



Audubon Community Nature Center

The connection begins with you.

September – October, 2025
Volume 69, 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.

Jessica Piskor, *Newsletter Editor*
Cover: Goldenrod

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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
Free admission on Indigenous People's Day
(Monday, October 13, 2025)*



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From the Desk of the Board Chair

Dear Nature Center Members and Friends,

One of the most important milestones each year is our Annual Meeting, when we gather to celebrate the year's accomplishments, look ahead to new opportunities, and affirm the leadership that will help guide Audubon into the future. We warmly invite all members to join us for this year's meeting on **Monday, September 22 at 5:30 p.m.**, and enjoy a gathering of community, nature, and shared purpose.

I want to express sincere thanks to Dave Burlee and Louise Boutwell, who are concluding their service after each completing two full terms on the board. Their leadership, insight, and dedication have helped shape Audubon's path, and we are deeply grateful for their time and service.

We are pleased to share that Dr. Eugenie Poignard is being nominated to serve a second term on the board (2025–2028). Eugenie is a physical therapist and currently serves as the Director of Rehabilitation for Chautauqua Physical and Occupational Therapy/The Chautauqua Center. She resides in Busti, NY with her husband and daughter. Together, they enjoy kayaking, hiking, and volunteering at ACNC events.

We are also excited to welcome two new board candidates:

Linda Sobina has four years of project management experience in the finance industry. She previously served as Secretary on the board of the Crary Art Gallery and as Assistant Treasurer for Relay for Life of Warren County. A 2020 graduate of Leadership Warren County, Linda enjoys finding ways to support her community. Linda and her husband Dan live in Warren, PA. Linda enjoys hiking, gardening, and caring for animals.

Jennifer Bliss lives in Warren, PA with her husband Dale and 5-pounds-of-fury (senior dog) Cricket. She serves as the Marketing and Business Development Director for Senior Helpers in Erie and Warren. Jennifer was previously in radio for over 21 years. Some of the organizations she serves are: A Safe Place, Crary Art Gallery, Woman's Club of Warren, Friends of Warren Public Library, and Zonta International.

A copy of the Board Ballot is included inside this newsletter. We invite you to vote either in person or by mail, but ask that all ballots be submitted by Friday, September 19. Please note: only one ballot is permitted per member household, and **a minimum of 100 completed ballots is required to approve the incoming board members.**

Thank you for being part of the Audubon community and supporting our mission—from your presence on the trails to your generosity and volunteerism.

With gratitude,

Tina Downey
Chair, Board of Directors



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.

1965

“The first of this season’s Audubon Wildlife films will be shown at Washington Junior High School on Tuesday, October 5. Robert C. Hermes of Homestead, FL will show pictures and talk on the Delta of the Orinoco.”

1975

“The U.S. Forest Service Research Laboratories in Warren, PA has given the Jamestown Audubon Society custodianship of the Ralph B. Simpson collection. This professional collection includes unusual and rare taxidermy species, as well as some extinct birds, such as the Passenger Pigeon.”

1985

“John Kost of the Chautauqua County Beekeepers Association donated an observation honey bee hive along with a colony. The new exhibit is mounted on the wall inside the building. The bees come and go through a tube leading to the outside.”

1995

“Jim Yaich will be honored for his 20 years as Director of Jamestown Audubon at the society’s annual dinner.”

2005

“The first of several rain shelters planned for Audubon’s trails was completed recently by the Buildings and Grounds volunteer squad. Hikers making extensive treks around the trails will find welcome respite from rain or sun in the shelter.”

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, Laurie Korb, Carey Lee, Dr. Erin Pender, Steve Riczker, Lynn Schaffer

Nature Center Staff

<i>Administrative Assistant,</i>	
<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>	<i>Sharon Tefft</i>
<i>Design and Marketing Coordinator</i>	<i>Jessica Piskor</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>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>

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!



Young visitors enjoy learning about the birds in the Ralph B. Simpson Room.

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:

- Enchanted Forest**
Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4
 Act in short skits as forest creatures or other roles and help spread joy at this family-friendly event!
- Mailing Committee: Newsletter Mailing**
Thursday, October 9, 9:00 a.m.
 Sip coffee in good company while you prepare the newsletter for bulk mailing.
- Birdseed Orders Fall Pickup**
Saturday, October 18, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(morning and/or afternoon shifts)
 Help check-in and load birdseed into customer cars.
- Birdseed Delivery to Local Vendors**
 Pick-up birdseed at ACNC and deliver to local vendors in NY and PA. Time commitment is on average 1 – 2 hours, twice a month.

Birdseed Sale

Orders due:

Sunday, September 28

Pick up order:

Saturday, October 18
 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Give your feathered friends a 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 regular birdseed prices by ordering through this sale.

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

If you cannot pick up your order on October 18, please call ahead of time to make other arrangements.



Reception Opportunity

Receptionist and Gift Shop Volunteer Position

Two Tuesdays per month, starting in September

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

Thank you, Bonnie!

Bonnie Bowen has completed her service as our Tuesday Receptionist volunteer. We wish Bonnie much happiness in her new home in PA.



Honey Sale

September – October

Blue Heron Gift Shop is having a sale on all honey products from K & J Apiaries from Kennedy, NY. Celebrate the last honey flow of the season and stock up as autumn arrives.

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



Programs and Events

September

First Friday (Adult+)

Becoming a Practicing Herbalist
with Jennifer Schlick

Friday, September 5
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 7
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

*Reservations requested by September 6.
Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.*

Little Explorers

(Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)
What's in a Tree?

Saturday, September 13
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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

*Paid reservations required by September 11.
Limited enrollment.*

Annual Meeting (Adult)

Annual business meeting and program

Monday, September 22
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

\$15 per registrant

Reservations required by Monday, September 15

Birdseed Sale Orders Due

Sunday, September 28
Pick Up: Saturday, October 18
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



October

Enchanted Forest (All)

Friday, October 3
Saturday, October 4
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$14 Adults
\$10.50 Members & children 3 – 15
Free 2 and under

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

First Friday (Adult+)

Native Culinary Herbs for the Home Garden
with Sarah Sorci

Friday, October 3
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, October 5
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Free for children and adults

*Reservations requested by October 4.
Limited enrollment. Walk-ins accepted if room.*

Little Explorers

(Ages 3 – 8 with an adult)
Squirrels and Chipmunks

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

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

*Paid reservations required by October 9.
Limited enrollment.*

October Camp

(Children 4 – 12)

Monday, October 13
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$48 Children 4 – 12
\$36 Member children
\$5 Sibling discount

Paid reservations required by October 9.

October (Continued)

Blue Heron Legacy Society

Get-together (Adult)

Sunday, October 19
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Free for current and potential Blue Heron Legacy Society Members

Reservations requested by October 15.

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: Reading a Skull

By Chelsea Jandreau

Fall features the death and decay of plants in opposition to spring's new life and growth. As autumn progresses, many plants lose their annual growth of leaves in a display of vibrant color. These leaves will eventually decompose, and continue the cycle to become part of the soil. Dead animals rarely get the same admiration as the dying fall leaves, but when the scavengers and decomposers do their job and only the bones are left, you can gain a wealth of knowledge about that animal by taking a closer look.

A skull gives information about the animal's senses. Find the eye holes, or orbits. Large orbits might mean they had excellent eyesight, or they were nocturnal. The nose is full of clues. A long snout allows for a better sense of smell since there is more room for olfactory receptors and a maze of thin, bony structures called turbinates. Look on the underside of the skull and there are two bulbous sections under the ear canals. These are the auditory bullae, and their size is also directly related to an animal's sensitivity to sound.

Teeth can give you clues as to the animal's diet. Sharp teeth mean carnivores, flat molars mean herbivores, and a mix equals an omnivore, right? Mostly, but there are variations on a theme. Each class of vertebrates have their own set of clues contained in their skeletal structure.

There are other skull features that indicate musculature, since many muscles are anchored to the bones by tendons. Snapping turtles have a large protrusion on the top of their skull, allowing for larger jaw muscles, and as their name suggests, they have one powerful bite.

Dead things can seem gross, but generally, once the skin and muscle has decomposed and only the bare bones are left, they are safe to touch. It's still a good idea to wash your hands after handling to avoid any lingering bacteria.



Porcupines (right) are nocturnal, so they rely on their hearing ability and have large auditory bullae. River otters (left) are diurnal and have less impressive hearing.



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 year-round care they need for 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.



Experience the Wonders of Fall on Our Trails!



There's something truly magical about fall in Western New York, and our six miles of beautiful trails are ready to welcome you!

As the leaves begin their stunning transformation, our trails offer the perfect escape. Experience a peaceful walk surrounded by vibrant reds, oranges, and golds. It's perfect for "leaf peeping" and soaking in the beauty of a new season. **With over 14,000 visitors enjoying our trails annually**, you'll see why so many people love it here! Don't forget to explore our **beautiful arboretum and many gardens**, which truly shine this time of year.

Beyond the incredible views, spending time in nature offers huge benefits for your well-being, helping you relax, recharge, and simply have fun. Plus, our trails are always free and open from dawn until dusk.

Blue Heron Legacy Society Get-together

Sunday, October 19, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Free for all current and potential Blue Heron Legacy Society Members

Reservations are requested by Wednesday, October 15.

Join Audubon Community Nature Center staff 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.

The get-together will include a review of what has happened at ACNC over the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year as well as insights into ongoing and future projects. Light snacks and beverages to be provided.

Are you not yet a member of the Blue Heron Legacy Society, but interested in making a long-term commitment to connecting people to nature? You are welcome to attend! This will be a casual event, and all are welcome.



Thank You, Nature Center Volunteers

139 volunteers, including 16 registered with the RSVP program, recorded 2,920 hours of work from December 22, 2024, through June 24, 2025. 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!

Morgan Allen	Kate Ebersole	Barry Millspaw	Christine Skoczylas
Aspire of Western NY	Mel Feather	Jack Monroe	David Skoczylas
Laura Ayers	Jim Fincher	Terra Monroe	Linda Sobina
Zach Ayers	Patricia Fincher	National Fuel	Brandi Somerton
Mardy Backstrom	Sandy Fletcher	Sharon Nazzaro	Sarah Sorci
Brittany Baglia	Kieran Fodor	Julie Nelson	Patricia Spicer
Jan Barelle	Willow Fodor	Madelyn Nelson	Kay Stahlman
John Barone	Janet Forbes	Joseph O'Hara	Peter Stark
Mary Beckerink	Deborah Funka	Sally Patchen	Scott Stoieson
Sally Beckerink	Paul Gee	Zenobia Peck	Stephen Stout
Andrea Benedett	Noah Gibble	Helen Peterson	Lillian Swan
Leslie Berg	Noah Goodling	Midge Peterson	Linda Trostle
Heidi Bird	James Haick	Deborah Piotrowski	Brian Turk
Louise Boutwell	Terry Hallock	Tim Piotrowski	Max Tyger
Reg Boutwell	Austin and Karen Hildom	Eugenie Poignard	Bob VanEvery
Bonnie Bowen	Gerald Hildom	Adam Rea	Janice VanOrd
Pat Brininger	Julie Holland	Johannah Robb	Ann Wallin
Brenda Brook	John Hyde	Julia Rohrback	Gwenivere Wallin
Alan Brown	Karen Inwood	Coltan Roush	Oliver Wallin
Karen Brown	Natalie Johnson	Charlie Rovegno	Donald Watts
David Bull	Pamela Johnson	Noam Rovegno	Peyton Welch
Cori Burkiewicz	Richard Johnson	Luna Sadowski	Mary Jane Whaley
Rejeanne Butzer	Ronald Johnson	Carol Samuelson	Nancy White
Gary Campbell	Courtney Jung	Karen Sanders	Catherine Willard
Suzanne Campbell	Christine Lajewski	Chris Sattelberg	Fallon Williams
Gino Capo	Susan Lampo	William Schmidt	Mary Williams
Charlie Cardinale	Margaret Lane	Dave Scholand	John Willisie
Ann Carlson	Terry LeBaron	Olivia Sechriest	Sue Yauchzy
Raymond Carlson	Gary Lester	Don Sharp	Daniel Zabala
Connor Carnahan	Penny Lester		
Sue Chandler	Roman LoBianco		
Karen Christy	Judy Long		
Judith Claire	Judy Lundmark		
Janette Coleson	Allie MacNeil		
Barb Conklin	Mark Mason		
Arlene Connelly	Mary Beth Mazzone		
Elaine Crossley	William Means		
Cummins	Antoinette Meyer		
Don Dove	Carol Miller		
Martha Dove	Gabe Miller		



Enchanted Forest

Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4
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. Limited enrollment.

Enjoy a magical, non-scary evening for children and their grown-ups! Experience a guided walk with talking animals who will share fascinating secrets about local wildlife. Then, gather in the backyard for a cozy campfire and music. Snacks and drinks will be available to purchase. Plus, explore crafts, live animals, and exhibits inside the Nature Center.

Audubon members at the \$60 Family level and higher may reserve starting August 15. Regular registration opens September 1.



Walk a luminary-lit trail and visit with talking animals, like this Black Bear, at Enchanted Forest

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

September/October ACNC Newsletter

Inside This Issue:

- Animal Advocate Opportunity
- Blue Heron Gift Shop
- Blue Heron Legacy Society
- Board Ballot
- Board Chair's Desk
- Community Partners
- Enchanted Forest
- Experience Our Trails
- Fall Birdseed Sale
- Nature Notes: Reading a Skull
- This Time in ACNC History
- Upcoming Programs and Events
- Volunteer Hours
- Volunteer Opportunities



Fall foliage around Big Pond