

The connection begins with you.

May – June, 2025 Volume 69, Issue 3

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



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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: Honeybee Hive

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, Memorial Day (Monday, May 26), and Juneteenth (Thursday, June 19)



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Executive Director's Desk

Leigh Rovegno

Dear Nature Center Members and Friends,

Spring has sprung, and the world is bursting with life! We are getting ready to be knee-deep in the wonderful chaos of May and June, which are the busiest (and most joyful!) months here at the Nature Center.

During these months, spring Discovery Walks, led by our volunteers and staff, give kids the chance to get their hands dirty, explore the ponds, wander the trails, and connect directly with the natural world.

Audubon partners with schools from across Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Warren counties to provide these opportunities for exploration and hands-on learning. Discovery Walks are just one area of programming that Audubon provides each year.

Did you know that Audubon Nature Educators deliver over 1,000 programs annually? Audubon's programs are designed for a variety of audiences from curious little ones to lifelong learners. We believe that learning about nature is something that everyone should experience, and that's what makes Audubon such a special place.

Whether it's volunteering, strolling our trails, or participating in a program, we're building a community that values learning, growing, and connecting with nature. You are a vital part of that community.

This spring, we invite you to support Audubon's mission of connecting people to nature by participating in one or both of the upcoming online giving events: Warren Gives on Wednesday, May 14 and Give Big CHQ on Thursday, June 12.

Warren Gives, hosted by the Community Foundation of Warren County, brings community members together in support of the many nonprofit organizations that serve Warren County. Individual donations are generously matched by sponsors up to \$75,000. This means your donation dollars can make even more of an impact!

Give Big CHQ, hosted by the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, is a day dedicated to supporting the more than 100 nonprofits that make Chautauqua County a vibrant place to live.

Your generous donations, big or small, ensure that local nonprofits can continue providing their valuable services to the community. Your dollars go directly towards creating real

change, right in your own backyard.

Thank you for your generosity. We couldn't do it without you!

With gratitude,

Loigh J. Rovegno

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director

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ACNC Through the Years

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

1960

"The Nature Pilgrimage to Allegany State Park, June 17-19 will replace our regular June meeting. The leaders we have secured to lead the walks are the best in their respective fields."

1969

"Is the use of DDT finally on the way out? It would seem so. In a recent issue of the Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide, there were these headlines: Michigan is the First State to Outlaw DDT. Senator Nelson Proposes Federal Ban."

1976

"More than 150 people gathered at the outdoor amphitheater at Burgeson Sanctuary for the ground breaking ceremony of the Roger T. Peterson Nature Interpretive Building ... It is interesting to note that this will be a truly patriotic bicentennial building in that it contains 1776 square feet."

1984

"Four observations of three species tied for Bird of the Month honors: A female Wilson's Phalarope on May 26 ... April 24 observation of the Yellow-headed Blackbird ... a male Summer Tanager ... on May 20."

1994

"A successful fund drive enabled us to complete the million dollar addition to the Roger Tory Peterson Nature Interpretive Building. How fortunate we were to have Dr. Peterson ... in person to dedicate the addition."

2004

"Audubon makes learning fun! The "Wild About Wetlands" exhibit is a learning adventure. The grand opening will be held on June 20."

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!

Board Officers

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

Board of Directors

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

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Interim Education Projects Manager Senior Nature Educator.	Katie Finch
Interim Education Program Coordinator	Chelsea Jandreau
Nature Educator, Animal Care Specialist	Emma Roth
Seasonal Nature Educator	Taylor Brennan
Nature Educator	Charlotte Schmaltz
Gift Shop Manager and Receptionist	Joanne Miller
Receptionist	Claire Certo

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Fundraising and Development	Dr. Eugenie Poignard
IDEA Committee	Willow Fodor
Land Use Management	Dave Burlee
Membership	Karen Sanders
Membership	Jan Coleson
Publicity	Pat Brininger



1976 dedication of the Roger Tory Peterson Nature Interpretive Building (the original name of ACNC).

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Volunteer Corner

ACNC's Volunteer Program provides opportunities to make a difference in the community. Visit **auduboncnc.org/volunteer** for the full Volunteer F-Newsletter.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- Discovery Walk Trail Guide Training
 Tuesday, April 29
 Wednesday, April 30, 9:00 11:30 a.m.
 Sharing your love of the natural world with others.
- Plant Sale
 Saturday, May 17, 8:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
 Help set up and sell plants at this spring event.
- Mailing Committee
 Monday, June 16, 9:00 a.m.
 Help prepare the next newsletter for bulk mailing.
- Dragons and Fairy Festival
 Saturday, June 21, 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
 Volunteer at admissions, craft stations, or as a friendly fairy, elf, or gnome, and more.

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

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

Volunteer Recognition Picnic

Friday, May 9, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Celebrate a year of ACNC's volunteers and their accomplishments and show your support. Enjoy a picnic dinner, chat with like-minded individuals, and meet volunteers from other areas of the organization.

Reservations required by May 5. Volunteers, please call (716) 569-2345 to register. Non-volunteers can call, or register online at auduboncnc.org.



Children's Explorer Tools

Children love to explore and Audubon's Blue Heron Gift Shop has the 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. Children can enjoy tools made for small hands and growing brains, including child-sized magnifying glasses, bug boxes with magnifiers in the lid to closely examine small things, different styles of nets, and foldable insect carriers to observe larger finds.

The gift shop also stocks Meadow and Pond Nature Discovery Kits with explorer tools, activity booklets, books, and a stuffed animal. Stop in today to see what your little explorer can discover!



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Programs and Events

May _

First Friday (Adult+)

Honeybees and Swarms with Bob Ratterman

Friday, May 2 11:00 a.m. – Noon \$8 Adults \$6 Members and children 9 – 15 Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Bird Banding (All)

Saturdays: May 3, 10, and 17 7:00 – 11:00 a.m., Free

No reservation required.

Volunteer Recognition Picnic (All)

Friday, May 9 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Free for current ACNC Volunteers Non-volunteers: \$8 per person; \$6 Nature Center Members

Paid reservations required by May 5.

Little Explorers (Ages 3 – 8 with an adult) Decomposer Detectives

Saturday, May 10 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. \$12 Adults \$9 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by May 8. Limited enrollment.



Warren Gives (Adult)
Give online at warrengives.org

Wednesday, May 14 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Plant Sale (All)

Saturday, May 17 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

May - June ____

Allegany Nature Pilgrimage (All)

Allegany State Park's Camp Allegany

Friday, May 30 – Sunday, June 1 alleganynaturepilgrimage.com

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

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

Reservations requested by May 31.
Limited enrollment, Walk-ins accepted if room.

Give Big CHQ (Adult) An online giving day **givebigchq.org**

Thursday, June 12



Little Explorers (Ages 3 – 8 with an adult) Reptiles: Scales and Tails

Saturday, June 14 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. \$12 Adults

\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by June 12. Limited enrollment.

Dragons and Fairies Festival (All)

Saturday, June 21 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$12 Adults \$9 Members and children 3 – 15 Free 2 and under

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome

Gender Diversity in the Natural World (Adult+)

Saturday, June 28 10:30 a.m. – Noon \$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/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.

Registration is required for most programs. Programs may be cancelled if there are not enough registrations. Register early to ensure the program runs. Some programs have limited enrollment.

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Nature Notes: Spittlebugs

By Emma Roth, Nature Educator, Animal Care Specialist

As the days grow longer and temperatures increase, you may encounter a strange phenomenon along the trails at ACNC. At the base of leaves and clinging to the sides of stems on grasses and shrubs are clusters of bubbles. These bubbles look like clumps of spit and for good reason. They are the homes of spittlebugs. By gently parting the bubbles, you can reveal the creature inside, a tiny green or yellow insect.

Spittlebugs are members of a diverse family of insects including leafhoppers, cicadas, and aphids. The little insect found at the center of the suds is actually the nymph, or juvenile, stage of the insect's life cycle. As the nymphs age, they slowly grow wings and metamorphose into adults.

The spittle itself isn't actually spit. It is excrement made by the insect after drinking plant sap. After extracting sugars from the sap, the extra water is excreted and frothed into a bubbly abode. This spit has two useful functions for the growing nymph – it provides a moist environment, necessary for these creatures to grow, and hides them from the prying eyes of potential predators.

Look for these bubbly apparitions on your next walk, but if you do choose to search for the bug within, remember to be gentle and try to disturb it as little as possible.



Spittlebugs are often found around stems or at the base of a leaf.



Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\$3.00 per 4-inch pot \$5.00 per 6 – 8-inch pot \$10 per 10-inch pot

Stop by this year's plant sale to pick out some new plants for your garden! There will be a large selection of native plants, as well as annuals, perennial plants, trees, and shrubs. Plants are from local greenhouses and Audubon's gardens.

Pick up some gently used garden equipment, décor, tools, and pots at the 'Garden Treasures' tent. Volunteer Master Gardeners will be on hand to give advice at the advice table.

Audubon will not be accepting plants for trade this year due to the threat of jumping worms, an invasive animal that can decimate local soils. Learn more about them at auduboncnc.org/jumping-worms

Many local nurseries and garden stores donate to this event in order to provide a wide selection.

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Thank You, Annual Fund Donors!

Donations made between August 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025.

\$1.000 - \$5.000

Anonymous Bruce D. Battler Martha Carnahan Donna and Mark Hampton Ronald W. Kohl Curt and Susie Westrom

\$300 - \$500

Anonymous Beverly Carlberg Theodore and Deborah First John L. Jarzab Jane and Rolland Kidder Dr. Ranjit K. Laha Linda Lombardi Miss Joan M. Marcello Cheryl Mawhinney Madeline Miles Erin and Brian Pender Eugenie Poignard Lynn Schaffer Nancy Sinatra Dr. Robert Ungerer

\$100 - \$299

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

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Memorial and Honoraria

Donations made between August 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025.

In Honor of: Louis Boutwell

Weinberg Financial Group

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In Memory of: Dennis J. Anderson

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Patrick Videll

Brigette and Dan Overcash

Patty Orsini **Eric Westrom**

Robert and Carolyn Naum

Pam Westrom

Robert and Carolyn Naum

Welcome Taylor to the ACNC Team!

ACNC is happy to welcome Seasonal Nature Educator, Taylor Brennan! Taylor traded the bustle of Staten Island for the tranquility of Kiantone in 2019, bringing with her a deep passion for nature and education. With degrees in English Literature and Childhood Education, she's seamlessly blended these interests at ACNC.

Her journey began with discovering hidden pockets of nature in NYC, leading to a love for birdwatching and photography. Now, her contagious enthusiasm inspires children to connect with the natural world.

Join Audubon in making Taylor feel at home and sharing in her enthusiasm for all things wild! The ACNC staff is thrilled to have her on the team!



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Dragons and Fairies Festival

Saturday, June 21 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.

Audubon's trails are full of surprises at the annual Dragons and Fairies Festival! Look for hidden magical creatures, horse-drawn carriage rides, scavenger hunts, live music, great food, and so much more.

Adults and children alike are encouraged to wear their favorite fairy, elf, troll, or fantasy costume. Expect a fun day filled with fairy tale story times, live music, food, obstacle courses, play areas, crafts, and all kinds of fantastic fun!

Register today at auduboncnc.org/events.



ACNC's June 21 Dragons and Fairies Festival has fun for kids, artisans at work, archery, live Celtic music, and more!

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

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Bruce and Juline Battler
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Chautauqua Region
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Interested in becoming a community partner? Contact Leigh Rovegno at (716) 569-2345 x101 or Irovegno@auduboncnc.org.



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May/June ACNC Newsletter

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Baltimore Checkerspot Caterpillar