

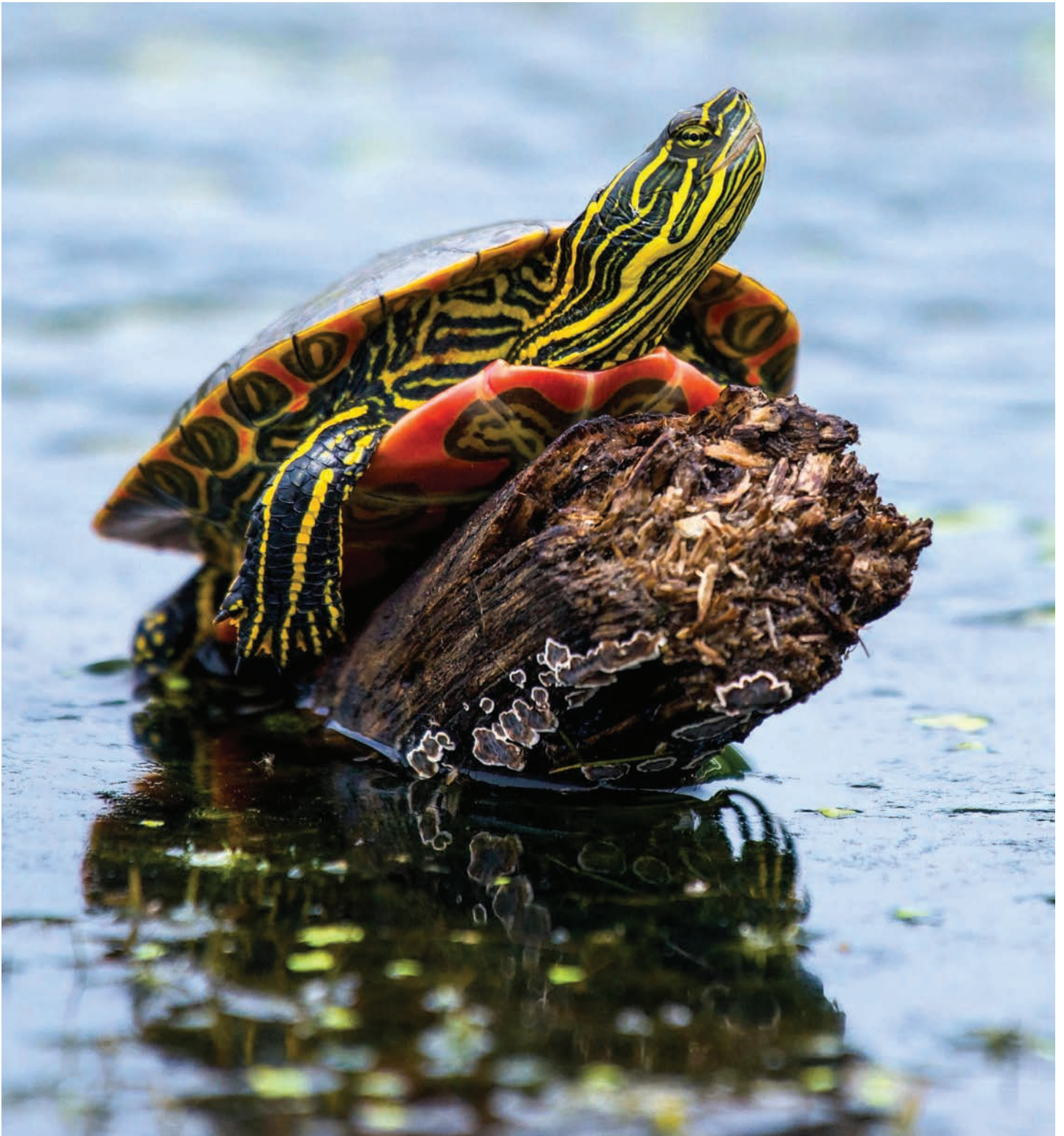


Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

July – August, 2025
Volume 69, 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.

Jessica Piskor, *Newsletter Editor*
Cover: Painted Turtle on Cut Tree Branch.
Photo by Andrew Patrick Photo.

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
Closed Friday, July 4
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 Members and Friends of the Nature Center,

The last seven years as ACNC's Executive Director have been absolutely incredible. I have learned SO much – from how to use Quickbooks accounting software to how to identify birds by sound (without even seeing them!). Some lessons have been a joy, while others have been well, a little painful!

My proudest accomplishment during my tenure has been all of the internal work that I have done to create systems, procedures, and best practices. (YES! How-to documents!) Having a solid internal structure that is transparent and translatable is key to an organization's success. It is boring and tedious work, but it is absolutely essential in order to survive and thrive through times of transition.

ACNC is fortunate to have a staff and board of directors that are made up of smart, talented, and dedicated individuals. They bring 100% to their work each and every day. I have full confidence that they will continue to ensure that ACNC will be around for a very long time – and that it will continue to thrive!

It has been a privilege to lead this organization, and I am so grateful. I look forward to continuing my work with Audubon in the future as a volunteer and as a community partner in my new role with the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation.

OK, no more gushy stuff ... On to membership. We love our members! 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 and birdseed purchases, and program participation keep the Nature Center and trails 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.

ACNC needs your help! ACNC requires a minimum of 100 votes to reach its quorum. Ballots will be sent out in mid-August to all members as an insert in the September/October newsletter. 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, and thank you for allowing me to lead this incredible organization for the last seven years. I am forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Leigh J. Rovegno

Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director



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.

1957

“Please mail your dues to our treasurer: \$5 per person, or \$8 for husband and wife, \$2 for Junior members.”

1967

“North Carolina passed a law which puts all raptors under the protection of the state. This made North Carolina the twenty-first state to give legal protection to these birds.”

1977

“Naturalist-Director, Jim Yaich is representing Jamestown Audubon Society (JAS) at the National Convention held in Colorado. National Audubon Society recognized the work of JAS as a significant part in the field of environmental education.”

1987

“So far this spring, the Sanctuary Committee has put in two new pipes for waterflow, rebuilt the causeway on Warbler trail, cut back brush, kept overflows cleared from debris that the beavers enjoy plugging (almost nightly).”

1997

“Jamestown Audubon Society continues to grow. We are working with more children now that at any point in our history; over 20,000 in 1996.”

2007

“Once again Mother Nature showed her approval by providing a perfect day for the Secret Garden tour. More than 375 people toured the beautiful garden.”

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

Nature Center Staff

Administrative Assistant,	
Volunteer Coordinator	Sharon Tefft
Design and Marketing Coordinator	Jessica Piskor
Senior Nature Educator,	
Interim Education Projects Manager	Katie Finch
Senior Nature Educator,	
Interim Education Program Coordinator.....	Chelsea Jandreau
Nature Educator, Animal Care Specialist.....	Emma Roth
Seasonal Nature Educator.....	Taylor Brennan
Nature Educator.....	Charlotte Schmaltz
Summer Nature Education Interns.....	Georgie Bickling
.....	Allyson Buck
.....	Elsa Lumia
.....	June Winters
Gift Shop Manager and Receptionist	Joanne Miller
Receptionist.....	Claire Certo
Buildings and Grounds Manager.....	Terris Monroe
Invasive Species Management Interns.....	Abigail Barton
.....	Katja Isadora Kranzo

Volunteer Chairs

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

Thank you to Audubon Community Nature Center’s Board of Directors, Chairs, and Committee Members to help ACNC run smoothly and effectively!



Animal Camp 2024 at the Erie Zoo.

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 and ongoing volunteer opportunities:

- **Mailing Committee: Newsletter Mailing**
Monday, August 11, 9:00 a.m.
Sip coffee in good company while you prepare the newsletter for bulk mailing.
- **Maintenance Crew (OWLS):** OWLS are vital to maintaining the trails, buildings, and grounds to ensure a safe and welcoming space for visitors.
- **Gardens:** Maintain and care for the kitchen and native plant gardens.
- **Administration:** Participate in mailings and support reception and the Gift Shop.
- **Animal Care:** Help ACNC's animals by cleaning habitats and filters.

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

Volunteer Milestones

ACNC celebrated milestone volunteer hours at the Volunteer Recognition Picnic on May 9. Twelve volunteers were recognized for dedicating hours to the Nature Center. Customized nametags are rewarded to those who pass 100, 250, 500, 1000, and each thousand hours after that.

Larry Brown, holding the current volunteer hours record at 11,414 hours, has retired from volunteering as of this year, and Bonnie Bowen is finishing up twelve years of volunteering at ACNC's Reception Desk as she moves to a new home.



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
- Lighthouse Point Grocery, Mayville, NY
- Oneida Lumber, Ace Hardware, Warren, PA
- Vitality Natural Health and Wellness Center, Lakewood, NY
- Wegmans, Jamestown, NY

Nature Discovery Kits Pond, Meadow, and Survival

Stop by the Blue Heron Gift Shop to purchase some uniquely Audubon items, such as the Nature Discovery Kits.

Kits with themes like Pond or Meadow include tools, guides, and other fun items to encourage young naturalists to explore and learn about pond life, meadow plants, and animals. Survival Kits help young explorers get ready for their wilderness adventures.



Farewell, Leigh!

Wow, what an incredible seven years it's been with Leigh at the helm! Whether it was making connections with the community, being a cheerleader and advocate for the staff's big, creative ideas, or guiding the way through Audubon's changes, she showed commitment to making way for the endless possibilities and ensuring things were clearer and more organized.

Leigh has truly inspired us and even made work feel like fun! We're going to miss her energy, care, laughter, and heart so much.

While ACNC is sad to see her go, we're also so excited for this new chapter in her life and eager to see what she brings to her next role. We're cheering Leigh on every step of the way!

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for everything.



Programs and Events

July

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, July 6

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by July 5.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers

(Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)

Pond Life

Saturday, July 12

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by July 10.

Limited enrollment.

Bee Kind Shirt Fundraiser (All)

Sale begins: Monday, July 14

Pre-order by: Monday, August 18

\$28 Adult unisex t-shirts

\$28 Adult women's cut t-shirts

\$32 Adult unisex long-sleeve

\$22 Youth t-shirt

\$42 Hooded sweatshirt

(Adult and youth sizes)

**Additional \$5 for size XXL shirts and sweatshirts.*

August

Bee Board Display Opening (All)

Friday, August 1

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Free

Reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

Funding is made possible through Arts Services Inc.'s Creative Impact Fund thanks to a New York State Senate Initiative supported by the NYS Legislature and the Office of the Governor, and administered by the New York State Council on the Arts.

First Sunday Story Time

(Children 2 – 8 with an adult)

Sunday, August 3

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

Reservations requested by August 2.

Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.

Little Explorers

(Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)

Nature in Color, Pattern, and Texture

Saturday, August 9

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

\$12 Adults

\$9 Members and children 3 – 8

Paid reservations required by August 7.

Limited enrollment.

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.

Nature Notes: Native Bees

By Katie Finch

When most people think about bees, they think about honeybees. Honeybees get a lot of attention because they make up the colonies most often kept by humans. They produce both wax and honey which humans can harvest and use.

But there is so much more diversity in bee species. There are over 400 species of bees native to our western New York and Pennsylvania region and over 20,000 species of bees worldwide.

Approximately 90% of bees don't live in a hive, but are solitary, and many have unusual ways to survive and reproduce.

For example, female Metallic Green Sweat Bees excavate tunnels in sandy soil. With one female per tunnel system, they lay their eggs in these underground nests. After they hatch, they collect pollen from flowers to feed their young.

Squash Bees also nest underground and feed their larva pollen. When the adults emerge in the summer, before they can build a nest, they sleep in squash flowers, and throughout their life they forage pollen only from flowers in the squash family.

Leaf cutter bees lay eggs in dead trees or old plant stems. They line each nesting cavity with an oval piece of leaf. Most leaves have antimicrobial properties.

Cuckoo Bees don't build a nesting structure but lay their eggs in other bees' underground nests. To further compete, some Cuckoo Bees kill the host bee's larva.

On warm summer days, take a close look at who's feeding on flowers, and you may notice the variety of bees.



Leaf cutter bees line their nests with oval shaped pieces of leaves. Photo by Jack Skipworth.



Cuckoo Bees have smooth bodies. They don't need hairy bodies like other bees have to collect pollen to feed their larva. Photo by Mike Chapman.



Become an Animal Advocate

The Animal Ambassadors are unique members of the education staff that represent ACNC. Utilizing live animals in educational programming makes the experience more impactful, leading to positive relationships with nature.

Become an Animal Advocate to ensure that ACNC's Animal Ambassadors have access to the care they need throughout the year to ensure a high quality of life.

ACNC Animal Advocates provide financial support which goes directly towards staff time and the purchase of materials, food, and medical care needed to ensure the well-being of the animals each year.

Learn more at auduboncn.org/animalsupport or scan the QR code.



Welcome Audubon's Summer Nature Education Interns



Georgie Bickling

Georgie just completed her sophomore year studying environmental science at Robert Morris University. She has been going to Audubon since she was young, including nature walks in preschool and summer camp. She hopes to work for the National Parks Service as an educational park ranger.



Allyson (Ally) Buck

Ally is a substitute teacher in Jamestown and working to become a full-time educator. She graduated from SUNY Fredonia in 2023. This is Ally's second summer as an Education Intern at ACNC. She hopes to advance her leadership skills and ability to be an innovative and effective educator.



Elsa Lumia

Elsa just completed her freshmen year of college at SUNY Potsdam, studying music education. She volunteered at Audubon as a junior summer camp counselor, nest box monitor, and at events. She has also hiked in 34 National Parks. In the future, she plans on becoming a music educator.



June Winters

June just completed their freshman year at Le Moyne College, studying psychology. As a child, they spent many summers at Audubon which sparked their love for nature. June plans on getting their master's degree in psychology and working in the juvenile justice system.

Welcome Audubon's Invasive Species Management Interns



Abigail (Abby) Barton

Abby is a third-year sustainability undergraduate from Chatham University with a passion for healthy natural spaces. As a Russell resident, Abby has long admired Audubon and is excited by the opportunity to support its work. She brings experience in kayaking, ecological fieldwork, and data analysis with R and ArcGIS.



Katja Isadora Kranzo

Katja is a SUNY Geneseo graduate with a degree in geography and sustainability studies. With hands-on experience in land maintenance and a passion for preserving natural ecosystems cultivated at the Wegmans Organic Farm, Katja brings skills in areas like weeding and sustainable agriculture.

Welcome, New and Returning Nature Center Members

Recorded between November 3, 2024 and May 1, 2025

Senior (65+) Individual \$35

Mary Ahrens
Linda Anderson
Barbara J Chall
Michael Dobbins
Eric Heil
Dru Schoenborn
Valerie Walawender

Senior Family \$45

Jeffery and Cynthia Anderson
John Arrigo
Caryl and Michael Decker
Karen and Leo Donovall
Janene and Rob Draegert
Karen Greto
Gerald Hildom Jr.
Debbie Oakes
Diane Pawelski
William and Merilee Potter
Craig Whitaker

Individual \$50

Sarah Ewing
Sydnie Hoffman
Nicole Sharp
Amy Sobina
Kelly Stearns

Family \$60

Buddy and Aliza
Faith and Jesse Atwell

Family \$60 Continued

Bryn and Tyler Austin
Ashley Best-Peterson
Taylor Brennan
Dan and Sara Burns
Rachel Calimeri
Tracy Carlson
Teena Chau
Paul and Amanda Clemente
Lauren Costanzo
Michael and Shawna DeAngelo
Jessica Decker
Heather Douvlos
Leah Egner
Kathryn and Joseph Fortunato
Krista Gilbert
Eric Gilmore
Leah Gustafson
Barb Hanson
Kelsey Hanson
Marlena Hartman
Dayl Heine
Maggie Hewitt
Anastacia Jukes
Radha and Lloyd Latona
Jessica Lustig
Heather Martin
Jamie Perkins
Rachel Petruccello
Cassandra Pinkoski
Jessica and Robert Piskor
Amy Pomeroy
Brittney Quattrone
Courtney Rappole

Family \$60 Continued

Nickolas and Taylor Reynolds
Jessica Runge
Shauna Sanders
Monica Saxton
Charlotte Schmaltz
Simone Sellstrom
Dave and Stephanie Snyder
Megan Sorenson,
Mark Roetzer & Nora
Claudia Spargo
Damon Spencer and Julia Gordon
Sarah Stockdale
Brittney and Clayton Strahan
Lindsey Stravato
Deborah and Dennis Swan
Amanda Towne
Dea Voorhis
Ellen and Brennan Webb
Ashley Wilson
Erin Zeiders-Weber

Family Plus \$100

Lisa Best
Chris and Natalie Billman
Chad Buck
Ross Donisi
The Fischer Family
Mervin and Nancy Fry
Brysten and Alicia Jones
Shannon Lee
Brittany and Tony Paterniti



Bee Kind Shirt Fundraiser

Sale begins: Monday, July 14

Pre-order by: Monday, August 18

Pick-up: Friday/Saturday, September 5/6

\$28 Adult unisex t-shirts (S, M, L, XL, XXL*)

\$28 Adult women's cut t-shirts (S, M, L, XL)

\$32 Adult unisex long-sleeved shirts (S, M, L, XL)

\$22 Youth t-shirt (S, M, L)

\$42 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.

Bees are fascinating insects that are essential to our planet. This "Bee Kind" design was inspired by ACNC's bee exhibits and created by in-house designer, Jess Piskor. It comes in a variety of adult sizes, short and long sleeves, and youth sizes.

Place your order at auduboncnc.org/bee-kind



Bees are featured in two Audubon Community Nature Center exhibits for all ages to discover, learn, and explore.

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 Jessica Piskor for more information at jpiskor@auduboncnc.org or (716) 569-2345.

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

Kinetic Internet Service Provider

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 Jessica Piskor at (716) 569-2345

or jpiskor@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

July/August ACNC Newsletter

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Monarch Butterfly