



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

Annual Report

October 1, 2022 –
September 30, 2023



Audubon Community Nature Center

2022 – 2023 Annual Report

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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



Board Officers

<i>Board Chair</i>	Tina Downey
<i>Vice Chair, Strategic Planning</i>	Dave Burlee
<i>Vice Chair, Development</i>	Dr. Eugenie Poignard
<i>Treasurer</i>	Greg Lyle
<i>Secretary</i>	Willow Fodor

Board of Directors (Non-officers)

Louise Boutwell, Andrew Harrington,
Linnea Haskin (through February 2023), Laurie Korb,
Netta Lindell, Dr. Erin Pender, Tim Piotrowski

Nature Center Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	Leigh Rovegno
<i>Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator</i>	Emily Nelson
<i>Public Engagement Specialist</i>	Jeff Tome
<i>Building and Grounds Manager</i>	Terry LeBaron
<i>Gift Shop and Reception Manager</i>	Joanne Miller
<i>Receptionist</i>	Claire Certo
<i>Education Coordinator</i>	Sarah Hatfield
<i>Senior Nature Educator and Interpretive Project Manager</i>	Katie Finch
<i>Nature Educator</i>	Chelsea Jandreau
<i>Nature Educator</i>	Emma Roth
<i>Designer and Animal Care Specialist</i>	Kim Turner
<i>Seasonal Educator</i>	Becky Woldt
<i>Education Interns</i>	Audrey Ducat Tim Galati Abby Roof Liz Quadt
<i>Invasive Species Management Assistants</i>	Ellen Greenfield Amelia Brown

An Introduction to ACNC

Mission

Audubon Community Nature Center (ACNC) builds and nurtures connections between people and nature by providing positive outdoor experiences, opportunities to learn about and understand the natural world, and knowledge to act in environmentally responsible ways.

Vision

Audubon Community Nature Center envisions a future where every child within our community has a real and healthy connection to nature.

Statement of Beliefs

- We believe that a positive relationship with nature strengthens and enriches us physically, mentally, and spiritually.
- We believe that all forms of life are interdependent and the diversity of nature is essential to our wellbeing.
- We believe that learning is a lifelong endeavor and we dedicate ourselves to opening the eyes of all people to the wonder, beauty, and variety of the natural world.
- We believe in sharing our passion with others so that they may be inspired to become stewards of the natural world.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Statement

Audubon Community Nature Center recognizes that a healthy ecosystem is defined by its level of biodiversity. Similarly, ACNC believes that the level of diversity within an organization's leadership, staff, and constituency defines its health and overall relevance to the community that it serves. ACNC also recognizes that there is a lack of diversity within the backgrounds, experiences, identities, and abilities of people within the environmental field as well as within the existing governance, leadership, staff, and constituency of Audubon Community Nature Center. To uphold the IDEA commitments ACNC recognizes that it requires the acceptance, active participation, and an ongoing evaluation of these efforts by staff, board of directors, and the broader ACNC community.



Top: Staff and volunteers installed the new Wildlife Walk signs along the paved trail that loops the Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat.
Below: Visitors enjoying the Simpson Bird Collection. New signs share information about the history of birding and Ralph B. Simpson.



The Year of Interpretation Projects

Each year, ACNC's staff selects specific projects to tackle based on its strategic plan. 2022 – 2023 was certainly no exception! As the organization has grown to include additional structures, and with the addition of new animal ambassadors such as Soren, the Red-tailed Hawk, and Cricket, the American Kestrel, a lot of planning has gone into educational interpretation.

Twelve-year ACNC staff member, Katie Finch, recently took on the role of Interpretive Projects Manager and she has already made a significant impact. Katie's time and talents, when not out teaching in schools or at summer Day Camp, are focused on improving ACNC's visitor experience. Her work to tell the stories behind each of ACNC's exhibits has been incredible to watch as it has unfolded this past year.

Eight-year ACNC staff member, Kim Turner, plays a significant role in this process. Kim's design expertise adds a wide variety of color combined with hand-drawn graphics, giving a unique look to ACNC's interpretive signs. Kim's combined knowledge of both design and animals benefits ACNC in a variety of ways.

Interpretation improvement projects completed for 2022 – 2023 include the Wildlife Walk sign project, the Ralph Simpson exhibit project, and the creation of a new (and incredibly spacious) indoor tank for ACNC's Snapping Turtle.

Kudos to Kim and Katie for completing all of these amazing upgrades despite the many challenges that they faced along the way.



Donor Spotlight

Bob Sokolski

In 2023, Warren County lost one of its greatest community supporters. Robert (Bob) Sokolski passed away on June 30, leaving behind a philanthropic legacy. Bob was a dear friend of Audubon Community Nature Center. He worked closely with Ruth Lundin to establish Audubon's connection with Warren County schools. It was because of this that Audubon regularly provides annual programming throughout the Warren County school district including both classroom, schoolyard, and field trip programs.

Bob also served on ACNC's Board of Directors during the transition from Ruth Lundin's to Leigh Rovegno's leadership. He was a generous donor who provided financial support, allowing Audubon to purchase tables, benches, and other furniture used in the Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion. Bob also funded many of Audubon's Warren County programs including in-person programs for St. Joseph's Catholic school, field trips to the Nature Center, and other community-based programs. We will all miss Bob and his incredibly generous spirit.

"I remember my phone calls with Bob well," says ACNC Executive Director, Leigh Rovegno. "He was always on a mission. Bob was very good at inspiring others to be their best. I think Bob was always impressed by the fact that I insisted on showing up in-person for my second interview for the role of Executive Director (then President). He liked to remind me that if I hadn't gotten on that plane... I may not have gotten the job. Having Bob in my corner was a true sign of success. I knew that he set his standards high, and I was very grateful to know that I was one of the many people who he believed in and invested in."

ACNC and Warren County

- 167 Membership households in Warren county
- 35 Volunteers from Warren county
- 6 schools, 2 day care facilities, Warren YMCA, and one scout troop in Warren received ACNC programming
- 6 out of 13 Board Members are Warren County residents
- 4 out of 11 staff members are Warren County residents
- 22% of ACNC day campers are Warren County residents on average



Bob Sokolski and previous ACNC President, Ruth Lundin, at Ruth's retirement party in 2018.



Audubon's Blue Heron Legacy Society includes a group of 20 individuals who have made commitments to provide financial support by listing Audubon as a beneficiary in their wills, IRA accounts, retirement plans, or designated funds.

This commitment ensures that Audubon Community Nature Center can continue creating real and healthy connections to nature for generations to come.

Blue Heron Legacy Society members gather twice a year to learn more about Audubon's current and upcoming priorities and projects while enjoying some social time with like-minded individuals.

Unanticipated bequests received in 2022 – 2023 allowed Audubon to reseal and restripe its parking lot. They also allowed for the purchase of a golf cart for Audubon's Buildings and Grounds Manager, Terry LeBaron. The new striping increased parking lot safety for both pedestrians and drivers. The golf cart makes Terry's job much easier by allowing him to get to one side of the property to the other much more efficiently to work with volunteers.

For more information about the Blue Heron Legacy Society, please visit auduboncnc.org/legacysociety.

Education

School Programs

In 2022 – 2023, Audubon’s one seasonal and three year-round Nature Educators delivered a total of **1,089 school programs**, which included in-person classroom, schoolyard visits, and field trips to the Nature Center. Audubon’s school programs are carefully curated to enhance classroom curriculum through the introduction of hands-on learning opportunities that feature both real and manufactured artifacts.



Schools: Beaty-Warren Middle, Bemus Point, Bush Elementary, Chautauqua Lake Central, Clymer Central, Deer Run School (Amish), Eisenhower Elementary, Faithkeeper’s School (Seneca Nation), Falconer Middle, Fenner Elementary, Fletcher Elementary, Fredonia Elementary, R. H. Jackson (Frewsburg), Gail N. Chapman (Randolph), Hewes Educational Center (BOCES), Jamestown Public Schools UPK locations, Jefferson Middle School, Lincoln Elementary, Love Elementary, Panama Central, Randolph Academy, Randolph Middle School, Ring Elementary, Sheffield Elementary, Sinclairville Elementary, Southwestern Elementary, St. Joseph’s Catholic, Temple Elementary, Warren Area Elementary Center, Youngsville Elementary School

Organizations: Ashville Library, Cassadaga Library, Hazeltine Library, Jefferson Defrees Family Center, Lakewood Memorial Library, North East Summer Recreation Program, Prendergast Library, Warren YMCA

ACNC engages with an incredibly diverse audience through its partnership with local schools and organizations. Children who may face barriers to spending time in nature or are not able to visit Audubon Community Nature Center get to experience nature up-close in their own classrooms. As we see more diversification within communities due to the increase in refugees and immigrants, ACNC educators will be working to understand the barriers (transportation, lack of local knowledge, language) that might prevent children from being able to develop real and healthy connection to nature.

Day Camp

The 2023 Summer Day Camp season was a great success! Over the eight weeks, Audubon hosted **275 campers** who participated in **36 Camps**.



Top: Don volunteered as a gnome for the Dragons and Fairies Festival and delighted visitors.
Middle: New acts, including fire breathers, improved this year's Audubon Lights event.
Bottom: Many of ACNC's events are targeted to families with children ages 3 – 12, but all ages are encouraged to attend.
Left: Nature Educator, Emma Roth, greeting students for a Discovery Walk.

Festivals and Events

In addition to school programs and Day Camp, Audubon Community Nature Center hosts a variety of other activities throughout the year including its family-favorite events.

In 2022 – 2023 more than **3,800 people** took part in one or more of the events listed below.

- **March/April:**
Audubon Lights — 1,650 people
- **June:**
Dragons and Fairies Festival — 873 people
- **July:**
Wild 5K — 97 people
- **August:**
Monarch Butterfly Festival — 618 people
- **October:**
Enchanted Forest — 620 people





Emillie is a Day Camp regular and her mom Eugenie volunteers on the Board of Directors. Events offer the opportunity for intergenerational volunteering.

Volunteers

Between October 1, 2022 and September 2023, **279 volunteers** contributed **7,992 hours** of service. Thirty two of those volunteers were a part of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Audubon’s volunteer program stands out. Many individuals commit to a lifetime of service including 100 to 11,000 volunteer hours over the years.



“My daughter Maia has volunteered over 100 hours at Audubon, and was recognized at the 2023 volunteer picnic for her hours. She came to Audubon’s Summer Day Camp from preschool through middle school. She then started helping as a Counselor-in-Training, where she worked with children in summer camps. She has also volunteered to help set up and work events.

Recently, at age 15, Maia started her first job. She was really nervous on her first day, and had no idea what to expect. At the end of her first shift, I picked her up and asked how it went. The first words out of her mouth were “I am so glad that I volunteered so much at Audubon. It really prepared me in ways I didn’t even dream of until I was working”.

Did I know that volunteering at Audubon would help to make her first job easier and the first day go smoother? No, but I was thrilled that her experiences at Audubon have made such a huge difference in her life.”

• **Jeff Tome, Staff and Father** •



Maia has helped with many events over the years. These experiences have helped prepare her for her first job in the “real world.”

Summary of Lifetime Volunteer Service Hours

Audubon's volunteers are the organization's most treasured resource. Since 2007, more than 700 individuals have contributed 140,050 hours of service. Before that, volunteer hours were not yet recorded, but they certainly still counted!

ACNC has a variety of volunteer groups who provide essential support throughout the organization. The following graphic shows the different areas of volunteering and how many people donated their time between January and December 2023. ACNC's auditors assess the value of annual volunteer service at approximately \$260,000.

Volunteer Numbers by Task:



Financial Sustainability

Audubon is unique in that no more than 21% of its total operating income comes from any one source. **Program and admission income represents the highest percentage of total operating income.** Audubon recognizes that for a non-profit to maintain financial sustainability, it must have a diverse income stream.

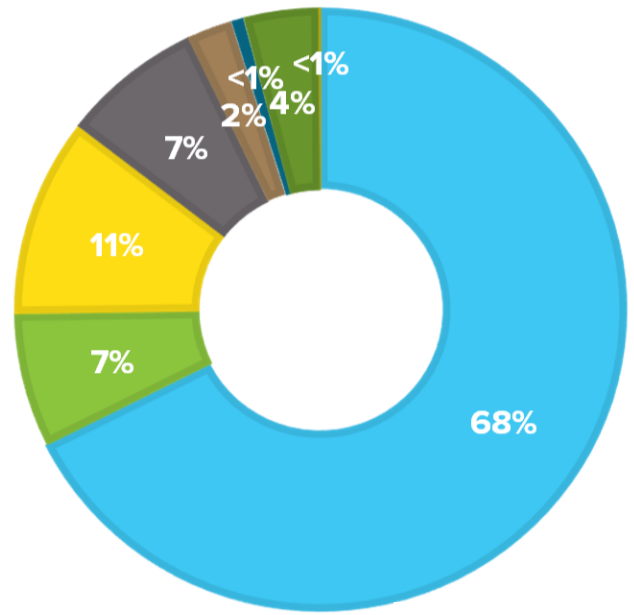
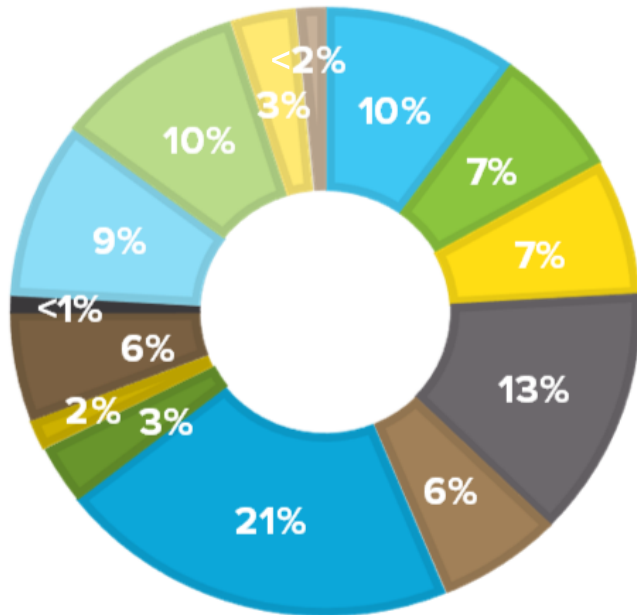
In 2022 – 2023, Audubon took its annual distribution of \$87,647 from its endowment and placed it into a short-term liquid investment account. This account’s purpose is to hold funds that will allow Audubon to help cover unanticipated expenses (both capital and operating) in the near future.

68% of Audubon’s annual expenses include staff salaries and benefits. Over the past four years, Audubon has worked to adjust its salary ranges based on increased job responsibilities and the increase of New York State’s minimum wage.

The operating income and expense summaries below are taken from Audubon’s pre-audited financial statements and do not include Audubon’s full financial portfolio. To view ACNC’s 2022 – 2023 fully audited financial statements please visit auduboncnc.org/archives.

Income

Expense



- Foundation Grants 10%
- State Grants 7%
- Capital Grants 7%
- Investment Distributions 13%
- Membership 6%
- Programs and Admission 21%
- Gift Shop Sales (net of COGS) 3%
- Birdseed Sales (net) 2%
- Gifts and Donations 6%
- Grants - Other <1%
- Fundraisers and Events 9%
- Individual Contributions 10%
- Sponsorships 3%
- Other Income <2%

- Staff Salaries and Benefits 68%
- Administration and Insurance 7%
- Building 11%
- Education Materials 7%
- Grounds 2%
- Membership, Marketing, Volunteers <1%
- Fundraisers and Special Events 4%
- Other <1%

Grantors

- Capacity Lab
- Carnahan Jackson Foundation
- Chautauqua Region Community Foundation
- Holmberg Foundation
- Hultquist Foundation
- Jessie Smith Darrah Fund
- Lenna Foundation
- New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation
- United Arts Appeal of Chautauqua County

Business Sponsors: \$100 – \$750

Business Sponsors support ACNC's annual events like Enchanted Forest, Monarch Festival, and others.

- Ahlstrom Schaffer
- Arthur R. Gren Co. Inc.
- Ashville General Store
- Blackstone Advanced Technologies
- Buffamante Whipple Buttafaro P.C.
- Courier Capital
- Eagle Systems Inc.
- Ekey Marketplace
- Forecon Inc.
- Kinetic by Windstream
- Kwik Fill/United Refining
- Lawley Insurance
- Mark and Pat Evans
- MW Graphics
- Orkin Pest Control
- Saxton Kocur and Associates
- Shawbucks
- Shults Auto Group
- Solar Liberty
- Ulrich Fabrication, Inc
- Univera Healthcare
- Vitality Natural Health and Wellness Center
- Wegmans

Community Partners: \$2,000+

Audubon Community Partners include foundations, businesses, and individuals who make a contribution of \$2,000 or more in a year. The following list is in addition to the participating foundations listed above.

- Bob Frucella's Tax Service
- Bush Furniture, a Brand of eSolutions Furniture
- David Campbell
- Bill and Sue Chandler
- Hal and Mary Conarro
- Doug and Lamae McCullor
- National Fuel Gas Company
- Curt and Susie Westrom
- Weinberg Financial Group
- Whirley Drinkworks!

Memorials

In 2022 – 2023, **95 donors** contributed a total of **\$23,065** to Audubon Community Nature Center in memory of their loved ones.

Ann Beebe

Carol and John Hardenburg

Michael D. Brake

Janette Coleson

John Brustrom

JAS Photo Club

Don and Barb Carlson

Jeff and Mary Carlson

Eric J. Carlson

Patricia A. LaMancuso

William “Bill” Colter

Marcia and Bill de la Cerda

John and Linda Galati

Mary Anne Harp

Frances P. Marchiando

Autumn Miller

Virginia Richardson

Ridouts Heating and Cooling Company

Gayle Schulte

Robert Ungerer

Curt Westrom

Martha S. Crandall

Gerald and Beth Bloomgren

Susan Crandall

Ken and Roxann Beebe

Barbara Bova

Mary Carlson

Marcia de la Cerda

Carol Crandall and Brenda Bouchard

Patricia Faust

Susan Guenther

Linda Harvey

Beverly and Robert Lannon

Alex and Nancy Palmer

Janice A. Phillips

Brad and Carol Samuelson

Ronald and Barbara Simpson

Arlene Weiss

David Cross

John Carpenter

John and Deborah Fish

Dorothy Jones

Kurt and Mary Kaufmann

Dorothy Marble

Laurie McCarthy

Keith and Wendy O'Connor

Olean Hospitality Committee

Brit and Maia Setzer

Duane and Lois Stoelting

Fred Taylor

Steve, Pat, and Fred Taylor

Bill Danielson

Rachel Check

Leonard DeFrancisco

Lictus Keystone Inc.

Mike and Mary Ellen Ticchione

Charles "Chuck" Freay

Carol Ingrao

Bill and Linda Stagg

Elaine Van Stee and James and

Darlene Lavin

Gloria Gardner

Ross Gardner

James Hitchcock

Vicki Hitchcock

Phyllis Hoth

Sylvia W. Cowsert

Mary Jane and Gene Ingersol

Gail Crawford and Amy Tilburg

Jack Lance

David and Margaret Nelson

John Dave Lange

Barb Gellman

Donald Lopus

Your Friends from EfM St. Luke's

Jonathan Massey and Mandy Katz

Cynthia Jelstrom

Diane Pawelski

Liberty, the Bald Eagle

Anonymous

Dennis Anderson

Heidi and Justin Bird

Mary Grace Brustrom

Jan Boyle

Marty Carnahan

Susan Chandler

Elaine Crossley, Bluebird Lady

Bob and Barb Crowley

Pierre and Judy Chagnon

Susan Dilick

Annette Goodman

Robert and Susan Klebacha

Nikole Knobloch

Priscilla and Gary Lester

Susan and John Lundin

Greg and Pamela Lyle

Graham and Mollie Mahaffey

Marlene Marchincin

Murry and Marie McComas

John and Kelli Merchant

Barbara Metcalfe

Linda O'Brien

The Rovegno Family

Mary Ann Samuelson

John and Sue Speicher

Lisa To

Jeanne Wiebenga

Catherine MacKenzie

The MacKenzie Family

Kay Stahlman

Marilyn McCoy

Marge and Randy Jones

Alison W. Ney

Lillian V. Ney

Linda O'Brien

Sue Chandler

Susan Lawton

Jeff Tome

Norm A. Owen

Evelyn Owen

Edna Rexford

Donald Rexford

Lynette Rexford

Carol A. Sandberg

Craig and Charlotte Carlson

Stephen To

The Parinella's

Don Wells

The Lucas Family

Branwen Wright

Antoinette Ferrino

Joe Zeitler

David and Margaret Nelson

Eric Nelson

Honorariums

In 2022 – 2023, **18 donors** contributed a total of **\$2,560** to Audubon Community Nature Center in honor of their loved ones.

Steve and Ann Abdella

Gennaro and Cynthia Manocchio

Dennis Anderson

Robert W. VanEvery

Thom Armella

Anonymous
Dennis Anderson
Coralee Wenzel
Jeanne Wiebenga

Larry Bourne

Anonymous

Reg and Louise Boutwell

Jay and Kathie Balentine

Leah Bullock’s 90th Birthday

John and Mary Cole

Pierre Chagnon

Robert W. VanEvery

Kevin Fletcher

Lee Fletcher

Paul Hedberg and Ruth Lundin

Susan and John Lundin
Mike and Cathy Moots
Robert W. VanEvery

Steve Koehler

Greg Koehler

Amy and Harold Leach

John Schrader

Bob and Kathy Long

Natalie and John Debich

Matt Mazgaj

The Schiffrins

Leigh Rovegno

Anonymous
Jack and Anne Palomaki

Robert Ungerer

The Schiffrins

Top Right: Julianna volunteered at the Monarch Butterfly Festival and helped visitors make crafts.

Middle Right: A family of flying squirrels utilized one of the nest boxes on the property this summer.

Bottom Right: New interpretive signs in the hemlock forest and near the backwoods trail were designed and installed this year.



Annual Fund Drive: Individual Donors \$100+

Each and every donation makes a difference! In 2022 – 2023, more than **327 individuals** made donations totaling **\$55,544**. The following list includes the 140 donors who made contributions in 2022 – 2023 at the \$100 level and higher.

\$1,000+

Anonymous
Bruce Battler
Marty Carnahan
Sue and Bill Chandler
C.F. Conaway
Nikole Knobloch
Dr. Ranjit Laha
National Fuel Gas
Company Foundation
Sandra Rothenberg
Curt and Susie Westrom

\$500 – 999

Anonymous
Ida Bauer
Renate Bob
Reg and Louise Boutwell
Patricia Brown
Paul and Beth Higby
John L. Jarzab
Frances J. Lapinski
Ann D. Luce in memory
of Richard P. Luce
Madeline Miles
Chase and Mary Putnam
Art and Johannah Robb
Charles and Nancy Sinatra
Robert Ungerer
John Willisie

\$200 – 499

Anonymous
Shauna and Dan Anderson
Todd and Linda Anderson
Larry and JoAnne Brickley
Bill and Diana Burbank
Ann Carlson
Janette Coleson in memory
of Kurt E. Coleson
Sylvia D. Derrick
Tina and Ray Downey
Pat and Mark Evans
Mel Feather
Theodore and Deborah First
Katherine Frank
Marjorie Gingell
D. Gould
Mary Anne Harp in honor
of Merle Szydlo
Jamestown Garden Club
Robert and Susan Klebacha
Ronald and Anne Kohl

Nancy Lahnen
Gary and Penny Lester
David and Cynthia Lundin
Ruth Lundin
Steve and Bonnie Maggio
Joan M. Marcello
Michael McEntire
Cindy Miller
Tom Mooney
Native Roots
The Pender Family
Tom Price
Lois J. Reid Charitable Fund
Maureen and Jim Rovegno
Heidi Schwab
Charles and Nancy Sinatra
Priscilla Spencer
Leon Stein
Craig Thompson
and Rose Ann Woodard
Denny and Linda Trostle
Rose Van Volkenburg

\$100 – 199

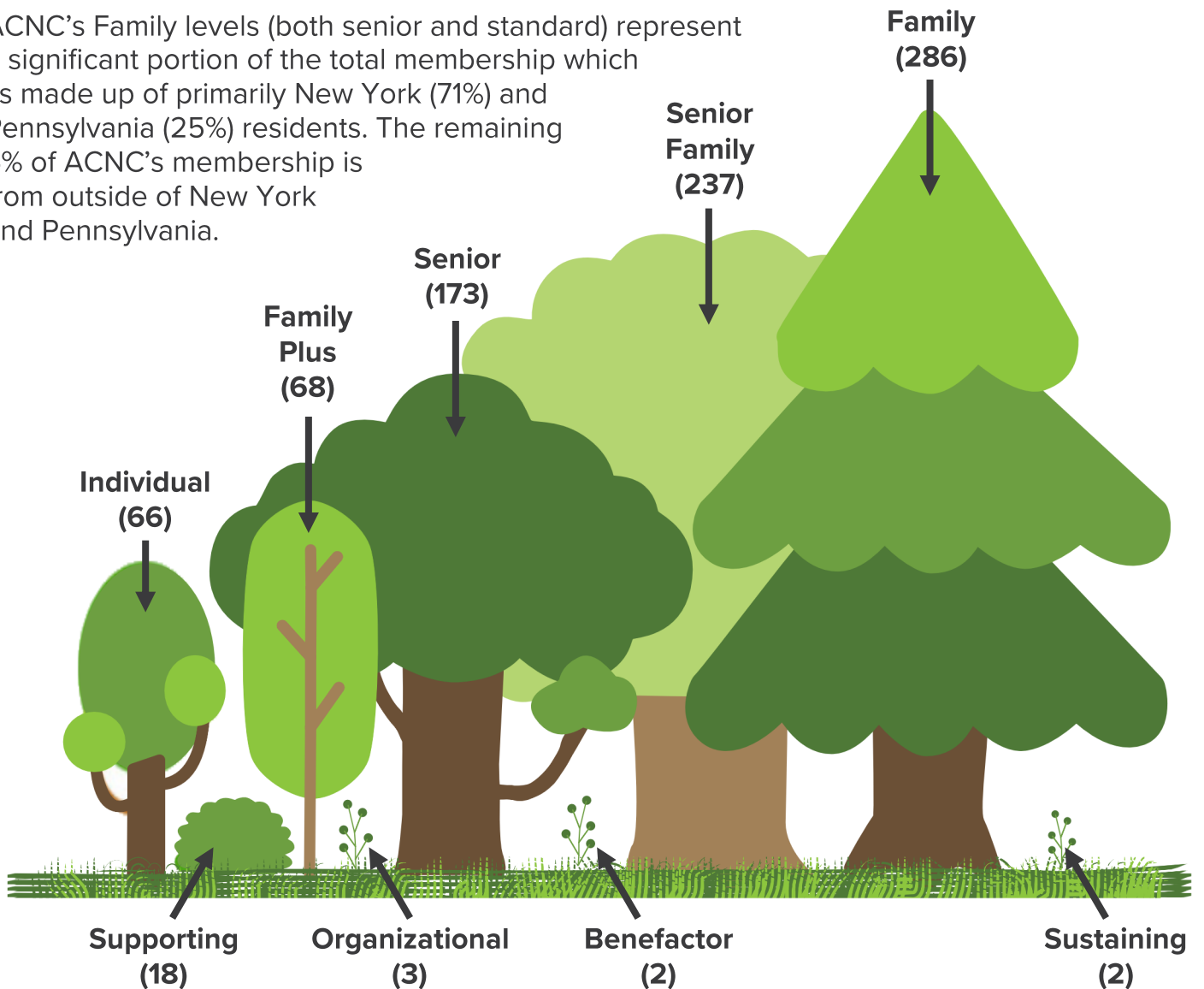
Anonymous
Nancy Allen MD
Cynthia R. Anderson
Larrie and Norma Anderson
Dennis Anderson
Chris Baglia
Joel and Lesley Berdine
Jim and Mary Berry
Robert and Elizabeth Booth
Chuck and Pat Brininger
Aimee Brunelle
Dale and Elizabeth Buonocore
Dave and Jen Burlee
CHQDogs
Roger and Arlene Connelly
Tony and Linda Conte
Elaine Conti
Dave Cooney
Barb and Bob Crowley
Karen A. Peterson Dennerlein
Kate Ebersole
Tom and Mary Erlandson
Priscilla Fairbank
The Fairbank Family
Pat and Jim Fincher
The Fodor Family
Frewsburg Lions Club
David Genung
Marjorie and Robert Gingell

Melanie and Lyndon Gritters
Robert and Camille Guinnane
Eleanor and Edmund Harvey
Diana Hatfield in honor
of Sarah Hatfield
Susan H. Hedberg
E.E.H.
Jeffrey Hunter
Martin and Patricia Idzik
Joe and Jan Johnson
Barbara Johnson
Nancy Krestic
Lake Erie Bird Club
Lind Funeral Home, Inc.
John and Clara Lockwood
Greg and Pam Lyle
Mike and Barb Lyons
Frances P. Marchiando
Susan McKee
Lenny Meissner in memory
of Janet Meissner
Albert and Alice Milchanoski
Kathryn Moore in Memory
of Frederick Barmasse
P. Michael and Karen Nielsen
Daniel and Brigetta Overcash
Helen Peterson
Tim and Deb Piotrowski
Freda and JR Pyles
Quick Solutions
Virginia Richardson
Rick Rupprecht
John and Peggy Schultz
Barbara L. Sheldon
Rebecca Spear
David and Catherine Stimson
Kendall Crolius and Stephen Stout
Bill Stroh
The Stronz Family
Evelyn Suchar
Paul and Becky Swanson
John and Nancy Swanson
Cheryl Swanson
Lissa and Sherwood VanDewark
Randy and Chris Voty
Barbara Walczak in memory
of James Kolenda
Jean and Robert Walker
Don and Beth Watts
David Cooney
Diana Zubrzycki

Membership

Nature Center Members provide annual support through their financial contributions. Dedicated members established the roots of this incredible organization in 1957 and since then, Audubon has grown into a vibrant forest (as pictured below). Audubon welcomed a total of **898** Nature Center Member households in 2022 – 2023.

ACNC’s Family levels (both senior and standard) represent a significant portion of the total membership which is made up of primarily New York (71%) and Pennsylvania (25%) residents. The remaining 4% of ACNC’s membership is from outside of New York and Pennsylvania.



635 Members from New York • 227 Members from Pennsylvania • 36 Members from other states

Repairs and Replacements

Long overdue, the A-frame storage building got a face-lift. A fresh coat of paint, new windows, and a new roof brought this building up to par with the others.

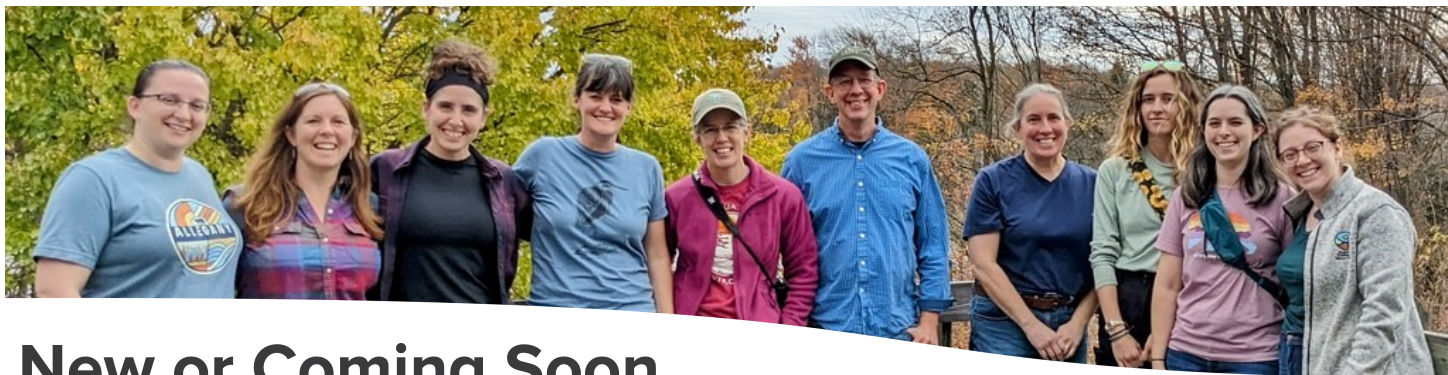


After several brainstorming sessions, the parking lot underwent a layout change. Updates included additional spaces for persons with limited mobility, crosswalks and walking paths to make moving through the lot safer during busy times, and new sealing and striping.



The second floor of the Nature Center looks a bit different now. A grant from CRCF funded a new floor and furniture. Staff upgraded exhibit items and swapped out old elements for new interactive ones.





New or Coming Soon

ACNC's staff continue to make improvements to the buildings and grounds to enhance the visitor experience. All of this work takes place in-between the many educational programs, events, and fundraisers that happen year-round.

A few things to look forward to or celebrate in 2024 include:

- **Dual-height mounted binoculars at the Blue Heron Overlook:** This project was funded by Blue Heron Legacy Members Doug and Lamae McCullor. It allows visitors to view the wildlife on Big Pond without having to bring their own binoculars! The dual-height makes it accessible for children, people in wheelchairs, and standing adults.
- **Museum-grade storage for ACNC's natural history collection:** A federal grant for more than \$30,000 was submitted that will replace ACNC's collection storage. Upgrades to storage will ensure that ACNC's collection of bones, furs, shells, skulls, feathers, and more will remain intact for years to come. Many of these items are used in programs and exhibits and have seen a great deal of wear and tear from improper storage over the years. With the installation of improved storage ACNC will also implement a better system for collection care and record keeping.
- **Improvements to ACNC's utility room:** A grant was recently received from the Sheldon Foundation to make some necessary improvements to ACNC's utility room which currently serves many purposes. This project may seem boring, but it is absolutely necessary!
- **Medical Care Room for the animal ambassadors:** ACNC received a grant from the Lenna Foundation to make some improvements in what was formerly the Bald Eagle's food prep room. This space will be transformed to include proper storage, better surface areas, recovery spaces, quarantine spaces, and necessary medical tools and supplies to provide basic on-site care and check-ups for the live animals.
- **New animal ambassadors:** Staff continue to be on the lookout for new animal ambassadors to fill the remaining aviaries in the Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat and to support the educational programs. Conversations are also taking place as to how to best utilize the area of the former Bald Eagle aviary.

Thank you for supporting
Audubon Community Nature Center.

The connection begins with you.



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