



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

March – April, 2025
Volume 69, Issue 2

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



Mission

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



Nature Center Newsletter

The free, bi-monthly publication of Audubon Community Nature Center, Inc.

Jessica Piskor, *Newsletter Editor*
Cover: Red-Winged Blackbird on Brown Wooden Plank. Photo by Frank Cone.

**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

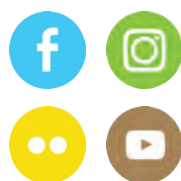
\$6 Adults • \$2 Children • \$15 Max per family
*Free admission for Nature Center Members.
Free admission for SNAP/EBT cardholders.
Free admission for non-members on Sundays.*



Visit auduboncnc.org by scanning this code.



Follow Audubon on these platforms:



Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Nature Center Members and Friends,

This organization was founded by volunteers, and it continues to thrive thanks to the **more than 900 people who have dedicated just over 155,000 hours of their time.**

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

Audubon's volunteer program stands out. Many individuals commit to a lifetime of service including 100 to 14,000 hours of service over the years. Volunteers log their hours, that are then put into a spreadsheet (by a volunteer) which tallies their total hours. There are 20 individuals who have each contributed more than 2,000 hours to ACNC. That's amazing!

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

Volunteering provides a sense of belonging, an appreciation of what it means to give back to the community while doing something that you love. Volunteers make new friends, and learn new skills while building community together.

Volunteers also contribute to Audubon's financial sustainability. Each year, a financial value is assigned to the total volunteer hours during the annual auditing process. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, that value equated to: \$224,392.

Thank you to all of you who choose to volunteer with Audubon. Your time and talents are extraordinarily valuable, and we are thrilled that you choose to share them with us.

With gratitude,

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director



ACNC Through the Years

ACNC's mission is rooted deeply in conservation and education. See how Audubon members and supporters have supported education and conservation efforts throughout the years.

1965

"JAS is cooperating in a drive to save the Bald Eagle, by collecting used commemorative stamps...Bring these to our meeting or send to Douglas Pillsbury."

1975

"In April, David Campbell will begin taking an amphibian census at Burgeson Sanctuary. This important teaching information will be compiled and used in conjunction with Neale Hice's mammal survey and the vascular plant inventory taken by Ted Grisez."

1985

"Attempts are being made, once again, in New York State Legislature, to change the status of the mourning dove from song bird to game bird. This is rather shocking to many of us who enjoy the mourning dove as a song bird. We MUST respond and write if we want the mourning dove to remain a song bird in New York State!"

1995

"In an effort to help teachers coordinate our in-class presentations, the education staff has developed pre-visit and post-visit materials for each presentation (descriptions of these materials and the in-class presentations are available at the Nature Center)."

2005

"Audubon's backlands contain a rich tapestry of habitats, from forests to lowland carpeted in moss. This diversity of habitats has the potential to produce a diversity in species...Watch the trails this spring for a bunch of muddy folks looking under rocks and logs, searching for our unknown residents."

2015

"Join ornithologists on Saturday mornings through May 16. Watch them capture birds, fit them with identification bands, measure and weigh them, then release them to go on with their lives. Bird banding is an age-old technique used to discover details about the lives of birds. You can drop in to learn exactly how it is done and why."

Board Officers

<i>Board Chairperson</i>	<i>Tina Downey</i>
<i>First Vice Chair</i>	<i>Dave Burlee</i>
<i>Second Vice Chair</i>	<i>Dr. Eugenie Poignard</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Antoinetta Lindell</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Peter Stark</i>

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>	<i>Leigh Rovegno</i>
<i>Administrative Assistant,</i>	
<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>	<i>Sharon Tefft</i>
<i>Design and Marketing Coordinator</i>	<i>Jessica Piskor</i>
<i>Fundraising and Event Coordinator</i>	<i>Paul Clemente</i>
<i>Senior Nature Educator,</i>	
<i>Interim Education Projects Manager</i>	<i>Katie Finch</i>
<i>Senior Nature Educator,</i>	
<i>Interim Education Program Coordinator</i>	<i>Chelsea Jandreau</i>
<i>Nature Educator, Animal Care Specialist</i>	<i>Emma Roth</i>
<i>Seasonal Nature Educator</i>	<i>Mac Dawson</i>
<i>Seasonal Nature Educator</i>	<i>Taylor Brennan</i>
<i>Nature Educator</i>	<i>Charlotte Schmaltz</i>
<i>Gift Shop Manager and Receptionist</i>	<i>Joanne Miller</i>
<i>Receptionist</i>	<i>Claire Certo</i>
<i>Buildings and Grounds Manager</i>	<i>Terris Monroe</i>

Volunteer Chairs

<i>Fundraising and Development</i>	<i>Dr. Eugenie Poignard</i>
<i>IDEA Committee</i>	<i>Willow Fodor</i>
<i>Land Use Management</i>	<i>Dave Burlee</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Karen Sanders</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Jan Coleson</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Pat Bringer</i>



Volunteers were honored during Audubon's recent Volunteer Luncheon.

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!

Volunteer Corner

ACNC's Volunteer Program provides opportunities to people looking to put special skills to use, make a difference in the local community, or learn something new. Check out auduboncnc.org/volunteer for the Volunteer E-Newsletter.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- Audubon Lights**
 Weekend evenings from March 21 through April 5
 Volunteers are needed for set-up, admission booth, fire tending, and trail monitoring.
- Mailing Committee**
 Thursday, March 13, and Thursday, April 10
 Enjoy good company while you prepare the spring appeal or newsletter for bulk mailing.
- Volunteer Day**
 Saturday, April 19
 Celebrate Earth Day by giving back to the environment. Indoor and outdoor volunteer jobs are available for all ages.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Sharon Tefft at stefft@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345.

Birders Wanted!

From April 25 to May 4, teams of birders will take to the woods, ponds, fields, and bird feeders to identify as many species as they can for the **2025 Birdathon!**

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

This fundraising event raises money that supports the Ryan Exline Memorial Scholarship and ACNC's Animal Ambassador program. For more information on how to participate as a birder or a donor, contact Paul Clemente at pclemente@auduboncnc.org or go to auduboncnc.org/birdathon.



Birdseed

Conewango Blend is a specially-mixed seed that was created by a team of local birders to attract many different birds. It is rich with black oil sunflower seeds and also includes canary seed, millet, corn, safflower seed, and sunflower hearts. This mix is available in the Blue Heron Gift Shop at ACNC.



You can also find Conewango Blend at:

- Allegheny Outfitters, Warren, PA
- Ashville General Store, Ashville, NY
- Ekey Marketplace, Warren, PA
- Howe's True Value, Warren, PA
- Lighthouse Point Grocery, Mayville, NY
- Oneida Lumber, Ace Hardware, Warren, PA
- Vitality Natural Health and Wellness Center, Lakewood, NY
- Wegmans, Jamestown, NY

Field Guides & Nature-Themed Books Available

Spring begins on March 20 and with more sunlight and warmth, plants grow and bloom, and wildlife thrives! The Blue Heron Gift Shop has favorite guide books, including Peterson, Audubon, Sibley, among others, to help you get outside, make discoveries, and learn about the plants and animals making a reappearance after a long winter.

The gift shop also has a wonderful variety of children's and adult nature-themed books. Stop by to find a special book to inspire and guide you in your favorite natural interest.



Programs and Events

March

Pie Auction (Adult)

Friday, February 28 –
Wednesday, March 5
auduboncnc.org/pie-auction

Pie Pick-up on March 8, noon to 4:30 p.m.

First Sunday Story Time (All)

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

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

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

First Friday (Adult+)

Diversified Farming at Carlberg Farm with Ginny Carlberg

Friday, March 7
11:00 a.m. – Noon

\$8 Adults
\$6 Members and children 9 – 15

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Little Explorers (Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)

Hawks, Falcons, and Eagles

Saturday, March 8
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults
\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

*Paid reservations required by March 6.
Limited enrollment.*

Audubon Lights (All)

Friday, March 21
Saturday, March 22
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Friday, March 28
Saturday, March 29
8:15 – 10:00 p.m.

Friday, April 4
Saturday, April 5
8:30 – 10:00 p.m.

\$12 Adults
\$9 Members and children 3 – 8
Free for children 2 and under

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

April

First Sunday Story Time (All)

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, April 6
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.
Free for children and adults

*Reservations requested by April 5.
Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.*

Little Explorers (Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)

Eggs, Small and Large

Saturday, April 12
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults
\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

*Paid reservations required by April 10.
Limited enrollment.*

Mud Camp (Children 4 – 12)

Thursday, April 17
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
\$48 Children

\$36 Nature Center members
\$5 sibling discount

Paid reservations required by April 15.

Mud Camp (Children 4 – 12)

Friday, April 18
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
\$48 Children
\$36 Nature Center members
\$5 sibling discount

Paid reservations required by April 16.

Volunteer Day at Audubon (All)

Saturday, April 19
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Free

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Bird Banding (All)

Pavilion on west side of ACNC property

Saturdays
April 26, May 3, May 10, May 17
7:00 – 11:00 a.m.

No reservations required.

April (continued)

Trail Guide Training (Adult Volunteers)

Tuesday, April 29
Wednesday, April 30
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Free

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/events
- 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

Please Note:

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

Nature Notes: Spring Peepers

By Chelsea Jandreau, Senior Nature Educator

Each year the timing is a little different, but every spring when it finally gets warm enough, a chorus of frogs and toads converge at ponds and other pools of water where they change the soundscape. Spring begins the mating season for frogs, and when male frogs call the most. One of the loudest members of the wetland chorus is a small, tan frog called a Spring Peeper.

While their call is also heard during the day, the Spring Peeper chorus really hits its stride on warm, spring nights just after the sun sets. The loud peeping noise comes from the male frogs as they call 15 or more times a minute when uninterrupted. The volume and frequency of their call is a major factor in how successful they will be in finding a mate; generally, the louder and more frequent callers tend to be more favorable to female Spring Peepers.

Despite their volume, these frogs can be difficult to spot. They are about an inch long, and come in various shades of browns and grays, with a darker X-shaped pattern on their back. Their size and colors camouflage them in the woods or by the ponds.

The females lay up to 1,000 eggs in small clusters, rather than one large mass. The eggs are attached to submerged sticks or aquatic plants. The eggs can hatch as early as 3 days. After two to four months as tadpoles, they emerge as adult frogs.

Outside of this breeding season, Spring Peepers are more often found in woody areas and shrubby grasslands. They are good climbers with sticky toe pads, but spend much of their time hiding under the leaf litter on the ground. As spring fades into summer, the Spring Peeper call also fades to give way to other frog and toad calls.



Male Spring Peepers inflate their throats when calling. Photo by Benjamin Genter, Nature Photography Contest Winner.



Spring Peeper on forest floor.



Fourth Annual Audubon Pie Auction

Auction: Friday, February 28 – Wednesday, March 5
Pick-up: Saturday, March 8, noon to 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate Pi Day (March 14), Audubon's favorite mathematical holiday, by bidding on a homemade pie baked by an Audubon staff or volunteer baker.

This year's list of pies is sure to peak your interest. Check out the auction website at auduboncnc.org/pie-auction for updates on bakers and pies as Pi Day gets closer and to place your bids.

Are you interested in sharing your baking skills to help raise money for Audubon? Contact ACNC Fundraising and Event Coordinator, Paul Clemente, at pclemente@auduboncnc.org.

Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage

Friday, May 30 – Sunday, June 1
Allegheny State Park, Red House Area

Are you passionate about the natural world? Do you crave opportunities to learn and explore alongside fellow nature lovers? Then the Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage (ANP) is for you! Sign up for a weekend of nature-related discoveries at the 67th ANP, where you'll experience:

- **Inspiring field trips:** Explore diverse habitats and fascinating flora and fauna.
- **Inspiring presentations:** Hear from Eli Knapp on Aldo Leopold's legacy and Julie Lundgren on the wonders of Allegheny State Park.
- **Community:** Share your passion for nature with fellow attendees from across the region.
- **Exclusive apparel:** Pre-order your merch designed by local artist, Erin Ruffino.

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your connection with nature. Visit AlleghenyNaturePilgrimage.com to learn more and register today.



*Exclusive 2025 apparel design
by local artist, Erin Ruffino*

Volunteer Day

Saturday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Free

Reservations preferred, walk-ins welcome.

Celebrate Earth Day (April 22) at Audubon by joining staff and other volunteers on projects to maintain and improve ACNC's grounds and the Nature Center building. A light lunch is provided.

This is a family-friendly event for all ages and abilities. Register today, at (716) 569-2345 or auduboncnc.org/volunteer-day.

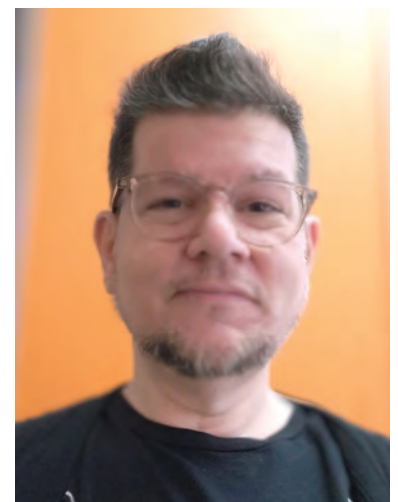


Welcome Paul to the ACNC Team!

ACNC is thrilled to welcome Fundraising and Event Coordinator, Paul Clemente! Paul brings a deep connection to the Jamestown community, where he's been a vibrant presence since 2017.

You might recognize him from his diverse roles around town, from bringing the laughs with Karate Sleepover comedy shows to spinning tunes as the host of Diamond Run Radio. He's also lent his creative talents to social media management with Crescent City Creative, added excitement to Grapple Pro Wrestling as a ring announcer, and even brought his MC skills to weddings with Synergy Entertainment.

Paul's diverse background makes him a perfect fit for ACNC. He's already diving in and the ACNC team is delighted to have him on board.



Thank You, Nature Center Volunteers!

127 volunteers, including 24 registered with the RSVP program, recorded 3,225 hours of work from June 1 through December 21, 2024. These dedicated individuals give freely of their time and talents to support Audubon's mission of connecting people to nature. Volunteers range from ages 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!

Berkley Adams
 Jill Adams
 Morgan Allen
 Dave Anderson
 Denny Anderson
 Lori Anderson
 Marie Anderson
 Thom Armella
 Aspire of Western NY
 Mardy Backstrom
 Elorna Barnett
 John Barone
 Andrea Benedett
 Heidi Bird
 Barbara Boone
 Louise Boutwell
 Reg Boutwell
 Bonnie Bowen
 Pat Bringer
 Brenda Brook
 Alan Brown
 Lawrence Brown
 David Bull
 Cori Burkiewicz
 Rejeanne Butzer
 Sophia Cama
 Charle Cardinal
 Ann Carlson
 Raymond Carlson
 Sue Chandler
 Karen Christy
 Xavier Churnac
 Janette Coleson
 Barb Conklin
 Arlene Connelly
 Elaine Conti
 Elaine Crossley
 Sarah DiDomenico
 Troy Dinga
 Mel Feather
 Jim Fincher
 Patricia Fincher

Sandy Fletcher
 Willow Fodor
 Janet Forbes
 Zoe Gearhart
 Jean Gomory
 Lisa Greeley
 Amon Gulamou
 James Haick
 Terry Hallock
 Genevieve Hanlon
 Andrew Harrington
 Gerald Hildom
 John Hyde
 Karen Inwood
 Maxim Johnson
 Michael Johnson
 Ronald Johnson
 Courtney Jung
 Zoe Kester
 Patricia Kinney
 Erica Kridler
 Susan Lampo
 Terry LeBaron
 Audrina Lent
 Madilyn Lent
 Penny Lester
 Judy Long
 Pam Lucas
 Ruth Lundin
 Braedan Lutgen
 Lucy Mason
 Mark Mason
 Mary Beth Mazzone
 William Means
 Kelli Merchant
 Antoinette Meyer
 Carol Miller
 Gabe Miller
 Joseph Miller
 Jack Monroe
 Terra Monroe
 Terris Monroe

Daniella Naidoo
 Joanne E. Nelson
 Julie Nelson
 Madelyn Nelson
 Joseph O'Hara
 Melissa Paduano
 Sally Patchen
 Tyler Pett
 Anna Phillips
 Deacon Pierce
 Jennifer Pierce
 Deborah Piotrowski
 Mae Piotrowski
 Tim Piotrowski
 Steve Riczker
 Johannah Robb
 Charlie Rovegno
 Rick Rupprecht
 Carol Samuelson
 Karen Sanders
 William Schmidt
 Amy Schulz
 Olivia Sechriest
 Don Sharp
 Tyler Silagyl
 Christine Skoczylas
 David Skoczylas
 Kay Stahlman
 Stephen Stout
 Paul Swanson
 Linda Trostle
 Janice VanOrd
 Nigil Weinman
 Coralee Wenzel
 Mary Jane Whaley
 Nancy White
 Catherine Willard
 Fallon Williams
 Mary Williams
 John Willisie
 Sue Yauchzy



Jan Coleson entered memberships into ACNC's database over January planning weeks.



Janet Forbes did some deep cleaning over January planning weeks while the building was closed.

Audubon Lights

**Fridays and Saturdays from March 21 – April 5
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

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

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

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Audubon lights up early spring with a half-mile long trail of lights. Take a walk past ponds that reflect the illuminated trees and stars. Creative light displays and laser light shows highlight natural features in new ways. The trails look stunning when lit up in the dark, and Spring Peepers provide the perfect soundtrack.

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



Enjoy a luminary-lit trail of lights at Audubon Lights on weekends from March 21 through April 5.

Blue Heron Legacy Society

ACNC strives to ensure that every child from the local community has a real and healthy connection to nature. You can be a part of this vision, make it stronger, and leave a lasting legacy for the future.

ACNC's vision becomes stronger through long-term commitments made by Nature Center members, donors, and friends; those who wish their legacies to be a part of a thriving, educational, nature-based organization. Commitments can include listing ACNC as a beneficiary in your will, IRA account, retirement plan, or designated fund.



What will your legacy be? How will you leave your mark on the world?

Please contact Leigh Rovegno for more information at lrovegno@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345 x101.

Community Partners

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

David Campbell
Sue and Bill Chandler
Hal and Mary Conarro
Cummins Jamestown Engine Plant
Bob and Kathy Frucella
Kravitz Tree Service
Thomas Kuntz and Meredith Kuntz
Doug and Lamae McCullor
National Fuel Gas Company

Southern Chautauqua
Federal Credit Union
Weinberg Financial Group
Curt and Susie Westrom
Whirley-DrinkWorks!
Jeanne Wiebenga and Jane Stirniman

**Interested in becoming a community partner?
Contact Leigh Rovegno at (716) 569-2345
x101 or lrovegno@auduboncnc.org.**



Audubon Community Nature Center

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Jamestown, NY
14701
Permit No. 687

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

Electronic service requested

March/April ACNC Newsletter

Inside This Issue:

- Allegany Nature Pilgrimage
- Audubon Lights
- Blue Heron Gift Shop
- Blue Heron Legacy Society
- Community Partners
- Executive Director's Desk
- Fourth Annual Audubon Pie Auction
- Nature Notes: Spring Peepers
- This Time in ACNC History
- Upcoming Programs and Events
- Volunteer Opportunities and Recognition



Spring Beauty