

The Tanager

Published quarterly by the

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club

c/o John Shaw

374 Cromwell Drive, Rochester, NY 14610



Volume 54, Number 1

March 2024

President's Column

By Marigrace Piazza

Although it seems like we were just putting the sanctuary to bed for the winter and settling in for a quiet time of inside pursuits, there are currently signs of new life popping up on the trails at Railroad Mills. Spring is a glorious season at BANC and we hope that many of you will find time to rejuvenate your senses after a long winter and get out on our trails.

If you are looking to walk our trails with like-minded people, there are plenty of programs scheduled at the sanctuary for this spring and summer that might interest you. The program committee has also planned an exciting roster of events in several special nature areas in the Rochester vicinity.

Please check out the list of upcoming programs in this edition of the Tanager.

Remember, some of our boardwalks are in disrepair at the moment so take care as you venture out. I am happy to say that we have recently overcome an important hurdle in the Trail Grant process and are getting close to starting the search for a contractor. Shirley Shaw shares some important updates in this issue. See page 2.

You may notice a change in the landscape as you walk around BANC. Many invasive privet bushes have been removed this winter and we are thankful to your membership and donation dollars that have allowed us to hire a professional to do this important work. With these plants cleared out we will be able to replace them with native species.

We appreciate your gift of dollars and your gift of time. We are looking for a coordinator of building

and grounds tasks. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact me. No experience is needed, just a willingness to do your part to keep our sanctuary well maintained.

Keep a lookout for our new and improved website coming sometime in the next few months. Jane McConnochie and John Shaw have been busy giving

In This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| President's Report | 1 |
| Trails Grant Report | 2 |
| Allegany Nature Pilgrimage | 2 |
| Ginny Wilterdink | 3 |
| The STAMP Conundrum | 4 |
| Coming Events | 6 |
| Membership Form | 9 |
| Linda Bowman Smith | 10* |
| Call for Contributions | 11* |
| The April 8th Total Eclipse | 12* |
| Solstice Supper and Pollinators | 14* |
| Habitat Restoration Power Hours | 15* |

* Pages from 10 and above are in the online edition.

(President's Message - Continued from page 1)

our website an overhaul. We hope that it will be easier to use and more attractive to perspective members. We will keep our current website address but the site may be inaccessible for a short period of time while the final switchover is made.

BANC members are a diverse group of people who all share the love of nature and the desire to observe and appreciate the natural world around us. Sometimes we notice things that we have never seen before and sometimes we are comforted by the return of things that we look forward to every year. Whether you seek quiet contemplation in the woods or the exchange of ideas with others, BANC offers both opportunities. Thank you to all of you who do your part to keep our precious sanctuary and club running.

Trail Grant Report

By Shirley Shaw

As I reported in the December 2023 *Tanager*, our preliminary design for the Trail Improvements Project was approved. Since then, our landscape architecture firm, SWBR, has been working on the construction drawings and lengthy required documents for contractors who will bid on the project. Mari-grace Piazza, Richard Ashworth, and I met with the firm on February 23, have reviewed the drawings and the draft documents, and are looking forward to getting the final drawings and documents submitted soon.

The approval process is three steps. First, our Regional Grants Coordinator reviews. Upon her approval, the documents are sent to Albany for further review. After that, federal highway officials review and will give the authorization for construction. Once that authorization is received, we will advertise to potential bidders, hold a meeting and tour of the project site with them, review bid documents received to make sure each bidder meets our qualifications, and then the contractor will be chosen based on the lowest bid by a qualified contractor.

All these steps take time. I've said often before, the result will be worth the wait!

Allegany Nature Pilgrimage

By Kathy Henrie

BANC representative for the ANP

The Allegany Nature Pilgrimage will be happening again soon! Imagine hundreds of programs and field trips over a three-day weekend in beautiful Allegany State Park! Burroughs Audubon is proud to be a partner with the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage. Members of BANC receive a significant discount of registration fees during the early bird special.

In its 66th year, the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage is an annual outdoor learning experience. It combines fun with a variety of nature-oriented activities. This traditional weekend of natural history and outdoor education welcomes both the experienced naturalist as well as the inquisitive beginner! Over 100 nature and historical programs are offered during the weekend of May 31 to June 2nd in the 65,000-acre Allegany State Park. One low registration fee entitles attendees to attend any of the activities throughout the weekend. Multiple birding walks and talks, astronomy, geology, nature for families and children, and programs for experienced naturalists. For more information and to register, visit

www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com

Be sure to reserve a rustic cabin in the Red House area. [CLICK HERE](#). Want more comfort? The Allegany Nature Pilgrimage has negotiated rooms at the White Pine Lodge for \$109 inclusive of all fees. This hotel in Salamanca NY is about 20 minutes away from all activities. Call [\(716\) 945-7600](tel:7169457600) and be sure to ask for your discounted room rate for the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage.

We hope you'll be able to join us this Spring in Allegany State Park for the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage!

Ginny Wilterdink at 101

By Carol Hinkelman

Below is the tag on a new cherry tree in Durand Eastman Park in the median of the parking lot off Zoo Road near the orchard area. There is another tree with a similar tag honoring Ginny at Highland Park where she also worked in the Poet's Garden for many years. Ginny was there for the planting of both trees and the parties that were held afterward.

Ginny is a longtime BANC member who has had many roles at BANC over the years including President in 2003 and 2004, Chair of the Housekeeping Committee for several years, and organizer of the BANC exhibit at the annual ADK Expo at Mendon Ponds. She was also volunteering with other groups such as the Community Foresters in Durand Eastman Park every Tuesday and some days at Highland Park in the Poet's Garden and answering peoples' gardening questions on the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener's hotline. She did trail building and maintenance with the Penfield Trails Committee and ushered for more than 30 years at the RPO. It must be those Down East Maine genes she inherited that kept her on the go all these years.

As she was turning 100, Ginny gave up her car and moved to a senior living community. She still ushers at the RPO, where she was honored last year, but has given up her other volunteer jobs. She does some gardening near her senior apartment and takes nature walks in the woods there as well as walking all the hallways in her building every evening for exercise. She likes to read and keep up with the news, watch the birds at her 3 feeders, participate in the scheduled activities and have serious discussions with the other residents at mealtimes. She says she feels like she is getting lazy now that she is not cooking and doing all her volunteer jobs. We all wish we had her energy!



The STAMP Conundrum

By Carol Hinkelman

In recent years a global computer chip shortage has increased prices and decreased the availability of everything containing chips, from cars to appliances to toys. Most computer chips are being produced in China, but the shortage has fueled a nationwide push to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to the U.S. Many states are now competing to get these chip plants and offering them big incentives.

In New York State four industrial parks are being designed and equipped to go after advanced manufacturing, renewable energy and nanotech companies. One of them is a 1263-acre site located in Genesee County, halfway between Buffalo and Rochester, called the Science, Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP). The Genesee County Economic Development Corporation (GCEDC) is trying to lure a chip plant and other high-tech industries to the site. It is advertised as being located in New York's high-tech corridor by the New York State Thruway with the ability to attract talent from a highly educated workforce in Buffalo and Rochester. A big selling point is the availability of low-cost hydropower from Niagara Falls. Once complete they say it will bring approximately 9,000 on site jobs and potentially 40,000 related jobs to the region.

There are many environmental problems with putting a heavy industrial park in the middle of farmland and important wildlife habitat and directly adjacent to the Seneca Tonowanda Reservation and their Big Woods. STAMP is located just south of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and close to several New York State wildlife areas. The site is habitat for NYS

Endangered Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers which are a NYS Threatened Species.

The site developer applied for a Sitewide Incidental Take Permit from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to allow them to destroy 665 acres of habitat for these species. To mitigate for



“X” Marks the location of the proposed STAMP site.

Map from Google Maps

the destruction of that habitat, they promised to maintain a 25-acre parcel and a separate 33-acre parcel as habitat for these birds for 50 years, but the two parcels are only a fraction of the large undisturbed area that those species need to hunt for their food. There was a public hearing at which several birding

(Continued on page 5)

(STAMP - Continued from page 4)

and environmental groups spoke against granting the permit. The Tonowanda Reservation also opposed the permit because it would decimate species of cultural importance to the Seneca Nation and threaten the health of the Big Woods, its waters, its environment, and future generations. The permit was issued despite all the opposition.

STAMP has important allies. It is being heavily promoted by Gov. Hochul and Senator Schumer has personally lobbied several companies to locate there. Congressman Joe Morrelle secured the first major funding of \$33 million for the project in 2014 to prepare the site. Gov. Hochul awarded another \$56 million for STAMP in November 2023. It is in a rural area with no infrastructure, so it needs a lot of costly improvements. Genesee County can't supply the necessary water for STAMP so a pipeline 11 miles long must be built to bring in water from Monroe County.

When fully built out, STAMP will produce 6 million gallons of wastewater per day and there are no nearby facilities equipped to handle that wastewater. A pipeline is needed to carry the wastewater 9.5 miles through the Tonowanda reservation and several private properties in Orleans County where it will be discharged into Oak Orchard Creek. The creek is in a prime fishing area and Trout Unlimited is raising salmon in pens in the creek to build up the fishery in Lake Ontario, so fishermen are very concerned.

The pipeline will go through the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and when they started drilling for the pipeline there last fall, sinkholes began to appear and drilling fluids were spilled. The Tonowanda Seneca Nation does not want the pipeline going through their property and some of the landowners in Orleans County have refused to let the pipeline cross their land. Genesee County wants to take their land by eminent domain, but Orleans County is suing to block it.

The educated workforce STAMP needs will have to commute long distances from Buffalo or Rochester

since the Town of Alabama has only 1800 people and very little available housing. It is estimated that there will be 1400 vehicle trips in and out of STAMP each day when the whole site is developed and transportation can be an issue for low-income people.

There are many vacant or underutilized manufacturing sites and facilities in the state, some right in Rochester, that already have the needed infrastructure and an ample supply of skilled workers living nearby. It is very wasteful to use millions of taxpayer dollars to put in new infrastructure while already developed properties sit idle. It also doesn't make sense to destroy an ecologically rich area when we are in the middle of a biodiversity crisis.

You can find a map of the site and a lot more information about STAMP on the website of Allies of the Tonowanda Seneca Nation <https://alliesoftsn.weebly.com>.

Dues Are Due

Thank you to all of you who have paid your 2024 dues. As a reminder, the 2024 dues are now due. Life and fellow members do not pay dues.

To pay your dues by credit card, you may go to bancny.org/membership.html, fill out the form, and submit. You will then be directed to a PayPal page to enter your credit card information. You do not need to have a PayPal account to use this.

You can pay by check by filling out the form on page 9 and mailing that with your check to:

BANC
374 Cromwell Drive
Rochester, NY 14610

Or you may fill out the form on the website, submit it, but then mail a check (no more forms needed) to the above address.

If you have any problems or questions, please call 585-747-6567.

Coming Events

The following events are planned for the next three months. Please refer to our website, bancny.org, for any changes or additions.

Friday, March 15, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

On the Edge: The Perilous Lives of Birds
Zoom

They fly. They sing. They attract mates with their spectacular plumage. They are symbols of freedom, music, and romance. But the lives of birds are fraught with danger and hardship, and they show remarkable endurance for such small creatures. In this program we look at these seemingly fragile beings and the strategies they have evolved to achieve their own survival and the survival of their species. Presenters: Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner

To sign up, [CLICK HERE](#). The Zoom information will be sent shortly before the event.

Thursday, March 28, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Woodcock Walk
Webster

The American Woodcock spends the daylight hours hidden away in woodlands. By night, it comes out into open fields where males dance high in the sky with “chipping, twittering, bubbling sounds,” according to renowned bird expert Kenn Kaufman. Its aim, of course, is to attract females. In between dances, it makes a sound that Kaufman describes as a “beeping call,” while other sources call it a “peent” sound.

Join Shirley Shaw and Carolyn Ragan at the Big Field at the corner of Vosburg and Drumm Roads in Webster, weather permitting.

Advanced registration is required so can we notify you if weather will cause a cancellation. To sign up, [CLICK HERE](#).

Dress warmly. Bring a folding chair and flashlight. A short walk will take place to the best display area, and participants may also choose to take a short walk to a pond to listen to the sounds of frogs before the woodcocks begin their display.

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Cleanup and Habitat Restoration
Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

We will be pitching in to help get our clubhouse, sanctuary grounds, and trails ready for spring activities! An important focus will be on our ongoing habitat restoration work as we continue to address the need to remove invasive plants and restore native ones to our property.

Bring your work gloves and a rake. Light refreshments will be provided. Even if you can't do the work, feel free to come and enjoy our beautiful surroundings, visit with friends, and cheer the workers on.

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

BANC Orientation
Sanctuary

For new and prospective members: Learn what BANC is all about! Presentation followed by sanctuary tour.

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Wildflower Walk
Breese Park, Henrietta

Join naturalists Carol and Dave Southby for a May Day wildflower walk in this relatively new park that is a hidden gem in the western part of Henrietta. Carol and Dave first visited this park last year and were amazed by the number of different wildflowers growing in the woodland here. Flowers included spring beauty and trillium, along with huge carpets of Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia*) alongside the trail.

The park features a scenic, accessible, level, packed gravel trail along the Genesee River. The total walking distance, in and out total, is about a mile.

Enter the park at 108 Westcombe Park, Henrietta, NY 14467, via a housing tract. Ample parking is available, but no restrooms.

Leaders: Carol and David Southby 585-383-8168

(Continued on page 7)

Tuesday, May 7 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Spring Evening Nature Walk

Brickyard Trail at Sandra Frankel Nature Park

We will join Genesee Valley Audubon Society for a casual evening walk to watch for birds and listen for frogs and other wildlife. This short easy walk of about a mile and a half round trip will give us a chance to explore an urban wetland at dusk. Who knows what we will find? The trail is flat with a finely crushed stone surface and wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair or stroller. Participants will meet in the parking lot in front of Brighton Library, 2300 Elmwood Ave., near the road. We have to cross the road to get to the trail.

Registration is required. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/5y4tsmzt>. If you have any questions, email June Summers at summers@frontiernet.net.

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

What's Blooming at BANC?

*Open House Family Day at BANC Sanctuary
301 Railroad Mills Road*

Early May is a wonderful time of year to be outdoors. New wildflowers are blooming and resident and migratory birds sing from the treetops. It is the perfect time of year to visit the BANC grounds and gardens along Irondequoit Creek. Bring the family and join us for a leisurely guided bird walk around our trails, play some nature games, do a craft, and learn about ways to dress safely in the wild. Be prepared to use your senses to soak in the sights, sounds, and smells of our sanctuary on a spring day.

Saturday, May 25, 2024, 7:30 a.m.

RBA/BANC joint field trip to BANC Sanctuary and Powder Mills Park

Powder Mills Park Fish Hatchery parking lot on Park Road

Powder Mills Park is a mature woodland and wetland park that can be productive for many late-migrating or nesting species. In recent years, Balti-

more Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Red-tailed Hawks have all nested there.

The trip will continue with a visit to the BANC Sanctuary on Railroad Mills Road, where we'll walk the trails around the woodland, wetland, and creek habitats. Nesting species there include Eastern Bluebirds, House Wrens, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and adjacent tree lines have produced a variety of migrating warblers.

Both locations are mostly flat trails; waterproof footwear is advised.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Powder Mills Park Fish Hatchery parking lot on Park Road. Leaders: Tom and Jeanne Verhulst 585-362-0803

Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2, 2024

Allegany Nature Pilgrimage

Red House area of Allegany State Park

The Allegany Nature Pilgrimage is an annual outdoor learning experience. It combines fun with a variety of nature-oriented activities. This traditional weekend of natural history and outdoor education welcomes both the experienced naturalist as well as the inquisitive beginner! The Pilgrimage is made possible by: The Audubon Community Nature Center in Jamestown, the Buffalo Audubon Society in Buffalo, Presque Isle Audubon of Erie, PA, and Burroughs Audubon Nature Club of Rochester. If you would like more information, go to www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com. If you have questions, feel free to call Kathy Henrie at 585-705-8789

Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

ADK Outdoor Expo

Mendon Ponds Park

Sponsored by the Genesee Valley Chapter of ADK, this event is free and open to the public and is held at beautiful Mendon Ponds Park. Local clubs and organizations are on-site to talk about their work, share knowledge of the outdoors, and provide a variety of workshops. Come and enjoy some delicious food and ice cream, as well!

Friday, June 14, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Solstice Supper and Pollinators On Our Doorstep
BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

BANC is pleased to invite you to a special evening. The Club is going to host a supper and a special presentation by Carol and David Southby. BANC will provide the main entrees from a local caterer. Bring your favorite side, salad or dessert to pass (enough for 8 to 12 people), your own dinnerware and a drink. There will be a minimal donation to help cover the costs of the catered food (\$5 per person).

After supper Carol and David will present a new talk on pollinators. The description is below:

The insect entertainment on flowers is endless. For over 30 years, naturalists and gardeners Carol and David Southby have been watching and photographing the fascinating array of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators that they find in their backyard in Penfield and in our many local parks and natural areas. Sadly, these incredible creatures are in decline as their habitats continue to disappear. With appropriate plant selection, our home and public landscapes can begin to offset the loss of wild areas.

In this new talk, the Southbys will show us some of the amazing pollinators that we can see in our area, share tips on how to choose and care for suitable plants, and adapt our maintenance, to attract and support a wide range of pollinators.

Registration is required. To register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

Orientation Meeting

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

For new and prospective members: Learn what BANC is all about! Presentation followed by sanctuary tour.

Sunday, June 30, 2024, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Braddock Bay Raptor Research Presentation

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Raptors, or birds of prey, are symbols of power and grace. Come meet three live raptors from Braddock Bay Raptor Research, and discover fascinating facts about the many species that live in our area. Learn about their adaptations and important role each spe-

cies plays in the environment we share with them. After the presentation, we will provide an opportunity to ask questions and take photos. We, at BANC, are happy to have Daena Ford from Braddock Bay Raptor Research on a return visit to be our presenter.

Thursday, August 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Earth is Our Mother Tour & More at the Ganondagan State Historic Site

7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564

Join us as we take a guided interpretive walk along the Earth is Our Mother trail at the Ganondagan State Historic Site in Victor, NY. The trail provides a glimpse into the relationship between the Seneca people and the plant world. The plants are living survivors of the great forest which was, and is, Onondowahgah, the land of the Seneca. We'll learn about the importance and uses of the native trees and plants that line the trail from an ethnobotanical perspective. We'll be joined by Elijah Kruger, an Environmental Educator for the Finger Lakes Region of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation who will lead the walk and offer insight into how the state is preserving and restoring the natural setting of the area.

We'll also be able to visit the Longhouse on site and experience 17th century Seneca lifestyles through interpretation of material culture including tools, trade objects, utensils, and clothing used by the Seneca people. Finally, if there is time, we can pop into the Seneca Art & Culture Center Gallery to round out the field trip. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to carry in/out.

Registration is required; this field trip is limited to 20 current BANC members. To sign up, [CLICK HERE](#).

The walking trail is 1.78 miles round trip with uneven terrain.

BURROUGHS AUDUBON NATURE CLUB (BANC) MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. Please send your check, payable to BANC, along with this form, to:

BANC
c/o John Shaw, Treasurer
374 Cromwell Drive
Rochester, NY 14610

Or, to pay online by credit card, use the form at bancny.org/membership.html.

Name(s) _____

Children's Ages (optional) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Date _____

How did you learn of us? _____ Birth Month (Optional) _____

Check one: New Member _____ Renewal _____

| MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY | DUES | AMOUNT PAID |
|---|-------|-------------|
| Individual | \$25 | \$ |
| Couple | \$35 | \$ |
| Family, including children under 18 | \$40 | \$ |
| Supporting Membership | \$75 | \$ |
| Life Membership | \$500 | \$ |
| Add \$10.00 for Tanager hardcopy mailed | \$10 | \$ |
| Extra Donation Appreciated | \$ | \$ |
| | | |
| | | Total \$ |

Linda Bowman Smith

By Julie Clayton

It is with great sadness that I write about Linda Bowman Smith's passing. We knew her as just "Linda!" and she always greeted us with a bright, shining smile! She was always willing to lend a hand to help with potlucks and various programs. Linda was quite independent and cheerfully grabbed every bit of life that had been granted her. She made many trips to New Mexico which she loved!

Linda died peacefully at her home on January 10. She was born on January 22, 1943, in Albany, NY to Linton and Kathryn Bowman of E. Chatham, N Y. Linda graduated from SUNY Potsdam and then received her Masters from SUNY Cortland.

She taught 5th grade in Clifton Springs and retired from there. Linda was very active in the Victor Presbyterian Church. She served as Deacon and church historian and sang in their choir. Linda had a very beautiful voice! She belonged to the Victor Hiking Club and was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. (Look that one up... it is very cool to belong to!)

Linda was predeceased by her husband, Norman. She is survived by her son and wife (Simon and Ellen), granddaughter, Larissa, and step-children: Norm, Elissa and Melanie and their children. Linda is also survived by her sister, Bonnie, and many nieces and nephews.

Linda will be sorely missed by BANC members, but we will remember her cheerful, giving spirit!



Photo by Richard Ashworth

Linda was the subject of a Meet-A-Member article in the September, 2016 Tanager, which is at <http://bancny.org/Tanager/September2016Tanager.pdf>.

Her obituary is at <https://millerfuneralandcremationservices.com/obituaries/?id=1511>

New Members

The following new members have joined. We welcome them to BANC:

Richard and Nancy Parker

Pittsford

Pardon Our Dust!

Some of our boardwalks are in disrepair until they can be rebuilt as part of the grant work. Keep a look-out for some Trail Closed signs.

A Call for Contributions

By Jane McConnochie

BANC has always depended on a core of dedicated volunteers to run its programs and maintain its clubhouse and trails. As these members grow older, move away, or become pulled by other commitments, we have found ourselves in need of new volunteers to help us fulfill our mission.

Can you help?

The following volunteer positions are open:

Website Team Member: We are in the midst of updating our website. Would you like to learn to use the Squarespace web platform to help John, our fearless webmaster and club Treasurer, keep it current and accessible? Copy editing skills are helpful.

Membership Team Coordinator (or Team Member): Do you have good ideas for growing our membership in terms of both size and diversity? Are you unintimidated by social media? Can you maintain databases?

Building & Grounds Coordinator: Can you help manage contractors and volunteers to help inspect the fireplace, clean gutters, repair the roof, stain the deck, or fix the broken bits, as needed? Can you keep a schedule of trail maintenance tasks and coordinate volunteers to complete those tasks over the course of the year? Are you able to communicate regularly with the Executive Council and other committee

leads to make sure everyone is coordinating their work?

This position can be split among two co-coordinator positions if needed.

Building & Grounds Team Member: Are you able to whack weeds or mow, either regularly or just occasionally? Can you do equipment maintenance and/or repair? Are you handy with building maintenance tasks?

Program Committee Member: Do you have ideas for programs or fieldtrips? Can you help with setup and cleanup? Communication with presenters and field trip hosts?

Habitat Restoration Team Member (or Occasional Volunteer): Are you interested in helping manage restoration volunteers and providing input into decisions related to sanctuary health? Do you like to dig in the dirt to remove invasives or plant natives or put up deer exclusion fences?

If any of these positions appeal to you, then please email Marigrace Piazza or any member of the BANC executive council with your level of interest at BANCrsvp@gmail.com.

Student service-learning credit is available to student volunteers.

We are so grateful to our members and your participation in our programs. Thanks to you and a history of sound financial management, BANC is on solid financial footing as an organization. However, again if we can't fulfill our mission with volunteers then we will need a *much* larger endowment to pay employees. So if you can't volunteer, please consider donating to BANC and/or remember us in your will.

The April 8th Total Solar Eclipse

By Jutta Siefert Dudley

On April 8th, we will experience a marvelous phenomenon when the moon crosses in front of the sun. You will no doubt be delighted and awed while witnessing this amazing event!

What causes a total solar eclipse?

The lunar orbit is slightly elliptical, causing the apparent size of the moon to change in a cyclic pattern. At the moon's perigee position (when closer to Earth), its apparent size is big enough to cover the sun, except for the ethereal outer atmosphere (corona). We don't see the corona in the daylight, but it becomes a lovely sight when the rest of the bright sun is hidden by the moon.



The 2017 Eclipse Showing the Corona

Photo by Sue Robertson

The photo shows the corona during the 2017 eclipse. A DSLR camera was equipped with a long telephoto lens safely covered with a solar filter and steadied on a tripod.

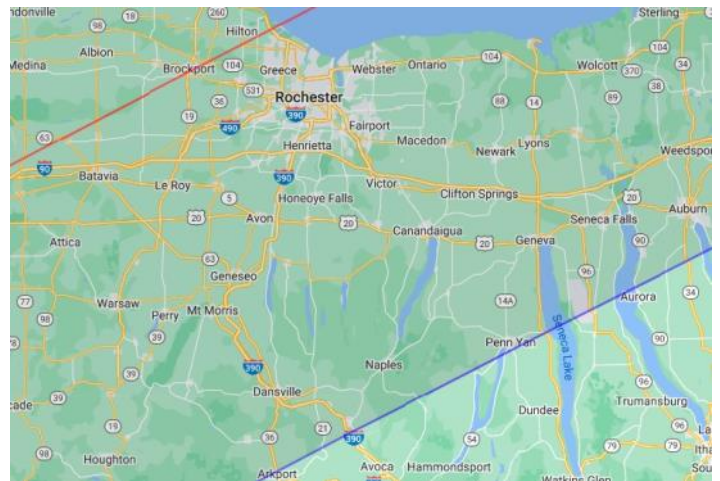
The moon will be in its new phase that day, meaning the sun will be lighting up the far side of the moon, and the side facing the earth is dark. So, you will not likely notice the moon is in the sky until a dark "bite" appears on the edge of the sun.

You may wonder why an eclipse doesn't happen every month. The orbit of the moon is tilted a few degrees from the plane of the earth's orbit around the sun, so the shadow of the moon doesn't frequently cast on the earth. But it does happen often enough--about 18 months apart for total solar eclipses.

The path of totality

The shadow of the moon cast on the earth during the 2024 eclipse will be over 100 miles wide, and it will zip across North America from Mexico to Labrador in about 1 ½ hours. Millions more people will be able to witness this event (without travelling) than during the 2017 eclipse because it will cover densely populated areas. Also, almost everyone in North America can see at least a partial eclipse (with safe eclipse filters).

The Rochester region is within the path of totality, as depicted on the map below. The blue line marks the southern outer edge of the shadow's path, and the red line, the path's center. Anyone inside the blue outer line will witness totality. Totality lasts longer along the center line than at the edge. For example, watching from Hilton, you'll see totality for 3 minutes 42 seconds, and in Naples, totality lasts 1 minute 43 seconds.



credit: eclipsewise.com

When will the event start and end in the greater Rochester area?

2:07 PM: The Moon begins to cover the sun.

3:20 PM: Totality Begins. Duration depends on where you are in the path of totality.

4:33 PM: Eclipse ends for Rochester viewers.

(Continued on page 13)

(Total Solar Eclipse - Continued from page 12)

Safely viewing the sun

Viewing the sun must only be done through special solar filters. Solar eclipse viewing glasses are available at RMSC and from reliable suppliers. Use only glasses with filters that comply with ISO 12312-2, a standard set in 2015. It may be wise to consider older glasses as souvenirs and not use them. If you wear eyeglasses, place the eclipse filters in front of them.

The only time you can watch the event with unprotected eyes is during totality. Indirect viewing of the eclipse process can be accomplished by cutting a window in a box covered with aluminum foil and making a pinhole in the foil. An image will be cast on the other side of the box. Magnified images can be cast onto white surfaces with lenses. As for magnified direct viewing, special solar filters must be bought to place over binocular or telescope objective lenses (never over the eye piece). Never use your eclipse glasses with binoculars! And don't look at the sun through your camera either.

Making observations

You will be facing southwesterly to see the sun in the afternoon. The sun will be about 53° above the horizon when the partial eclipse begins, lower at 43° during totality, and by the end of the event at 4:30 PM, its altitude will be 33°. Stay away from tall trees or buildings, and you won't miss the show.

Before the moon touches the sun, put on your solar viewers and look for sunspots. Sometimes these dark-appearing stormy areas of the sun are large enough to be visible without magnification! When the moon touches the sun, the partial eclipse portion of the process begins. It's time to be observant! Notice what changes as the sun becomes increasingly covered:

Do you see partial eclipse images on the ground below trees with leaves? Try to make some images of your own by crossing fingers or using loosely weaved textiles. White paper placed on the ground will help.

How dark is it getting? What is the quality of the light? How much contrast is there between shadow

edges and light? What color is the sky to the east and west?

How quickly does the temperature change? Any change in the wind?

Can you see any stars or planets and identify them?

What behavior do you see or hear from the birds, squirrels, or other critters?

In the last few seconds, can you see the moon's shadow approaching from the west?

As totality begins, the rays from the sun will pass through valleys or between mountains on the moon, causing Baily's beads, which look like tiny areas of red fire along the eastern edge of the dark moon. This is followed by a flash of light known as the diamond ring effect. This year we may be able to witness a double diamond ring effect. It won't happen everywhere along the path, but we may be lucky.

After the diamond ring effect, the sun will be covered completely, and you can take off your eclipse viewers. Now, the outer atmosphere of the sun is visible, and you will see a beautiful sight. How symmetrical is the corona's shape and how far does it extend? Enjoy the view! In a few minutes, totality will be over. The process begins to reverse, and you must protect your eyes again. Soon thereafter many people stop watching the sun because they are very eager to talk about what they saw! But, do keep looking up and around you to observe how the environment changes back to "normal."

What if it's cloudy?

The odds of clouds obscuring our view is about 60%-70% (eclipseophile.com). Near the lake, the sky may be clearer. Should the cloud layer be too thick to see the sun, we can still observe the change in lighting, temperature, and behavior of the animals. Despite any bad weather, consider experiencing this potentially once-in-a-lifetime event outdoors rather than indoors watching it on TV.

Keep an eye on weather reports, and if you want to move, do it in the morning or the evening before.

(Continued on page 14)

(Total Solar Eclipse - Continued from page 13)

Be aware that for safety reasons, the expressways will be closed during the eclipse. In addition, schools have added an extra day to spring break to include the eclipse.

Sources of information

There are many sources of information on the Web. To save you from being overwhelmed, these three sites are enough to keep the general observer well-informed.

<https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/april-8-2024>

This one-stop site has everything you need to know about this eclipse. There are maps and times for your location and so much more. A simulated flyover with the shadow is a must-see!

<https://Rochestereclipse2024.org/> Local events, where to get eclipse glasses, where to watch the eclipse.

https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse_cities/total/ny Duration times for any town in NYS.

Save the Date - June 14, 2024

Solstice Supper and Pollinators on our Doorstep Talk

By Marigrace Piazza

It's back, sort of.

The Program Committee is happy to announce that we are going to have a new version of our Annual Banquet this summer. Our committee has been jokingly calling this the Non-banquet Banquet.

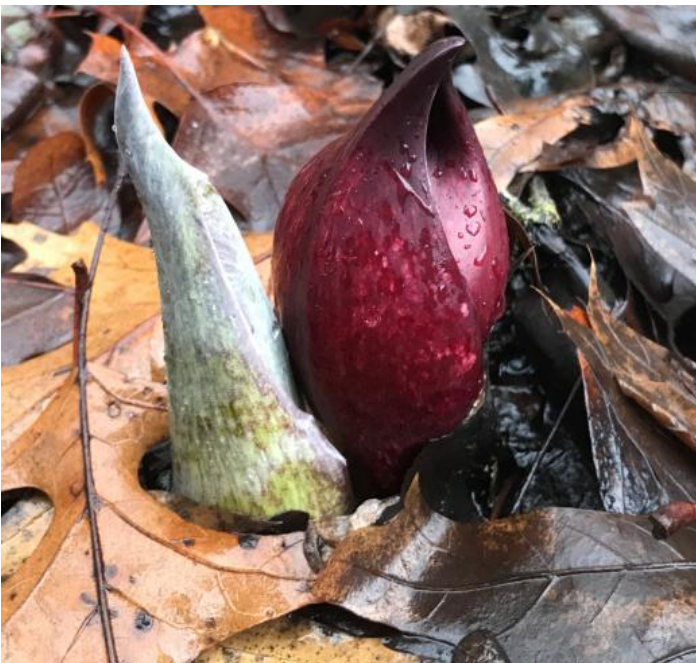
Many of you may remember the age-old BANC tradition of meeting once a year at a restaurant to enjoy a nice meal together and to listen to a special speaker. It was always a treat for me to see my club friends wearing clothes other than tick-safe attire.

One of the many consequences of the pandemic that is still fresh in my mind is the cancellation of the Annual Banquet in April of 2020. Since then, we have been hesitant to schedule an indoor event at a catering venue. We did not want to take the chance of spreading disease and possibly losing money on a deposit.

Fast forward four years, and we are happy to offer a new twist on the Annual Banquet. On Friday, June 14, BANC is going to host a supper at the clubhouse with a special presentation by Carol and David Southby. The club will provide the main entrees from a local caterer. The sides, salads, and desserts will be provided by the attendees. There will be a minimal donation to help cover the costs of the food (\$5 per person).

Since the event will be held the week before the summer solstice, we will be able to soak in the late hours of sunlight. The dinner will also occur the Friday before National Pollinator week, and we are very fortunate to have Carol and David giving a talk on you guessed it, pollinators. BANC will be the first club ever to hear this talk.

Please look in the *Tanager* in the Program section for more information about the talk. The details about the meal are still in the works and we will keep you posted when we have gathered more information. I encourage all of you to attend and be creative and wear something fancy but also tick-safe.



skunk cabbage
Symplocarpus foetidus

Photo by Fred Haynes

Twice-Monthly Habitat Restoration Power Hours at the Sanctuary are Back in 2024

By Jane G. Coggs Hall McConnochie

Keeping the Burroughs Audubon Nature Sanctuary healthy for the birds and bees (and other creatures who live in or visit the sanctuary whose names may or may not start with a B) requires ongoing work and learning.

In 2023 we learned we can make huge strides toward ecosystem balance if we work together for just one hour every other week. So we're digging in again in 2024.

We also learned that working in nature with nature and with other conservation-minded people is just good fun and good for the soul. Come join us when you can!

The tasks we undertake at each Power Hour change over the course of the season. Sometimes, they will include digging up swallow-wort plants, pulling garlic mustard or bittersweet vines, collecting seeds or fencing trees, or just walking the trails to alert the committee to problems. Often, there is more than one task to choose from.

See the schedule below and mark your calendars! You can also sign up by [CLICKING HERE](#) to receive reminders and to let us know to expect you (although you are welcome to come whether you sign up officially or not).

We restore rain or shine, although in the event of really awful weather, please check the website before heading to the Sanctuary for last-minute cancellations!

Bring work gloves and wear boots, long sleeves, and long pants (as ticks and thorns are known enemies of habitat restoration). And we really do just keep it to an hour, as we know your time is valuable!

Sunday, May 19, at 4 pm

Wednesday, June 5, at Noon

Sunday, June 23, at 4 pm

Wednesday, July 3, at Noon

Sunday, July 14, at 4 pm

Wednesday, August 7, at Noon

Sunday, August 18, at 4 pm

Wednesday, September 4, at Noon

Sunday, September 15, at 4 pm

Wednesday, October 2, at Noon



Shagbark hickory
Carya ovata



basswood
Tilia americana

Photos by Fred Haynes



yellow iris
Iris pseudacorus



skunk cabbage
Symplocarpus foetidus

Photos by Fred Haynes

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

See details on Pages 6 - 8. Some programs require registration.

Friday, March 15, 2024, 7:30

On the Edge: The Perilous Lives of Birds
Zoom

March 28, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Woodcock Walk
Webster

April 20, 2024, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Cleanup and Habit Restoration
Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

April 27, 2024, 2:00 to 3:15 p.m.

BANC Orientation
Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Wildflower Walk
Breese Park, Henrietta

Tuesday, May 7 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Spring Evening Nature Walk
Brickyard Trail at Sandra Frankel Nature Park

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

What's Blooming at BANC?
Open House Family Day at BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Saturday, May 25, 2024, 7:30 a.m.

RBA/BANC joint field trip to BANC Sanctuary and Powder Mills Park
Powder Mills Park Fish Hatchery parking lot on Park Road

Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2, 2024

Allegany Nature Pilgrimage
Red House area of Allegany State Park

Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

ADK Outdoor Expo
Mendon Ponds Park

Friday, June 14, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Solstice Supper and Pollinators On Our Doorstep Talk
Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Orientation Meeting
Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Sunday, June 30, 2024, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Braddock Bay Raptor Research Presentation
Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Thursday, August 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Earth is Our Mother Tour & More
*Ganondagan State Historic Site
7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY 14564*