

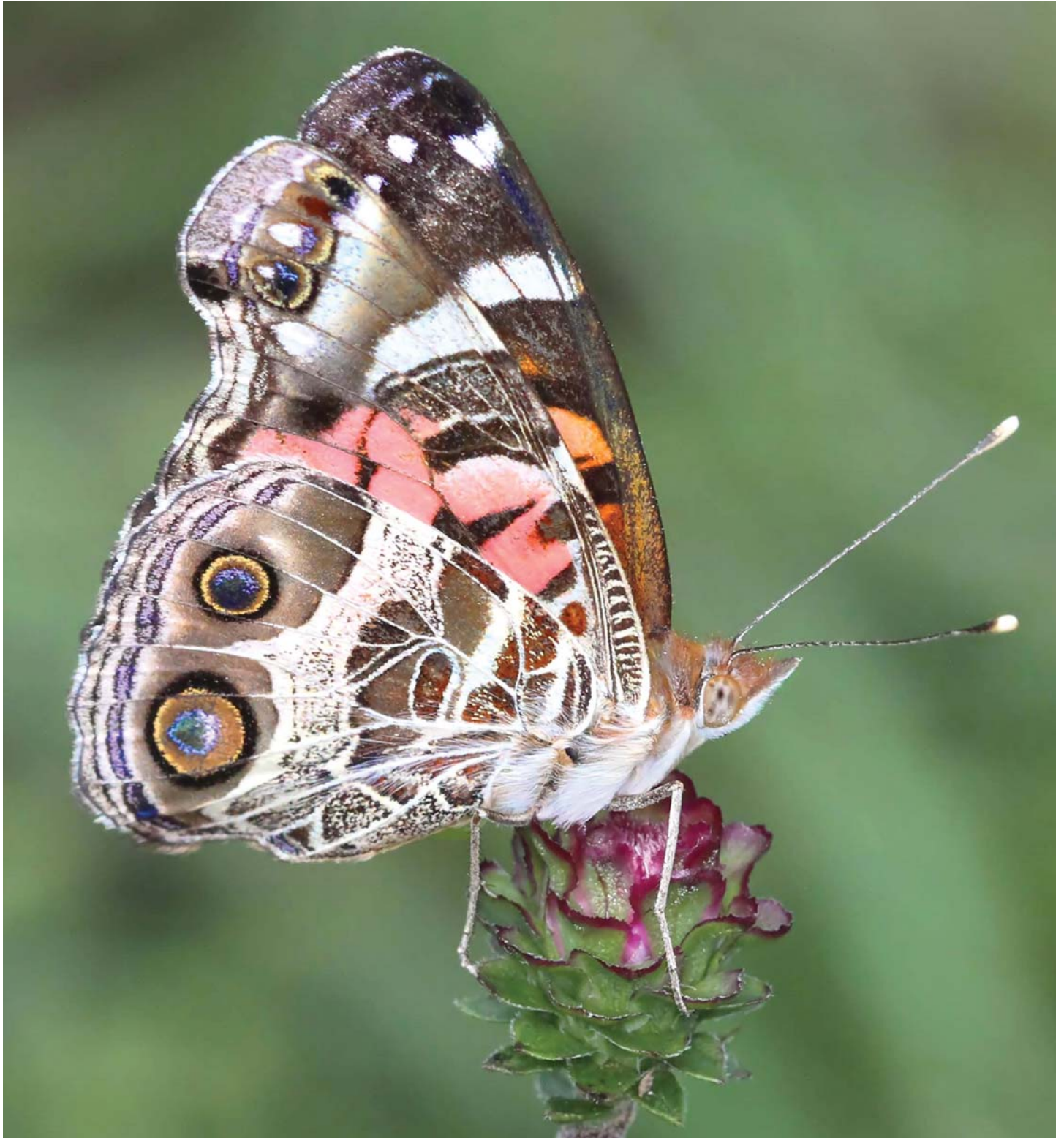


# Audubon Community Nature Center

*The connection begins with you.*

July – August, 2024  
Volume 68, Issue 4

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: *American Lady*, Photo by John Flannery.

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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.



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## Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Members and Friends of the Nature Center.

The arrival of July and August means that the Nature Center building is bustling with day campers! Each summer, children attend ACNC's Day Camps where they make new friends and share their many nature-based discoveries.

Summer Day Camps are just one of the many nature-based programs that ACNC educators provide throughout the year. Many campers return year after year, building a life-long connection to the natural world around them.

Your Audubon Community Nature Center membership at the family level or higher includes a discount on summer camps while providing necessary financial support to keep the Nature Center open and accessible to all. 100% of your membership dollars go directly to supporting ACNC's staff, buildings, grounds, and programs.

Since its founding in 1957, ACNC has grown to include more than 850 household members!

We at ACNC are grateful for all of our members — both new and long-lasting. Your memberships, donations, gift shop/birdseed purchases, and program participation keep the Nature Center going. They allow us to continue creating real and healthy connections to nature for children and adults alike.

Part of your ACNC membership also includes the opportunity to vote in ACNC's upcoming board election.

**We need your help!** ACNC requires a minimum of 100 votes to reach its quorum. Ballots will be sent out in mid-August to all members. Please take a moment to complete your ballot and return it to ACNC to help us meet our quorum!

Thank you for choosing to be a member of Audubon Community Nature Center. We are so grateful to have you as a part of our community!

Sincerely,

*Leigh J. Rovegno*

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director





# This Month in ACNC History

ACNC was founded in 1957 and has decades of history to look back on. It has been a place where like-minded people gathered to learn about nature and conservation, to take action for the planet and, most of all, to create a community where all are welcome and everyone gives back in their own way. Here's is what was happening at this time in Audubon's past.

## 1964

"It takes a lot to DAMPEN the spirits of our enthusiastic Audubon members. In spite of the rain, about 50 people attended the meeting... at the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Clare Limberg."

## 1974

"The photography-blind observation platform (now Spatterdock Photo Blind)... will soon become a reality due to the generosity of Lucille Parsons of Chautauqua."

## 1984

"If guests should inquire about the lack of water in the Big Pond, please inform them that the primary reason is the need to control the carp population."

## 1994

"...Audubon is about people. People who give so much of their time, energy and other resources to make so many wonderful and important things happen for other people and the natural world."  
— Jim Yaich, first Nature Center director

## 2004

"The entrance wildflower garden is actually beginning to resemble its name." (On replanting the original landscaping with native plants.)

## 2014

"Starting June 21, we will have many "Chestnut pulling" days on Big Pond and Spatterdock Pond. Our goal is that no flowers be allowed to set seed this year." (On the second year of pulling invasive Water Chestnut from the ponds.)

**Right:** In 2000, Summer Day Camp ended with a Friday night campfire and night hike, full of songs, stories, and fun. Here, Naturalist Jeff Tome led the campers in the infamous "Snapping Turtle Song".

## 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>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>Summer Education Interns</i> .....                      | Allyson Buck     |
| .....  | Alex Gren        |
| .....  | Abby Roof        |
| <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    |
| <i>Invasive Species Management Interns</i> .....           | Ellen Greenfield |
| .....  | Liz Quadt        |

## 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 make a difference in the local community. For more information, please visit [auduboncnc.org/volunteer](http://auduboncnc.org/volunteer).

### Ongoing Opportunities:

- **Maintenance Crew (OWLS)**  
Trails, buildings, and grounds maintenance
- **Gardens**  
Maintenance and management
- **Administrative**  
Mailings and gift shop support
- **Animal Care**  
Habitat cleaning and maintenance

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Enchanted Forest**  
**Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5**  
Animal actors are needed to act out short scripts in fun costumes. Experience with performing or improv is great, but not necessary. Help spread the joy of nocturnal forest creatures in this unique event.



Volunteers that hit significant milestones in 2023 were celebrated in May 2024 at the volunteer recognition picnic.

## Volunteer Milestones

ACNC is supported by the community, and a lot of volunteer effort. Each year in May, volunteers gather to celebrate their collective accomplishments. This year, 20 volunteers were recognized for dedicating hours to the Nature Center. Custom nametags are awarded to those who pass 100, 250, 500, 1,000 and each thousand hours after that. One person has even made it to over 10,000 volunteer hours!

## 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
- Everyday's 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



## Children's Explorer Tools

Children love to explore and ACNC's Blue Heron Gift Shop has many tools to help them deepen that exploration. There is a wide variety of field guides and children's books to help them look at the world in new ways, and also a selection of equipment that is made for small hands and growing brains.

The gift shop has child-sized magnifying glasses, bug boxes with magnifiers in the lid to closely examine things they find, different styles of nets to catch small things, and even larger foldable insect carriers to hold larger finds.



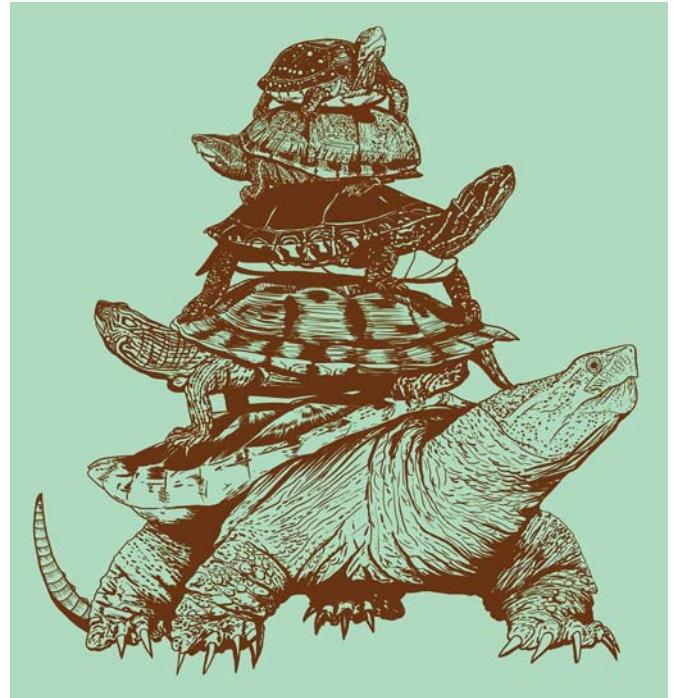
## Turtle T-shirt Fundraiser

**Pre-order by Monday, September 2**  
**Pick-up Friday/Saturday, September 20/21**

**\$25 Adult Unisex t-shirts (S, M, L, XL, XXL\*)**  
**\$25 Adult women's cut t-shirts (S, M, L, XL)**  
**\$30 Adult Unisex long-sleeved shirts (S, M, L, XL)**  
**\$20 Youth t-shirt (S, M, L)**  
**\$40 Hooded Sweatshirt (Adult and youth sizes)**

*\*Additional \$5 for size XXL shirts and sweatshirts*  
*Orders placed to ship will be mailed for an additional \$8 per order.*

Turtles are amazing and resilient animals. They are some of the most-loved animals at the Nature Center, whether you see them basking on a log by the trail, or swimming inside their aquarium in the Discovery Room. This turtle tower design was inspired by ACNC's animal ambassadors and created by in-house designer, Kim Turner. It comes in a variety of adult sizes, in short and long sleeves, as well as youth sizes. This is a limited time offer, and all orders must be placed by September 2.



Spotted, musk, painted, map, and snapping turtles can be seen at ACNC and on this shirt design.

## Programs and Events

### July

#### Green Play Days (All)

Mondays, July 1 – August 12, 2024  
 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Open-house style  
 Included with building admission  
*No reservations required.*

#### First Sunday Story Time (All)

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, July 7, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.  
 Free for children and adults  
*Reservations requested by July 6.*  
*Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.*

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

*Pond Life*

Saturday, July 13, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
 \$12 Adults  
 \$9 Members and children 3 – 8  
*Paid reservations required by July 11.*  
*Limited enrollment.*

#### Water Chestnut Pull (Ages 13+)

Saturday, July 13  
 9:00 a.m. – noon  
 Free, volunteer opportunity

### August

#### First Sunday Story Time (All)

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, August 4, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.  
 Free for children and adults  
*Reservations requested by August 3.*  
*Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.*

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

*Mammals*

Saturday, August 10, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
 \$12 Adults  
 \$9 Members and children 3 – 8  
*Paid reservations required by August 8.*  
*Limited enrollment.*

#### Please Note:

*Wild 5k and Monarch Butterfly Festival are cancelled for this year.*

#### 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 — Crab Spiders

Katie Finch, *Senior Nature Educator*

Do all spiders make webs as traps to catch their prey? All spiders can produce silk but not all spin a web. Spiders have a variety of hunting methods, including one that hides in summer flowers waiting to ambush their prey.

Look at a flower, such as a daisy, Queen Anne's Lace, or goldenrod and you might spot a crab spider. These spiders are active and visible throughout summer and early fall.

There are over 2,000 species of crab spiders worldwide. Similar to crabs, their front legs are larger than their back legs and they extend those legs out from their bodies. They also move sideways and backwards easily.

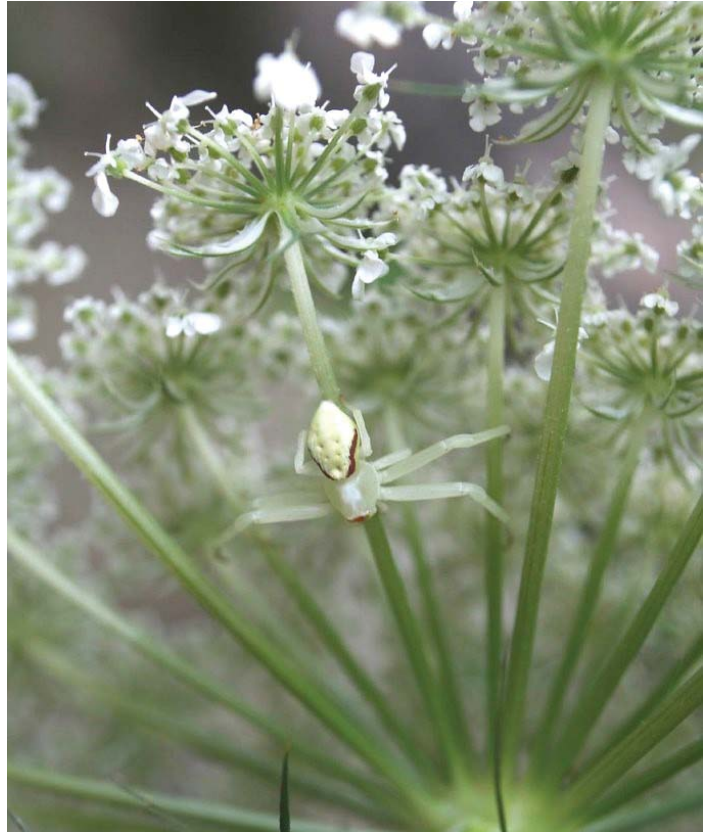
Like other spiders, crab spiders prey on other animals. But they don't set a trap for their prey with a sticky and strong spider web. Instead, many species sit, front legs outstretched, on a leaf or flower. Then they wait. When an insect, such as a bee, wasp, moth, or fly visits the flower for a sip of nectar or a nibble of pollen, the spider strikes. They grab their prey with their front legs, then inject venom to paralyze their prey and eat it.

Crab spiders vary in appearance. Some are brighter colors, such as white, yellow, and orange. Others are duller colors like browns and grays. Some species of crab spiders can even change color to aid in camouflage.

**Left:** *Female Goldenrod Crab Spider waiting to ambush.*  
Photo by Dave Huth.

**Top Right:** *Can you spot the crab spider? Their camouflage is superb.*  
Photo from ACNC archives.

**Bottom Right:** *A Crab Spider holding onto its prey.* Photo by Jo Zimny.





## So Long, Farewell, and Thank You

Audubon Community Nature Center employs a talented group of individuals who care deeply about their work. Every once in a while it comes time to say farewell and thank you to staff members who are moving on.



**Jeff Tome** served as a Naturalist/Nature Educator for his first 25 years, and then as the Public Engagement Specialist during his last two and a half years at Audubon. Jeff knew where just about every plant was located, where the salamanders could be found (and when), what birds were likely to be seen in what trees/bushes. He also knew what each of the Nature Center building's groans, creaks, and sighs meant (he translated Nature Center talk very well). Jeff also brought a unique approach to festivals and events including the Monarch Festival which he started 18 years ago. Thank you, Jeff!



**Terry LeBaron** continues to serve as the Buildings and Grounds Manager, but will be retiring as of September 30, 2024. Terry served first as a volunteer OWL (Old Wise Lame — his term!), before taking over the paid position of Buildings and Grounds Manager in 2014. Terry has made sure that Audubon's six miles of trails have remained safe and easy to navigate during his tenure, and he sure has had to dig a LOT of holes! Terry's contributions will last for years to come. Thank you, Terry!



**Emily Nelson** served as the Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator for the last two years. During her tenure, Emily played an essential role in the transitional process from our old store sales system to a new one. Her technological know-how was absolutely essential in this process! Emily has also done wonders to develop the Volunteer Program into a thriving part of the organization. Emily will be moving to Rochester in July. Thank you, Emily!

# Welcome, New and Returning Nature Center Members

Recorded between October 9, 2023 and May 14, 2024

## Family \$60

Scott and Anna Anderson  
 Jennifer Angelo  
 Emily Arthur  
 Erin Beckstrom  
 Kara Bemis  
 Susan and Bill Chandler  
 Jenell Chase  
 Megan Church  
 Alissa Crane  
 Carla Cummings  
 Carrie Davison  
 Mac Dawson  
 Kara Delva  
 Erika Dimaio  
 Julia and Josh Dinnar  
 Jenna Einink  
 Avery Emerling  
 Geoffrey, Allison, Evelyn, Cora, and  
 Reynold Freeman  
 Joe Gagliano  
 Emily Goerke  
 Melinda Gordon  
 Jessica Green  
 Andy and Kristy Hanks  
 Craig and Jessica Johnson  
 Brenda Johnson  
 Lindsey Johnson  
 Cassandra Kaus  
 Marilyn and Patrick Kerr  
 Elizabeth Keyser O'Rourke  
 Celina Kruse  
 Jessica and Tom Labart  
 Kimberly Larson  
 Emily LeBlanc  
 Sarah and Simon Liuzzo  
 Natalie Lombardo  
 Ruthanne Main  
 Janice Odrzywolski  
 Helena and Andy Payne  
 Todd and Chelsie Peterson  
 Zach and Clara Phillips  
 Kayla Pilon  
 Radha Plumb  
 Sarah Rice  
 Kali Rinaldo  
 Jennifer and Andy Sears  
 Kelly Sedlak  
 Virginia Shafer  
 Pamela Shearer  
 Heather Shellenberg  
 Jamie Smith  
 Alicia Stuart  
 Shawna Tellinghuisen  
 Melissa Thompson  
 Lindsay Trostle and Vinc Prihoda



Members receive free admission to the Nature Center and the exhibits year-round.

Laura Walden  
 Lynn and Mark Warner  
 Joelle Washer  
 Alicia and Michael White  
 Jami and Jordan Wilson  
 Kyle and Kaitlyn Wilson  
 The Winchester Family  
 Kristy Winchester  
 Robert Wohlgemuth  
 Jesse Wolfgang and Ashley Allen

## Family Plus \$100

Steve and Stephanie Bailey  
 Ashley Bennett  
 Clifford and Martha Betts  
 Elissa, Nick and Henry Davies  
 Jane Eshbaugh  
 Katelyn Gilmore  
 Kathleen Haslett  
 Rick Kirkman and Lee Davis  
 James and Cheryl Krull  
 Anita Long  
 Neethu Maliakkal Varghese and  
 Anoop Joy  
 Heather Preston

## Individual \$50

Marcia Bachelor  
 Maureen Mack  
 Jeffrey Munch  
 Carrie C. Wolfgang

## Senior (65+) Individual \$35

Carol Lou Eisenhardt  
 Deborah Funka

Cathleen Hall  
 Ermyrn King  
 Edward T. Lis  
 Mary Beth Parrinello  
 Leona Seastrum  
 Deborah Stewart

## Senior Family \$45

Sharon Aldrich and Cornelius  
 Gallagher  
 Mauri & Karen Baggiano  
 Suzanne Campbell  
 Becky Caufman  
 Maria & Lee Cole  
 Ronald Dutton  
 Marlene Feeny  
 Greg Gane  
 Cynthia and David Hall  
 Diane Hunter  
 Jan Kostrzewski  
 Wendy Lewellen  
 Tom and Debbie Nevinger  
 James and Mary Przepyszny  
 John and Candy Schupp  
 John and Mary Pat Shattuck  
 Scott Stoleson  
 Jeffrey and Michele Victor  
 Elizabeth Vik  
 Lynda Willett  
 William and Susan Wilson  
 Susan Witter

## Supporting \$250

Mark and Donna Hampton



## Community Partners Program

Did you know that in order to provide all of ACNC's education programs it costs more than **\$312,000 each year**? 67% of that cost is related to staff salaries and benefits.

Program income covers part of that gap (43%), but the rest of that cost is supplemented by financial support provided by local foundations, individual donors, and business partners.

**Since 2019, the Audubon Community Partners Program has generated \$52,500** that goes directly towards supporting ACNC's programs and facilities.

Generous individuals and businesses who donate \$2,000 or more receive a variety of recognition throughout the year as a way of saying 'thank you'. This program has allowed Audubon to continue to grow and thrive despite a global pandemic and a challenging economic climate.

Make a significant impact by becoming a Community Partner today! Visit [auduboncnc.org/communitypartners](https://auduboncnc.org/communitypartners) for more information, or contact Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director at (716) 569-2345 or [lrovegno@auduboncnc.org](mailto:lrovegno@auduboncnc.org).



*Community Partners help support staff salaries and benefits, which in return allows ACNC to provide high quality nature programs.*



## Blue Heron Legacy Society

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

Audubon Community Partners include businesses, individuals, and families who make a contribution of \$2,000 or more to ACNC.

**Bruce and Juline Battler**  
**Carnahan-Jackson Foundation**  
**Chautauqua Region Community Foundation**  
**Donna and Mark Hampton**  
**Holmberg Foundation**  
**Hultquist Foundation**  
**Jessie Smith Darrah Fund**  
**The Lenna Foundation**  
**The Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation**  
**Whirley-DrinkWorks!**

**David Campbell**  
**Sue and Bill Chandler**  
**Hal and Mary Conarro**  
**Cummins Jamestown Engine Plant**  
**Kravitz Tree Service**  
**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](https://auduboncnc.org/communitypartners) or call (716) 569-2345.





# Audubon Community Nature Center

Audubon Community Nature Center, Inc.  
1600 Riverside Road  
Jamestown, NY 14701

Electronic service requested

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## July/August ACNC Newsletter

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*Buttonbush. Photo from ACNC archives.*