



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

September – October, 2024
Volume 68, Issue 5

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: *Raven*, Photo by Tommy B.

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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.



Visit auduboncnc.org by scanning this code.



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Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Members and Friends of the Nature Center.

All current ACNC members are invited to attend the upcoming annual meeting scheduled for Monday, September 23. Join ACNC staff and board members for an evening program that will include celebrations for the year, upcoming projects, and the final vote and approval of ACNC's incoming board members and updated by-laws.

You will find a copy of the board ballot inside this newsletter. Please return completed ballots by mail or in person by Friday, September 20. Only one ballot per membership, please!

We need your vote! A minimum of 100 completed ballots are needed in order to approve the incoming board members.

This year we are fortunate to be welcoming three board members:

Steve Riczker is a long-time resident of Chautauqua County. He has spent most of his career working in healthcare/behavioral health administration and most recently in higher education as Executive Director of the Faculty Student Association at Jamestown Community College. Steve has extensive volunteer/community service experience including serving on the JCC Alumni Board of Directors, Falconer Rotary Club, Healthcare Action Team, Infinity Visual and Performing Arts, and many other community-related organizations.

Lynn Schaffer is a resident of Ashville N.Y. In her professional work as an attorney, Lynn advocates for justice and freedom for marginalized communities, decarceration, and abolition. Lynn states that: "my academic and professional background in biology, environmental policy and history, and environmental and public health law has fed a deep connection to the world around me — and the natural world has fed my knowledge and success professionally. I seek to bring that connection to others through social, artistic, and public service pursuits." Lynn's professional career has been dedicated to protecting human rights, with a focus on environmental rights and the rights of children. She is also a proud Audubon Day Camp parent.

Carey Lee is a dedicated community member with deep roots in Chautauqua County. Growing up, Carey developed a lifelong love for the outdoors while going on nature hikes with her father and later exploring ACNC with her daughter. Now serving as the Executive Director of Family Service of the Chautauqua Region, these experiences fostered invaluable relationships and a deep understanding of the local needs and opportunities. Carey lives in Jamestown with her husband and three dogs. She is eager to dedicate time towards ACNC's mission.

To register for the meeting and learn more go to: auduboncnc.org/vote.

Thank you for continuing to support ACNC through your membership.

Sincerely,

Leigh J. Rovegno

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director

ACNC Through the Years

While much has changed at ACNC over the years, one thing has remained consistent: our collaboration with and support from local organizations, businesses, and experts. Look back at some of these important partnerships through the years.

1964

“Members of the Presque Isle Audubon Society will be our guests for a visit to our sanctuaries. Bring your lunch and meet at Prendergast Library parking lot at 9 A.M.”

1974

“First steps toward the creation of a “backyard wildlife sanctuary,” to serve as a model for area homeowners, will be taken at Burgeson Sanctuary this Fall... Working with them will be members of the Jamestown Garden Club.”

1984

“Special program on bird banding. Karen Geiger, instructor at Erie County Community College, will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about bird banding. A demonstration will follow.”

1994

“JAS’s 1994 – 95 Outdoor Film Adventures will be taking you on exciting journeys... This year’s armchair travels are being presented in cooperation with the Reg Lenna Civic Center, and the films will be shown at the Civic Center on Third Street in Jamestown.”

2004

“The new Pathway to Liberty was officially opened with representatives from the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation on hand to cut the ribbon. This path provides easy accessibility for the disabled and is a great benefit for all who visit the Eagle mew.”

2014

“Wild 5K... A special thank you to Jeff Rupp, owner of Sideline Sports of Jamestown, who generously designed and donated the prizes for the runners. He also served as the co-chair of the entire event.”

Thank you to those who contribute time, thought, and energy to help ACNC run smoothly and effectively.

Right: Jeff Rupp congratulating one of the winners of the 2015 Wild 5k. Jeff supported this event for years. Sideline Sports is still one of ACNC’s go to businesses for screen printing apparel for staff uniforms, Day Camp, and fundraisers.

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>	Peter Stark

Board of Directors

Louise Boutwell, Pat Evans, Miles Hilton, Laurie Korb, Carey Lee, Dr. Erin Pender, Steve Riczker, Lynn Schaffer

Nature Center Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	Leigh Rovegno
<i>Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator</i> ...	Sharon Tefft
<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
.....	Terris Monroe

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:

- **Enchanted Forest, October 4 and 5:** Animal actors and event helpers are needed to act out short scripts in fun costumes. Experience with improv or performing is great, but not necessary. Spread the joy of forest creatures during this unique family friendly event.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Administrative:** Bulk mailing and store support
- **Animal Care:** Habitat maintenance and feeding
- **Committee Work:** Fundraising and Audit Committee (Contact Leigh Rovegno for more information at lrovegno@auduboncnc.org)
- **Gardens:** Maintenance and management
- **Maintenance Crew (OWLS):** Trails, buildings, and grounds maintenance



Garden volunteers work through three seasons to keep the spaces around the Nature Center inviting, beautiful, and also functional.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Sharon Tefft: STefft@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345 x103

Sale on Honey Products

Celebrate the last honey flow of the season as honey bee colonies store enough honey to survive through the winter months. You, too, may want to stock up on honey and honey products as autumn arrives.

Blue Heron Gift Shop is having a sale on all honey products from K & J Apiaries in Kennedy, NY.

During the months of September and October all honey products are discounted 10% (total of 20% for Nature Center Members). You can find delicious "Hilltop Honey", fragrant and nourishing honey soaps, and enchanting beeswax candles.



Treat yourself or stock up on bee-based gifts this fall.

Birdseed Sale

Orders due:
Sunday, September 29

Pick up order:
Saturday, October 12
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Give your feathered friends a mid-fall treat and stock up on their favorite birdseed at a special price.

Audubon Community Nature Center provides birdseed at a discounted rate during sales twice a year. This provides savings for you and support for ACNC. Save 10% – 20% on Audubon's regular birdseed prices by ordering through this sale.

The most popular seeds and mixes are available for you to stock up for the rest of fall and into winter. Return the included order form, order online at auduboncnc.org/shop, or call (716) 569-2345 to order by phone.

If you cannot pick up your order on October 12, please call ahead of time to make other arrangements.



Programs and Events

September

First Friday (Adult+)

The Great Migration: Following the Wildebeest — John Gerber

Friday, September 6, 11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, September 8, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by September 7.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Seeds

Saturday, September 14

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and Children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by September 12.

Annual Meeting and Program (Adults)

Monday, September 23

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

\$15 Adults

Paid reservations required by September 16.

Worldwide Day of Play (All)

Saturday, September 28

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Free admission to the Nature Center

No reservations required.

Night Hike (Adult+)

Saturday, September 28

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and Children 9 – 15

Paid reservations required by September 26

Birdseed Orders Due

Sunday, September 29

*Pick up orders Saturday, October 12
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.*

See page 3 for more info.

October

First Friday (Adult+)

Biogeography and Conservation Status of Bats in Chautauqua County — Jonathan Townsend

Friday, October 4, 11:00 a.m. – noon

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Enchanted Forest (All)

Friday and Saturday, October 4 and 5
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$14 Adults

\$10.50 Members and children 3 – 15

Free 2 and under

See page 6 for more info.

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, October 6, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by October 5.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers (Children 3 – 8 with an adult)

Deer, Elk, and Moose

Saturday, October 12, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by October 10.

Limited enrollment.

Blue Heron Legacy Society

Get-together (Adult)

Sunday, October 13, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Free for all current and potential

Blue Heron Legacy Society Members

See page 6 for more info.

October Camp (Children 4 – 12)

Monday, October 14

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$48 Children 4 – 12

\$36 Member children

\$5 Sibling discount

Paid reservations required by October 10.

Animal Tracks and Signs (Adult+)

Saturday, October 26

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$8 Adults

\$6 Members and Children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.



Intended Audience Key

Adult = designed for adults

Adult+ = designed for adults, mature, and interested children 9 and up when accompanied by an adult.

All = Something for everyone, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Children/Ages = designed for children — drop them off and pick them up later.

Program Registration

- Online at auduboncnc.org
 - 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 or call **(716) 569-2345**.

Trees and Their Falling Seeds

Chelsea Jandreau, *Nature Educator*

Autumn will soon begin sweeping across the treetops in a wave of reds and oranges. Below the leaves, in the trees and shrubs and vines, many plants are already busy preparing for the following spring by growing the seeds that create the potential for new sprouts when the weather once again warms up.

Often, trees will grow seeds throughout the summer and these seeds will fully mature in the fall. Take a look at the oak trees and walnut trees as early as June, and notice that green acorns and walnuts are already beginning to appear on their branches. Some will fall early, but these seeds will eventually turn brown and fall to the ground en masse throughout early autumn. These seeds are designed to survive the cold, and some seeds, like chestnuts, require those months of cold and snow to properly germinate and sprout.

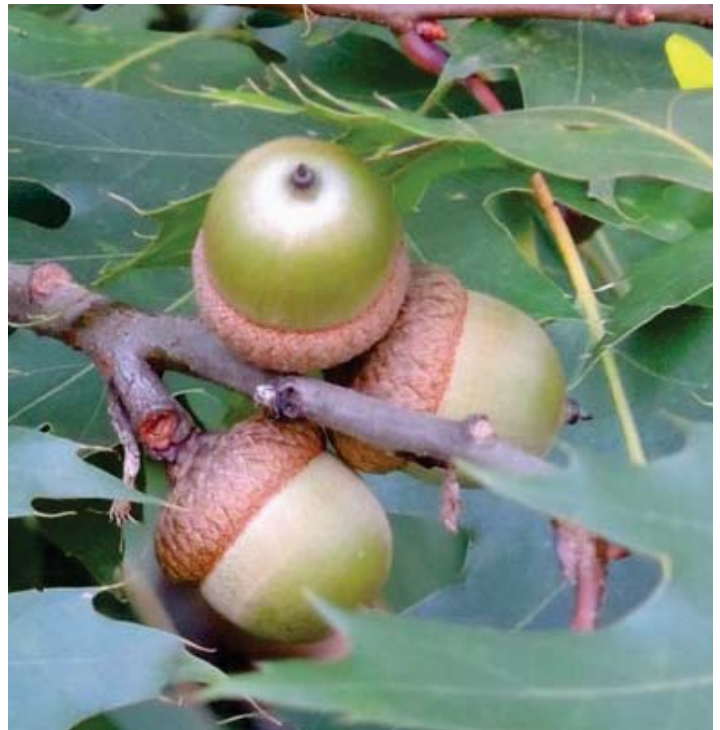
Sycamore seeds, small balls of fluffy seeds with a hard center, can also reach maturity in early autumn, but they are an example of a plant that holds on to their seeds as long as they can. If they can help it, these seeds may not fall from the tree until the following winter or even early spring.

The Cucumber Tree, a Magnolia species, has a seed pod that initially looks a bit like its namesake, a small cucumber. There are a couple in ACNC's arboretum. Visit them in the fall and these seed pods start turning a brilliant shade of red, and eventually they open to reveal bright orange seeds that almost look like little candies.

Some seeds come with a fruity covering, such as apples, and are a continuing symbol that autumn is arriving.

Of course, plants other than trees are also known for their fall seeds. Orange Jewelweed flowers along with their exploding seed packets will stick around into September, a leftover from late summer blooming. Milkweed seed pods turn brown, open up, and fly out of their now-dry seed pod in an eruption of fluff.

The leaves might get most of the attention in fall, but the plants around are also putting a lot of work into their seeds, so take a look around and see the potential next spring could bring.



Left Top: Chestnut seed pods after they have fallen to the ground and opened up. Photo in public domain.

Left Bottom: Milkweed seed pods open in the fall and spread their fluffy seeds. Photo by Jeff Tome.

Right: Green and growing acorns on a Red Oak Tree. Photo by Katie Finch

Enchanted Forest

Fridays, October 4
Saturday, October 5
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$14 Adults
\$10.50 Nature Center members
\$10.50 Children 3 – 15
Free 2 and under

Paid reservations required. No tickets sold at the door. No refunds. Limited enrollment.

On this enchanted evening, animals have the ability to speak human language and communicate with visitors. Follow a guide through the luminary-lit Enchanted Trail to meet them.

This magical, non-scary event is designed for children and their adults. Talking animals engage your imagination, maybe make you laugh, and teach you something about wildlife in the region. After the walk, stop in the backyard to enjoy a campfire and music. Snacks and drinks will be available to purchase. The Nature Center will be open to enjoy.



Walk a lit trail and visit with animals, like this Pileated Woodpecker.

Blue Heron Legacy Society Get-together

Sunday, October 13
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Free for Current and Potential Members

Reservations are requested by October 9 for planning purposes.

Join ACNC's Executive Director, Leigh Rovegno, for a gathering of the Blue Heron Legacy Society. Blue Heron Legacy Society members are individuals who have included Audubon Community Nature Center as a beneficiary in their wills. They believe in ACNC's mission of connecting people to nature, and they have made a commitment to ensure that the organization continues to benefit from their financial support beyond their death.

The get-together will include a review of what has happened at ACNC over the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year as well as insights into ongoing and future projects. Light snacks and beverages to be provided.

Not yet a member of the society, but interested in making a long-term commitment to connecting people to nature? You are welcome to attend!



Blue Heron Legacy Society Members on a nature walk with Nature Educator, Chelsea Jandrea.

Thank You, Nature Center Volunteers

130 volunteers, including 25 registered with the RSVP program, recorded 2,616 hours of work from January 1 through May 31, 2024. These dedicated individuals give freely of their time and talents to support Audubon's mission of connecting people to nature. Volunteers range from age 9 to 90-something, and each one brings a unique set of talents to the table. Thank you to each and every one of you for your dedication!

Morgan Allen	Audrey Ducat
Denny Anderson	Pat Evans
Thom Armella	Mel Feather
Joann Bardo	Jim Fincher
John Barone	Patricia Fincher
Ashley Bean	Sandy Fletcher
Mary Beckerink	Kieran Fodor
Sally Beckerink	Willow Fodor
Danielle Bertolini	Janet Forbes
Elorna Bewell	Cameron Gentner
Jacqueline Bielata	Lisa Greeley
Heidi Bird	James Haick
Barbara Boone	Terry Hallock
Patricia Borowski	Ginger Hanlon
Louise Boutwell	Gerry Hildom
Reg Boutwell	Miles Hilton
Bonnie Bowen	Shannon Hodgson
Pat Brininger	Dianne Hovey
Brenda Brook	Karen Inwood
Alan Brown	Michael Johnson
Larry Brown	Pamela Johnson
David Bull	Ronald Johnson
David Burlee	Zoe Kester
Angelique Burns	Robert Klebacha
Rejeanne Butzer	Sue Lampo
Sophia Cama	Terry LeBaron
Ann Carlson	Penny Lester
Ray Carlson	Netta Lindell
Pierre Chagnon	Roman LoBianco
Judith Claire	Judy Long
Janette Coleson	Ruth Lundin
Barb Conklin	Braedan Lutgen
Arlene Connelly	Jessica Mancan
Elaine Conti	Mark Mason
Elaine Crossley	Mary Beth Mazzone
Renee Domenico	Elizabeth McIntyre
Don Dove	Kelli Merchant
Tina Downey	Antoinette Meyer



The mailing committee helps send out bulk mailings, like this newsletter.

Carol Miller	Christine Skoczylas
Gabe Miller	David Skoczylas
Julie Nelson	Michael Spacht
Alex Nutt	Kay Stahlman
Joseph O'Hara	Peter Stark
Sally Patchen	Toni Stone
Kaleigh Paul	Stephen Stout
Erin Pender	Barb Suckow
Tyler Pett	Barbara Swanson
Anna Phillips	Carrie Swanson
Jennifer Pierce	Paul Swanson
Deborah Piotrowski	Linda Trostle
Mae Piotrowski	Bob VanEvery
Tim Piotrowski	Janice VanOrd
Eugenie Poignard	Kurt Von Kleist
Mariah Ponville	Ann Wallin
Freda Pyles	Gwenivere Wallin
Janell Rishel	Oliver Wallin
Johannah Robb	Nigil Weinman
Cordelia Rodgers	Peyton Welch
Charlie Rovegno	Coralee Wenzel
Noam Rovegno	Mary Jane Whaley
Rick Rupprecht	Nancy White
Carol Samuelson	Catherine Willard
Karen Sanders	Mary Williams
Olivia Sechriest	John Willsie
Don Sharp	Sue Yauchzy
Jill Singer	

Farewell to Sarah Hatfield

Sarah Hatfield has spent the last 20 years living the mission of Audubon — connecting kids to nature through education, experiences, and play. She started in 2004 as a Nature Educator, stepped into the Senior Nature Educator role 2013 taking on Day Camp and the Internship program, growing both to what they are today. Over the last six years, Sarah served as Education Coordinator, where she oversaw the growth of the education staff, the construction of the Stephanie Frucella Education Pavilion and the Pamela A. Westrom Wildlife Habitat.

Sarah also knew where everything was in every closet, could see the master calendar in her head, and could reset all the thermostats! These were only a few of her super-powers which made her such a valued part of the ACNC team. Sarah always put her staff and interns first, ensuring that they had the support that they needed (both personally and professionally) to successfully carry out the mission of the organization.

Change is a constant, however, and it was time for her to start the next chapter. Thank you, for dedicating your time and talents to ACNC for all of these years, Sarah! We look forward to seeing what you do next.



Sarah Hatfield on her favorite day of the year, Birdathon.



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 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 or call (716) 569-2345.



Audubon Community Nature Center

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

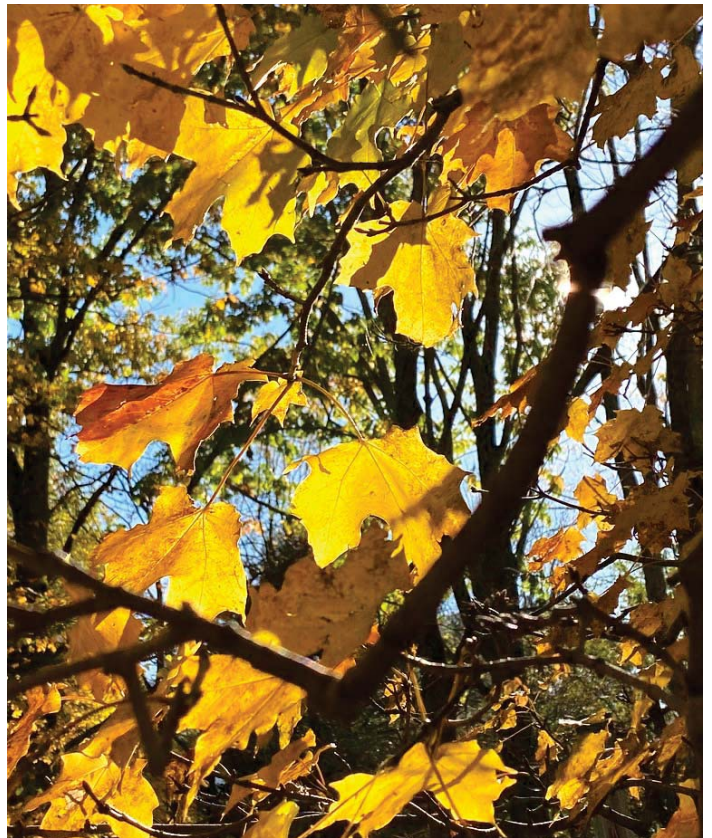
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September/October ACNC Newsletter

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Maple leaves. Photo by Kim Turner.