnrc.org](mailto:enelson@auduboncnrc.org) for more ways to get involved.

## Great Discounts on Birdseed



Buy birdseed at Audubon's winter birdseed sale to save 10 – 20% 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 Sunday, February 4.**

Volunteers will load your birdseed into your car on Saturday, February 17. The Blue Heron Gift Shop will also sell things at an extra 10% off that day.

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



A Black Capped Chickadee eating seed from a hanging platform feeder.

## Buy Your Bird Gear at ACNC

The Blue Heron Gift Shop has got all kinds of things for the birds. Not only can you buy birdseed and suet, there is also a selection of feeders. Some of these feeders are handcrafted by volunteers out of scrap lumber to create functional feeders.

There is also a wide selection of bird books, bird puppets, stuffed Audubon singing birds and children's books. There is even a laminated guide to backyard birds to keep close to the birdfeeder window. The Blue Heron Gift Shop is open daily with the Nature Center.

# Programs and Events

## January

### First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, January 7, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.  
Free for children and adults

*Reservations requested by January 6.*

*Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.*

### Little Explorers (Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)

*Bears*

Saturday, January 13, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and Children 3 – 8

*Paid reservations required by January 11.*

*Limited enrollment.*

### January Camp (Ages 4 – 12)

Monday, January 15  
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 20  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\$16 per meal

*Paid orders requested by January 15, at 9:00 a.m.*

### Volunteer Potluck Brunch (Volunteers)

Thursday, January 25

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Free, please bring a dish to pass

*Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.*

### Winter Walkabout (Adult+)

Saturday, January 27, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and Children 9 – 15

*Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.*



## February

### First Friday (Adult+)

*Topic to be determined*

Friday, February 2, 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 4, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.  
Free for children and adults

*Reservations requested by February 3.*

*Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.*

### Dine Out for Audubon (All)

*Shawbucks: 212 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Jamestown, NY*

Tuesday, February 6, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

*Backyard Birds*

Saturday, February 10

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

*Paid reservations required by February 8.*

*Limited enrollment.*

### Breakfast with the Birds (All)

Saturday, February 17, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

\$16 Adults

\$12 Members and children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

*Reservations requested by February 13.*

### Birdseed Sale — Order Pick-up

Saturday, February 17

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Orders due by February 4.*

### February Camp (Ages 4 – 12)

Monday, February 19 and

Wednesday, February 21

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 19.*

### Signs of Spring (Adult+)

Saturday, February 24

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

*Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.*



## 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 children — drop them off and pick them up later.

## Program Registration

- Online at [auduboncnc.org](http://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, 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.

*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](http://auduboncnc.org) or call **(716) 569-2345**.

## Nature Notes — Red-tailed Hawks

Katie Finch, *Senior Nature Educator*

A birder once told me that if you see a large raptor in this area in winter, you can be 90% sure it is a Red-tailed Hawk. There's a lot of truth in that. Red-tailed Hawks are one of the most common hawks in this region and they stay active all winter.

Red-tailed Hawks can be recognized in part by their large, bulky bodies and broad wings. But their coloring varies, sometimes extremely. Standard coloring includes a pale underside with a dark band of feathers across their belly, dark wingtips and back, and a rusty-red tail. But their bodies can vary from almost all white to all dark. And they only get their namesake red tail when they are two years old.

While many bird populations are declining, Red-tailed Hawks bring good news. According to the Breeding Bird Survey, Red-tailed Hawk populations have steadily increased 1% or more across the United States and Canada since 1966.

Their success may be in part to how unfussy they are about habitat and food. They do need open ground for hunting and high places for perching and nesting. Those needs can be found in a variety of places such as fields, roadsides, forest edges, and parks. About 90% of a Red-tailed Hawk's diet is rodents, like mice. However, they will eat most animals, between the size of a small mouse and a large rabbit.

In late winter, look and listen for territorial behavior such as chasing, swooping and a high-pitched screech. Nest building may begin as early as February.



**Left Top:** Red-tailed Hawks are often seen soaring over open areas. Photo by Jonathan Eckerson.

**Left Bottom:** Red-tailed Hawks will nest as early as February. They build stick nests high in trees, cliff edges, or other platforms. Photo by Jim Kennedy.

**Right:** Soren, a Red-tailed Hawk, can be viewed at Audubon year-round. Soren was found with a missing talon and swollen wingtips. Because of these injuries, Soren will be cared for and live in captivity for the rest of her life.

## Food Fundraisers this February

What better way to support Audubon Community Nature Center than by enjoying a good meal that is served to you? Take a couple of days off from cooking and check out the food-based fundraisers. Invite your friends and family, you won't even have to do the dishes when they leave.

### Dine Out for Audubon at Shawbucks Press Room

212 W. 2nd Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

**Tuesday, February 6**  
**4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

*No reservations required.*

Support Audubon by doing something you do anyway: eating out! Join the Audubon team for dinner and drinks at Shawbucks restaurant on February 6 between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. Shawbucks will donate a portion of the proceeds from that night back to Audubon. Bring some cash to take a chance at winning some great items at the basket raffle.

*More information on Shawbucks can be found at [shawbucks.com](http://shawbucks.com).*

*To learn more about this fundraiser, visit [auduboncnc.org](http://auduboncnc.org) or call (716) 569-2345*



*Gather your friends for a night out to support ACNC.*

### Spaghetti Dinner Drive-up

**Saturday, January 20**  
**4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**\$16 per meal**

*Paid-reservations required by January 15 at 9:00 a.m.*

Enjoy a home-cooked spaghetti dinner while supporting Audubon Community Nature Center! All meals are available as to-go meals. Each meal will include a plentiful helping of spaghetti with red sauce and meatballs, side salad, sliced bread, and a cookie. Vegetarian meal options are also available which include veggie-balls. Pre-order your meal and pick the most convenient pick up time for your schedule. Pick-up times will be available every 15 minutes between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., and meals will be delivered right to your car.

**Special Information:** *Food may contain allergens such as wheat, eggs, and products that have been packaged in facilities that process tree nuts. Food substitutions will not be possible.*



*Order a take-out spaghetti dinner to support the Nature Center.*

## Thinking of Joining ACNC?

Nature Center Members have free access to three floors of play exhibitions, live animals, big windows for bird watching, and endless imaginative play possibilities. Members in turn, support development of the Nature Center. ACNC can continually update all that the building and grounds have to offer, and provide the local community with opportunities for a real and healthy connection to nature.

Members also enjoy 10% off gift shop sales and discounts to programs and events.

Visit [auduboncnc.org/memberships](http://auduboncnc.org/memberships) to purchase a membership for you or a friend.



## Welcome, New Nature Center Members

*Recorded between May 5 and October 8, 2023*

### Senior (65+) Individual \$35

Linda Breitbach  
Jutta Holden  
Bob Horner  
Leona Seastrum  
Valerie Nosie

### Senior Family \$45

Alice Alessi  
Bonnie Flowers  
Ron and Susan Jorgenson  
Pamela Kitelinger  
Barbara Metcalfe and Jennifer Gibson  
Suzi Moore  
Stu and Cathy Ongley-Heywood  
Ray and Susan Toombs  
Craig and Mary Whittington  
Bob and Jan Williams

### Individual \$50

David L. Burlee  
Erin Devin  
Sue Dickey

### Family \$60

Breanne Angove  
Natalie Atanacio  
Brittany and Matthew Best

### Family \$60 (continued)

Carlie Billgrin  
Amelia Brown  
Carmella Calamunci  
Katie Carpen  
Katie Centi  
Kimberly Davis  
Nick Dean  
Mandy Dickerson  
Heather Dora  
Audrey Ducat  
Breanne Emery  
The Ferry Family  
Kelly Fiorella  
Tim Galati  
Nicole Garland  
Ellen Greenfield  
Priscilla E. Hampton  
Nate and Colleen Heath  
Scott Johnson and Jen Scholar  
William Jones  
Garret King  
Gretchen Kleinfelder  
Katie Koerselman  
Carrie and Robert Morrell  
Elsa Nelson  
Nichole and Colby Neukum  
Tarrin Nocero  
Jamie O'Donnell and John Nicklas  
Theresa Pluta  
Abby Roof

### Family \$60 (continued)

Jill Sheets  
Melinda Sipple  
Jamie Smith  
Tracy and Bobbi Stanton  
Bill Sunderlin  
Carrie Swanson  
Christy Twilight  
Brandy Weilacher  
The Winchester Family  
Elishia Wurst  
Jay & Lisa Yaggie  
Xin Yang

### Family Plus \$100

Paul Broadhead  
Tessa D'Urso  
Dean and Lisa Huya  
John and Loriele Inkley  
Brent and Nancy Jones  
Deb and Tim Piotrowski  
Jenny Sheaffer  
Jill Szumigala

### Supporting \$250

Valerie and Jon Davis  
Martin Proctor



## Education for All Ages

Day Camp is a great opportunity for a child in your life to strengthen their foundation to the natural world, broaden their knowledge, and grow through play and exploration. During eight weeks of Day Camp 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](https://auduboncnc.org/daycamp). Registration opens January 1, 2024 for members (February 1, 2024 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](https://auduboncnc.org/daycamp). Paid internship applications are available at [auduboncnc.org/jobs](https://auduboncnc.org/jobs).



Contact Sarah Hatfield at (716) 569-2345 or [shatfield@auduboncnc.org](mailto: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](mailto:lrovegno@auduboncnc.org) or (716) 569-2345 x101.

## Community Partners

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!

Bush Industries, Inc.  
 David Campbell  
 Sue and Bill Chandler  
 Hal and Mary Conarro  
 Doug and Lamae McCullor  
 National Fuel Gas Company  
 Curt and Susie Westrom  
 Weinberg Financial Group

Please contact Leigh Rovegno for more information at [lrovegno@auduboncnc.org](mailto: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.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Jamestown, NY  
14701  
Permit No. 687

## January/February ACNC Newsletter

### Inside This Issue:

- Birdseed Sale
- Blue Heron Gift Shop
- Blue Heron Legacy Society
- Community Partners
- Day Camp Info
- Executive Director's Desk
- Nature Center Members
- Nature Notes — Red-tailed Hawks
- This Time in ACNC History
- Upcoming Programs and Events
- Volunteer Opportunities



*Red-breasted Nuthatch.* Photo by Jeff Tome.