



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

March – April, 2024
Volume 68, 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: *Spring Peeper*.

Photo by Dave Huth, davehuth.com.

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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 Nature Center Members and Friends.

This organization was founded by volunteers, and it continues to thrive thanks to the **more than 700 people who have dedicated just over 140,000 hours of their time** during the past 67 years.

Audubon Community Nature Center is fortunate to be a place where people choose to spend their time and share their talents as volunteers. Donating time is one of the most generous ways to show that you care. It creates a mutually beneficial relationship that is unlike any other.

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 to harvesting olives, from running a school garden program and now helping out with community garden initiatives. Volunteering is a life-long gift that we give to ourselves — and to the community.

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.

Audubon's volunteer program stands out. Many individuals commit to a lifetime of service including 100 to 11,000 hours of service over the years. Volunteers log their hours which are then put into a spreadsheet (by a volunteer) which tallies their total hours. There are 18 individuals who have contributed more than 2,000 hours to ACNC. That's amazing.

Our volunteers are our most treasured resource. They are our friends, and our adopted (and sometimes real-life) family members. They are ACNC's ambassadors — sharing their passion for our organization with the world.

Volunteering provides a sense of belonging, an appreciation of what it means 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 treats, too)!

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

A lot has happened since ACNC was founded in 1957. Here are some highlights from newsletters in times past.

1964

“...if you want an expert look inside a bird, be sure to be on hand in the Nurses’ Recreation Room of the Nurses’ home of the Jamestown General Hospital Friday night at 7:30 o’clock.” (A program about the anatomy of a bird before ACNC had a nature center).

1974

“Grace Christy will lead a tour of (Audubon) on March 2 in connection with her February class ‘Adaptations for Winter Survival’.”

1984

“Susan Hedberg, Bertha Tornstrom, Maxine Kilkpatrick, David Dister and I (Jim Yaich) recently attended the New York State Outdoor Education Association Winter Workshop”

1994

“There are more than 80 miles of abandoned railroad rights of way in Chautauqua County... A non-profit corporation has been formed to acquire title to these lands and turn them into trails for hikers, bikers, and snowmobilers to enjoy the beautiful rural scenes of our county.”

2004

“If you want to see a congregation of several hundred salamanders, you have to be ready to drop everything and come down when it is happening. To join the salamander phone tree, call”

2014

“Beginning March 4, 2014, regular hours resume at (ACNC). Hooray!”

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: Volunteers Ann Luce and Bud Wigley help with store inventory in 2006. Then, as now, volunteers were essential to the operations of ACNC.

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 Jandreau
<i>Nature Educator</i>	Emma Roth
<i>Temporary Nature Educator</i>	Mac Dawson
<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

ACNC's Volunteer Program provides opportunities for people looking to put special skills to use, make a difference in the local community, or learn something new. For more information about the ACNC volunteer program, please visit auduboncnc.org/volunteer.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- Audubon Lights:**
 Weekend evenings from March 22 through April 7
 Volunteers are needed for electrical set up, admission booth, fire tending, and trail monitoring.
- Mailing Committee:**
 Thursday, March 14, and Thursday, April 11
 Sip coffee in good company while you prepare the spring appeal or newsletter for bulk mailing.
- Volunteer Day:**
 Saturday, April 20
 Celebrate Earth Day by giving back to the environment. Indoor and outdoor volunteer jobs available for folks of all ages.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Emily Nelson at: emelson@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345 x103

Birders Wanted!

Beginning April 26, teams of birders will take to the woods, ponds, fields, and birdfeeders to identify as many species as they can for the 2024 Birdathon!

Help ACNC by forming a team, or by donating to support local birders.



Staff and volunteers flocked together to create birding teams in the 2023 birdathon.

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
- Everydays True Value, Jamestown, NY
- Howe's True Value, Warren, PA
- Lighthouse Point Grocery, Mayville, NY
- Oneida Lumber, Ace Hardware, Warren, PA
- Vitality Natural Health and Wellness Center, Lakewood, NY
- Wegmans, Jamestown, NY

Field Guides Available

From novice to seasoned birder, field guides of all levels are available in the Blue Heron Gift Shop.

Brush up on bird species in preparation for the bird migration coming this month and into spring.

The gift shop also carried guides for insects, reptiles, mammals, trees, wildflowers, and more.



Find your field guide preference at the Blue Heron Gift Shop.

Programs and Events

March

Pie Auction (Adult)

Friday, March 1 – Wednesday, March 6
32auctions.com/ACNC24
Pie Pick-up on March 9, 2024

First Friday (Adult+)

Good Soles: Chautauqua Rails to Trails Namesakes and Trailblazers with Wendy Lewellen

Friday, March 1, 11:00 a.m. – Noon
\$8 Adults
\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

First Sunday Story Time (All)

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

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

Reservations requested by March 2.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)

Animal Engineers

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

Paid reservations required by March 7.

Limited enrollment.

Circle of Rhythm Drumming Class (All)

Children under 10 must have an adult

Saturday, March 16, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
\$11 Adults
\$8.25 Members and children 3 – 15

Paid reservations required by March 14.

A Forest Mystery (All)

March 16 – June 10, dawn to dusk
\$5 for Witness Map and Suspect Info

No reservations required.

Nature Paint Night (Adult+)

Wednesday, March 20, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
\$28 Adults
\$21 Members and children 9 – 15

Audubon Lights (All)

See page 6 for more info.

Mud Camp (Children 4 – 12)

Friday, March 29
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$48 Children
\$36 Nature Center members
\$5 sibling discount

Paid reservations required by March 27.

April

Mud Camp

Monday, April 1 (Children 6 – 12)
Thursday, April 4 (Children 4 – 12)
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$48 Children
\$36 Nature Center members
\$5 sibling discount

Paid reservations required by March 29 and April 2 respectively.

First Friday (Adult+)

Restoring Pennsylvania's Freshwater Mussel Populations with Elyse Henshaw

Friday, April 5, 11:00 a.m. – Noon
\$8 Adults
\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Creature Feature (All)

Saturday, April 6, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
\$8 Adults
\$6 Members and children 3 – 15
Free 2 and under

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome. Limited Enrollment.

Springtime Adventure (All)

Saturday, April 6, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
\$8 Adults
\$6 Members and children 3 – 15
Free 2 and under

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

First Sunday Story Time (All)

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

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

Reservations requested by April 6.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Solar Eclipse Watch (All)

See page 6 for more info.

Beginning Bird ID Workshop (Adult)

Chautauqua-Warren Birding Association

Friday, April 12, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Free

No reservations required.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Nature Sounds and Songs

Saturday, April 13, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
\$12 Adults
\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by April 11. Limited enrollment.

April (continued)

Volunteer Day at Audubon (All)

Saturday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Free

Reservations preferred, walk-ins welcome.

Nature Paint Night (Adult+)

Thursday, April 25, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
\$28 Adults
\$21 Members and children 9 – 15

Birdathon (Adult+)

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, May 5
go.rallyup.com/4a1be2

Bird Banding (All)

Urban pavilion on west side of property

April 27, 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Dusk Beaver Search (Adult+)

Saturday, April 27, 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.
\$8 Adults
\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Paid reservations required by April 25.

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
- Phone: (716) 569-2345

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.

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

Nature Notes — Star-nosed Moles

Chelsea Jandreau, *Nature Educator*

Spring is a time when animals are finding suitable places to build nests or other shelters to raise their young. A couple years ago, on a rainy April morning, a family of young Star-nosed Moles were found in the compost pile at Audubon. These babies were buried a couple inches below the surface and tucked into a nest of leaves and decomposing plant material. Many rodent species build nests to raise their young in places like tunnels, wood piles, and buildings.

A distinctive mammal, Star-nosed Moles can be found across the eastern part of North America.

They prefer to live near wet, marshy areas where they can build tunnels and search both on land and underwater for food. These moles are quick eaters and hunt a variety of small prey, including worms, snails, and aquatic insects.

So, what is up with that star-shaped nose? Star-nosed Moles spend a lot of their time in tunnels underground, so they have adaptations that are best suited to their lifestyle.

Most moles have large, clawed front feet that are perfectly suited for digging, and a tubular body meant for squeezing through and rolling around in tunnels. These large front feet also help the Star-nosed Mole swim to forage for prey.

A Star-nosed Mole has a poor sense of sight, but they have other senses to make up for it, which is where their unique nose comes into play. The twenty-two points that make up the star of their nose are covered with touch receptors known as Eimer's organs. Other moles also have these sensory organs in their nose, but the star-nosed mole has them in abundance. These receptors help the mole feel what is around them so it can move around and interact with its environment, despite its limited sight.

Since these moles often have their babies in the spring, keep an eye out when digging around in garden beds, compost piles, and other similar places for these harmless rodents.

Eastern Moles and Hairy-tailed Moles are two other common moles in the region.



Top Right: *Star-nosed Mole nose.*
Photo by Dan MacNeal.

Bottom Right: *Nest of Star-nosed Moles in the compost pile.* Photo by Jeff Tome.

Audubon Lights

**Fridays and Saturdays from
March 22 to April 6 and Sunday, April 7
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

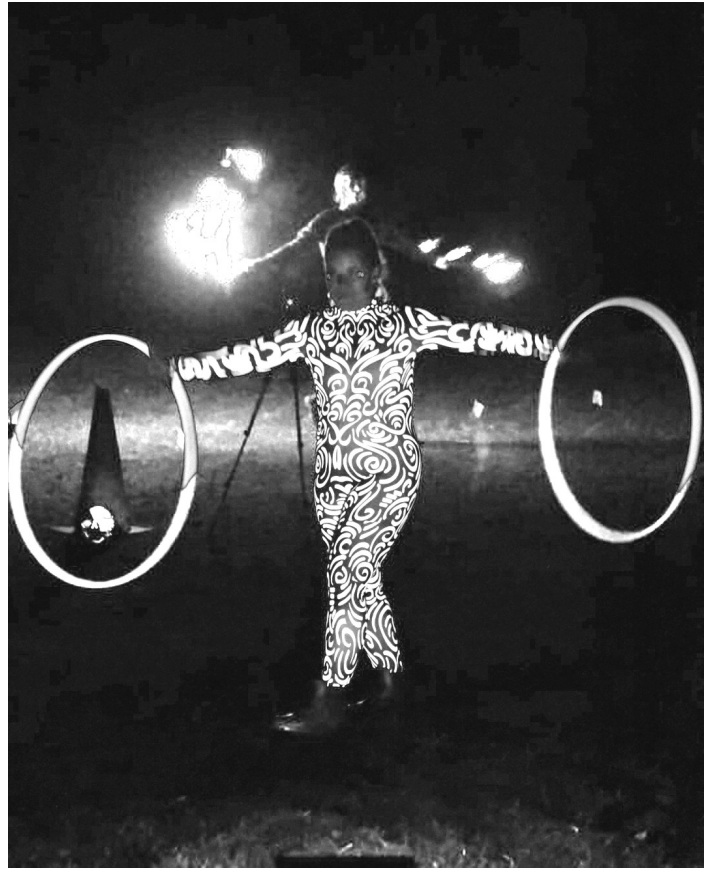
Beginning times shift later by 15 minutes each weekend to correspond with sunset.

**\$12 Adults
\$9 Nature Center members
\$9 Children 3 – 15
Free 2 and under**

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Audubon lights up early 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 in new ways. The trails look stunning when lit up in the dark, and Spring Peepers sometimes provide the perfect soundtrack.

The trail ends at the Nature Center with a warm fire, hot drinks, popcorn, and other food for sale, as well as live entertainment. The Nature Center building will be open during the event.



Solar Eclipse Watch

Monday, April 8, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Full Eclipse: 3:18 p.m.

\$20 per car for parking (cash encouraged)

Free Nature Center Building Admission

Limited parking. First come, first served.

Parking pre-registration not available. Reserve horse-drawn carriage rides online at auduboncnc.org for an additional fee of \$6 for adults and \$4 for members and children.

A full solar eclipse is a once in a lifetime event, and Chautauqua County is right in the line of totality! Celebrate this unique natural event at Audubon Community Nature Center, where there are large open fields, trails, and other observation points available to watch the eclipse. Horse-drawn wagon rides, live music, and food trucks will entertain you leading up to the eclipse, in addition to the six miles of hiking trails, live animals to visit, as well as a Nature Center full of exhibits to explore. It's the perfect place to spend the day!

Horse drawn wagon rides, live music by Miranda Wilcox, and food trucks will be available throughout the day.

Thank You, Nature Center Volunteers

197 volunteers, including 24 registered with the RSVP program, logged 4,706 hours from June 1 through December 1, 2023. These dedicated individuals give freely of their time and talents to make ACNC thrive.

Berkley Adams	Terra Devereaux	Gary Lester
Jill Adams	Sarah DiDomenico	Penny Lester
Nancy Aitken	Don Dove	Shannon Lewis
Dave Anderson	Tina Downey	Netta Lindell
Denny Anderson	Audrey Ducat	Roman LoBianco
Thom Armella	Lori Ducat	Judy Long
Laura Ayers	Devin Ecklof	Elsa Lumia
Zach Ayers	Nilla Ecklof	Ruth Lundin
Mardy Backstrom	Piper Ecklof	Braedan Lutgen
John Barone	Sadie Ecklof	Greg Lyle
Janice Barrelle	Pat Evans	Julianna Main
Donna Beal	Mel Feather	Jessica Mancan
Ashley Bean	Jim Fincher	Mark Mason
Mary Beckerink	Patricia Fincher	Cheryl Mawhinney
Sally Beckerink	Sandy Fletcher	Mary Beth Mazzone
Danielle Bertolini	Willow Fodor	Kelli Merchant
Melissa Betrus	Janet Forbes	Carol Miller
Jacqueline Bielata	Jason Freed	Gabe Miller
Heidi Bird	Patricia Gardocki	Larry Miller
Kaylin Blöse	Jean Gomory	Taylor Morrison
Elayne Blystone	Carly Gould	Joanne E. Nelson
Barbara Boone	Jeffrey Greenfield	Julie Nelson
Patricia Borowski	Terry Hallock	Madelyn Nelson
Chad Bosko	Ginger Hanlon	Abigail Newman
Dennis Bottomley	Andrew Harrington	Will Novitske
Louise Boutwell	Sandy Hatfield	Joseph O'Hara
Reg Boutwell	Kathie Healey	Sally Patchen
Bonnie Bowen	Riley Herling	Kaleigh Paul
Pat Bringer	Jerry Hildom	Erin Pender
Jeff Brockelbank	Miles Hilton	Allyssa Peterson
Brenda Brook	Jutta Holden	Allyvia Peterson
Alan Brown	Dianne Hovey	Anna Phillips
Lawrence Brown	Clarissa Hren	Danice Pierce
David Bull	John Hyde	Jennifer Pierce
David Burlee	Karen Inwood	Tucker Pierce
Rejeanne Butzer	Frankie Johnson	Deborah Piotrowski
Sophia Cama	Michael Johnson	Mae Piotrowski
Charlie Cardinale	Pamela Johnson	Tim Piotrowski
Adam Carlson	Ronald Johnson	Eugenie Poignard
Raymond Carlson	Courtney Jung	Floyd Prine
Pierre Chagnon	Sky King	Freda Pyles
Alex Champman	Patricia Kinney	Zach Reeves
Karen Christy	Robert Klebacha	Chris Reil
Janette Coleson	Anne Kolesar	Emily Rice
Carole Colter	Laurie Korb	Johannah Robb
Barb Conklin	Susan Lampo	Emilie Roush
Arlene Connelly	Margaret Lane	Rachel Roushey
Jane Conroe	Michelle Lauffenburger	Charlie Rovegno
Elaine Conti	Brookie LaVigne	Leigh Rovegno
Alexis Cooper	Huntley Lavigne	Rick Rupprecht
Kristen Cramer-Belic	Sebastian Lawson	LeeAnn Russell
Elaine Crossley	Terry LeBaron	Carol Samuelson
Cummins Employees	Madilyn Lent	Karen Sanders
Carly Davis	Gregg Leonard	Bill Schmidt



Rachel reading a story to Dragons and Fairies Festival participants.

Olivia Sechriest
 Don Sharp
 Trinity Schultz
 Liam Silsby
 Catherine Simpson
 Madeline Skeats
 Natalie Skeats
 Christine Skoczylas
 David Skoczylas
 Peter Stark
 Amy Stephenson
 Lyra Stephenson
 Toni Stone
 Stephen Stout
 Evan Strong
 Barb Suckow
 Carrie Swanson
 Paul Swanson
 Katherine Tavitass
 Halley Telaak
 Craig Thompson
 Maia Tome
 Linda Trostle
 Molly Ulsh
 Bob VanEvery
 Nigil Weinman
 Peyton Welch
 Coralee Wenzel
 Mary Jane Whaley
 Nancy White
 Catherine Willard
 Mary Williams
 John Willsie
 Ro Woodard
 Sue Yauchzy

Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage

Registration for the Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage is open! The 66th Annual Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage will be held at Allegheny State Park Red House Area from **Friday, May 31 to Sunday, June 2**. It was originally the brainchild of Gib Burgeson, member of the Jamestown Audubon Society, and has grown into a huge annual event. It is sponsored by Audubon Community Nature Center, Presque Isle Audubon of Erie PA, Buffalo Audubon, and Burroughs Audubon Nature Club of Rochester.

The Pilgrimage features a full weekend of natural history field trips and programs for all ages and interests.

Visit AlleghenyNaturePilgrimage.com for the line-up of this year's field trips and programs.

Friday's "Big Tent" speaker will be Jim McCormac on 'Mysterious Moths: Growing the Darker Side of Butterflies'. He will take guests on a visual tour of the intriguing and little-known world of moths.

Saturday, Julie Lundgren, ecologist with the non-profit New York Natural Heritage Program, will share the wonders of Allegheny State Park with common, little-known, and rare flora and fauna in the park.

ANP is offering a commemorative shirt or sweatshirt designed by local artist Erin Ruffino for pre-order only. Shirts can be picked up at the Pilgrimage.



For complete information and to register for the Pilgrimage, go to AlleghenyNaturePilgrimage.com. For questions, email alleghanynaturepilgrimage@gmail.com.

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

Bruce and Juline Battler
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
Jeanne Wiebenga and Jane Stirniman

For more information, visit auduboncnc.org/communitypartners or call (716) 569-2345.



Audubon Community Nature Center

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1600 Riverside Road
Jamestown, NY 14701

Electronic service requested

March/April ACNC Newsletter

Inside This Issue:

- Allegany Nature Pilgrimage
- Audubon Lights
- Blue Heron Gift Shop
- Blue Heron Legacy Society
- Community Partners
- Executive Director's Desk
- Nature Notes — Star-nosed Mole
- Solar Eclipse Watch
- This Time in ACNC History
- Upcoming Programs and Events
- Volunteer Opportunities and Recognition



American Robin on Staghorn Sumac. Photo by Jeff Tome.