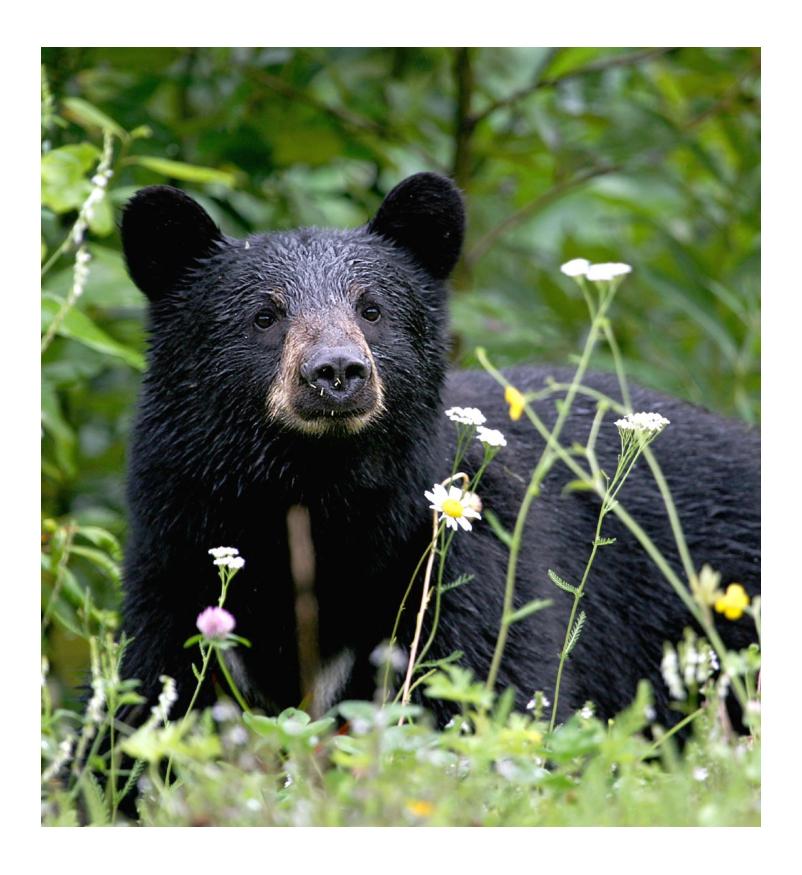


The connection begins with you.

May – June, 2024 Volume 68, Issue 3

The bi-monthly newsletter of ACNC, featuring upcoming programs and events.



Page 1 May – June

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: Black Bear, Photo by Jitze Couperus.

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 by scanning this code.



Follow Audubon on these platforms:









Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Nature Center Members and Friends.

The months of May and June are the two busiest months of the year at the Nature Center. Buses pull in full of children anxious to make their own nature discoveries. Spring Discovery Walks, led by trained volunteers and staff, allow children to get out into nature to explore the ponds, forests, wetlands, tracks, and trails at Audubon.

More than 15 schools are already scheduled to make a field trip to Audubon from Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Warren counties.

For decades, teachers from these counties have used Audubon as a resource to provide real-life examples of what children are learning in their classrooms.

Spring Discovery Walks are just one area of programs for which Audubon is known. In one year, ACNC Nature Educators deliver more than 1,000 programs that reach children age 3 to adults over 80.

Educating the community is at the core of what we do and who we are. Providing a safe place for individuals to learn and grow together — by volunteering, visiting the trails, or attending a program — brings value to all of us who call western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania our home.

We hope you will consider supporting Audubon Community Nature Center's many programs and community benefits this May and June through the two incredible online giving events hosted by both the Warren and Chautauqua County Community Foundations.

Join us on **Wednesday, May 15 for Warren Gives** where more than 100 non-profits serving Warren County will come together to raise essential funds to support their programs. Be sure to stop by Bent Run Brewing between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. for a beer and a chat with Audubon staff members and friends!

Then, on **Thursday, June 13** join us in celebrating the non-profits that serve Chautauqua County! **Give Big CHQ** is a fun way to show your support for the many non-profits within Chautauqua County from local theaters to healthcare services, libraries, nature-based organizations, and more.

Thank you for continuing to support Audubon and the many non-profits that make Warren and Chautauqua counties truly special.

With gratitude,

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director



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This Month in ACNC History

It's easy to forget that the Audubon that is here today has roots that go back to the 1950's. The work of volunteers and staff over the decades has created an organization to be proud of. Here are some of the things that have happened at Audubon over the last few decades.

1964

"We meet at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hallquist. This is a perfectly beautiful spot, high up in the hills." (This was before Audubon built a nature center and met in homes, churches and other spots.)

1974

"Jamestown Audubon's recycling program has had an encouraging start; more than ten tons of newspapers and magazines have been collected to date."

1984

"Carol (Colter) is responsible for another milestone in the history of (ACNC). For the first time in its history, the Society has a printed program available for the upcoming year."

1994

"Long-time members George and Ginny Griffin will be our guides through the Chautauqua Gorge to enjoy the spring wildflowers and the beauty of the gorge."

2004

"Audubon makes learning fun! Our new exhibit is full of puppets, puzzles, fur and feathers to touch, live animals..., and much, much more!"

2014

"(ACNC) is excited to join the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy for a summer series encouraging people to use landscaping techniques that will benefit native wildlife, retain water, and minimize the need for fertilizers."

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: This June 1972 trip was taken to enjoy the wildflowers at the Bentley Preserve, now owned by the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy.

Board Officers

Board Chairperson	Tina Downey
First Vice Chair	Dave Burlee
Second Vice Chair	Dr. Eugenie Poignard
Secretary	Antoinetta Lindell
Treasurer	Robert Klebacha

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Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator	Emily Nelson
Education Coordinator	Sarah Hatfield
Senior Nature Educator,	
Interpretive Projects Manager	Katie Finch
Nature Educator	Chelsea Jandreau
Nature Educator	Emma Roth
Temporary Nature Educator	Mac Dawson
Summer Education Interns	Allyson Buck
	Alex Gren
	Abby Roof
Designer, Animal Care Specialist	Kim Turner
Gift Shop Manager	Joanne Miller
Receptionist	Claire Certo
Building and Grounds Manager	Terry LeBaron
Invasive Species Management Interns	Ellen Greenfield
	Liz Quadt

Volunteer Chairs

Dr. Eugenie Poignard
Willow Fodor
Dave Burlee
Sandy Fletcher
Linda Trostle
Pat Brininger



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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:

 Discovery Walk Trail Guide Training Tuesday, April 30 and Wednesday, May 1
 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Trail Guide volunteers lead school groups during field trips. Learn how to be an ACNC trail guide.

- Plant Sale Set-up and Event
 Friday, May 17 1:00 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday, May 18, 8:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
 Help set-up, repot, and sell plants at this spring event.
- Dragons and Fairies Festival
 Saturday, June 15, 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
 Volunteer in a range of ways at this whimsical event.

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



The volunteer recognition picnic is a great chance for volunteers to meet other like minded folks from different areas of the organization.

Volunteer Recognition Picnic

Friday, May 10, 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Free for all current ACNC Volunteers Non-volunteers: \$8 per person, \$6 Members

Reservations required by May 7. Volunteers, please call (716) 569-2345 to register. Non-volunteers can call or register online at **auduboncnc.org**.

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
- 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



Your Spot for Nature Lovers

The Blue Heron Gift Shop is your spot for grab-andgo field guides. There are guides on all the things that are exciting about spring: wildflowers, birds, frogs, snakes, fish, animal tracks, and more!

There are first guides for children, laminated guides to throw in a backpack or pocket when you go outside, field guides to identify plants, animals, and tracks, and even a few books to help you dive deeper into a topic. Remember, members get a 10% discount on everything in the gift shop and there are a lot of new items coming in.

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Programs and Events

May

Birdathon (Adult+)

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, May 5, 2024 Birders are needed to form teams.

Trail Guide Training (Adult Volunteers)

Tuesday, April 30 and Wednesday, May 1 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Free

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

First Friday (Adult+)

Stories of Bob Sundell and his book, Birds of Chautauqua County, New York and Nearby Areas

Friday, May 3, 11:00 a.m. – Noon \$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 - 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Bird Banding (All)

Urban pavilion on west side of ACNC property Saturdays, May 4, 11, and 18 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.

No reservations required.

Salamander Saturday (All)

Locations and times vary

Saturday, May 4 Free

Visit fcsal.org for info

First Sunday Story Time (All)

(Children 2 - 8 with an adult)

Sunday, May 5, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Free for children and adults

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

Volunteer Recognition Picnic (All)

Reflecting on the past, looking towards the future Friday, May 10, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Free for all current ACNC Volunteers Non-volunteers:

\$8 per person

\$6 Nature Center Members

Reservations required by May 7.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult) *Decomposition Detectives*

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

\$9 Members and children 3-8

Paid reservations required by May 9. Limited enrollment.

May (continued)



Celebrate Warren Gives with ACNC

Bent Run Brewing Company 20 Clark St Ste. B, Warren, PA 16365

Wednesday, May 15, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Give online from 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. at warrengives.org

Fairy Door Workshop (Adult+)

Saturday, May 18, 2024 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Open-house style \$12 Adults \$9 Members and children 9 – 15 \$8 per kit

Reservations requested by May 15. Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Plant Sale (All)

Saturday, May 18, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. \$2.50 per 4-inch pot \$5.00 per 6 – 8-inch pot \$10 per 10-inch pot

Blue Heron Legacy Society Spring Get-together (Adults)

Sunday, May 19, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Free for all current and potential Blue Heron Legacy Society Members Reservations are requested by May 13.

Salameander (Adult+)

Saturday, May 25, 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.

June _

Allegany Nature Pilgrimage

Camp Allegany, Red House area of Allegany State Park

Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2 alleganynaturepilgrimage.com

First Sunday Story Time (All)

(Children 2 - 8 with an adult)

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

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

Little Explorers (Ages 3 – 8 with an adult) *Reptiles: Tales of Scales*

Saturday, June 8, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. \$12 Adults

\$9 Members and children 3 - 8

Paid reservations required by June 6. Limited enrollment.

Give Big CHQ

An Online Giving Event **givebigchq.org**

Thursday, June 13

Dragons and Fairies Festival (All)

Saturday, June 15, 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. More info on page 5.

Exploring Pond Life (Adult+)

Saturday, June 22, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. \$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

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.

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Dragons and Fairies Festival

Saturday, June 15 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

The Dragons and Fairies Festival transforms the grounds of Audubon into a delightful mix of all things magical. Visitors can try their hand at archery, make a wizard staff, search for unicorns, take a horse-drawn wagon ride, jump into a drum circle, make a wish on the wishing tree, hunt for garden gnomes, and so much more. Adults and children alike are encouraged to wear their favorite costumes. Sixpence, a local band with Celtic roots, will play live music.



Each year offers new magical surprises on the trails.

Nature Notes — Dragonflies

Emma Roth, Nature Educator

The long days of summer are nearly here, and with that comes the sights and sounds you associate with the warmer months. Birds twittering away, thunderstorms rolling through, and the hum and buzz of insects. If you spend time at Audubon, or any wetland area, the summer months are the days the dragonflies thrive.

Dragonflies are one of the more charismatic insects that people tend to encounter. They come in a variety of beautiful colors: greens, blues, yellows, reds, and bright white contrasting with deep black. They are fearless, and often put on a show for passersby as they fly nimbly around. They dive, twirl, hover, and even fly backwards as they flit around the pond's edge.

For the dragonflies, these aerial gymnastics are more than just a show. While harmless to humans, dragonflies are ferocious predators. Their preferred method of hunting is in the air, catching smaller flying insects like mosquitoes, moths, damselflies, and smaller species of dragonfly mid-flight. Dragonflies are also one of the most efficient hunters on the planet; around 95% of their hunts are successful.

It's easy to be enthralled by the dragonflies, with their jewel-like colors and dazzling performances. There are many fierce hunters in the world around us, but few hunt with the grace and beauty of the dragonfly.



One of the darner dragonflies. Photo by Jeff Tome.

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Thank You, Annual Fund Donors

Donations made between August 1 2023 and February 29, 2024 Dale and

Ann Carlson

Elizabeth Buonocore

Bill and Diana Burbank

\$2,000 - \$3,500

Anonymous Sue and Bill Chandler

\$1,000 - \$1,999

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Donations support ACNC's mission to connect children to nature.

\$50 – **\$**99

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List continued on next page

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Annual Fund Donors (continued)

\$5 – \$49

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Memorial and Honoraria

Donations made between August 1, 2023 and February 29, 2024

In Memory of:

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Dinah Hovey

Barb Case, Monarch Mama Elaine and John Crossley

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Noah R. Goodling Eileen Goodling

Ruth Lundin and Paul Hedberg Tricia Hedberg

Richard Rupprecht Anonymous

Ed Yager Anonymous auduboncnc.org Page 8

Getting Children Outdoors

Audubon has summer camps for children ages 4-14 for eight weeks starting June 25. Topics range from survival to forest exploration to the amazing world of animals and the format is a mix of structured and free-exploration.

If your child loves the outdoors, and loves nature, Audubon Summer Day Camp might be just the thing for them. Or if they're unsure of the outdoors, Day Camp can be a great way to introduce them to the wonderful world outside to help build confidence.

ACNC is seeking help from Counselors in Training (13 – 15 years of age) and Junior Counselors (16+ years of age) to assist in managing Day Camps. Training is provided and this unique volunteer experience is a great opportunity for teens to develop valuable life and job skills.

Make Audubon a part of your child's summer this year.

Camperships are available to assist with funding.

Registration and applications are open online at: **aucuboncnc.org/daycamp**



Pond dipping is a Day Camp favorite where campers get an up-close encounter with all of the pond life that often goes unnoticed.

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 longterm 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 Irovegno@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345 x101.

Community Partners

Bruce and Juline Battler
Carnahan-Jackson Foundation
Chautauqua Region
Community Foundation
Holmberg Foundation
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Jessie Smith Darrah Fund
The Lenna Foundation
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For more information, visit auduboncnc.org/communitypartners or call (716) 569-2345.



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May/June ACNC Newsletter

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Mayapple in bloom. Photo by Jeff Tome.