

2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Member,

It's hard to believe that a whole year has gone by, but it has. That means that it is time to renew your membership in the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club for next year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2014 (unless you are a Life, Honorary or Emeritus Member, or joined since July 1.) Renewals are due by Jan. 1, 2014. Your treasurer thanks all members for their past support. Extra donations are always welcome.

A special "Thank You" to all those who give an extra donation with their dues. We urge you to continue your support of our Club, our Sanctuaries, and all our activities. It is easy to set this aside and "forget," but it is extremely important that you renew by January 1st.

Please note: If you would like to continue receiving your Tanager in the paper form via the Postal Service, you are asked to pay \$5.00 additional fee for the year. Otherwise, the Tanager will be delivered electronically by e-mail.

2014 Membership Dues

Category:

Individual Membership (18 years & up).....	\$15.00/yr.
Couple Membership.....	\$25.00/yr.
Family Membership, incl. children up to 18 yrs.....	\$30.00/yr.
Supporting Membership.....	\$50.00/yr.
Life Membership	\$500.00/person
For a key to the outside accessible lavatory, add.....	\$2.00
Postal delivery of Tanager, add.....	\$5.00

To help us keep our records up-to-date, please fill in the renewal form on the back of this sheet and enclose it with your remittance, payable to the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club.

(Note to **SNOWBIRDS**: Please give us your winter address, with dates, too!)

The QUESTIONNAIRES have been very helpful in the past, so once again we are asking you to take a few additional minutes to fill in the answers to the questions which are also on the back of this sheet, just below the renewal form.

Please return this whole sheet together with your check to:

**Burroughs Audubon Nature Club
c/o John E. Gordon
126 Ayrault Rd.
Fairport, NY 14450**

Thank you,

The Executive Council

The Tanager

Published Quarterly by the
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club
c/o John E. Gordon
126 Ayrault Rd. Fairport, NY 14450
www.bancny.org



Volume 43, Number 4

December 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2013 is coming to an end. I have been very proud and feel fortunate to have served the club during this historic year! Many thanks to **all** who have made it such a success – especially to the 100th Year Anniversary Committee.

It was great to start the year with Carolyn Coit Dancy's own play that she wrote and performed, *A Reverence for Life*, about Rachel Carson! It was marvelous!

In April, we held our Annual Banquet at Glendoveers. We were treated to a great buffet and a memorable presentation and visual look-back at the development of BANC. We are Rochester's oldest nature and conservation organization. We were fascinated by Steve Daniel's story-telling of BANC's beginnings and some of the members of the past. The pictures were really fun! A professional DVD was made of this presentation so it will live on! We have a copy in our library and you may borrow it, or you may purchase a copy for yourself!

One of the highlights was our 100th Year Celebration at the Sanctuary when we had John James Audubon, himself, talking with members and joining our celebration. Our members displayed natural items of interest – minerals, butterflies, edible plants. The "Polish Piper", Jack Jarosiski, played the Scottish bagpipe and led the members around the trails. We celebrated with a giant anniversary cake. Of course we ended up by enjoying a delicious pot luck followed by an informative program by Mr. Audubon (Mark Carra).

We also took the opportunity to celebrate John Burroughs by sharing portions of his many books by reading them at an Open House. Members really enjoyed learning more about this amazing man through his writings.

We also had an Open House with Wild Wings. The birds were bright-eyed and lovable, and so were the presenters, Tim and Shastin Phillips! We learned about natural dyes from Valerie DeVries and insects of the night from Bill O'Neil and Martha Zettel. We sang with Cathy McGrath. We met J.J. Audubon's great, great granddaughter, Lucy Durkin! We had several more indoor programs that were super, and many fascinating field trips. The most recent field trip was at the Genesee River Lower and Middle Falls area. We were fortunate to have the retired D&C columnist, Mark Hare, filling us in about the history of the area. Our own Frank Crombe helped us identify the many different trees and shrubs producing the beautiful fall colors.

Back at the Sanctuary, part of the beautiful bench dedicated to the late Lone Dutton had been eaten into by wildlife. It was refurbished by her son, Terry, and looks great! Thank you, Terry. Thanks to our Publicity Chairperson (and Librarian), Becky Olson, BANC now has a FACEBOOK page. Look it up sometime; it is well-done and has lots of visuals!

Due to a sharp increase in the cost of bird seed, BANC Council had to take a hard look at the work of the Bird-Feeding Committee. Although the basic responsibilities of the committee remain the same, the committee will not be expected to feed the birds during the winter months. Except in severe weather, birds are capable of over-wintering without our help. So our new policy is that the bird-feeding will be done just prior to events when people will be at the Sanctuary, and during storms. We greatly appreciate the Bird Feeding and Nesting Boxes Committee and all of their dedication – and so do the birds!

At the June 3rd meeting, Council approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to place our investments under the management of the Rochester Area Community Foundation. Many reputable area non-profit organizations have invested with this organization. We invited Dana Miller to one of our 2012 meetings to tell us about RACF. After many discussions, the Council voted to be a part of the Rochester Area Community Foundation. The Finance Committee suggested that we do this for many reasons. If you should have any questions about this, feel welcome to talk to any Council member for more information. Specifically, our Finance Committee is composed of Frank Crombe, Jon Dombrowski and Chita McKinney. I thank them for their work in this regard.

In conclusion, **many, many** people have contributed to make this a very special year. I thank all of you!

Julie Clayton

Biotech Promises

Genetically modified organisms have had specific changes introduced into their DNA by genetic engineering techniques. Plants can be modified to tolerate drought, or cold, or being sprayed with herbicides. Herbicide-tolerant GM crops began to be marketed as a way to improve crop yields, lower costs for farmers, and reduce environmental impacts. Now, almost 20 years later, over 75% of all GM crops planted are engineered to tolerate glyphosphate herbicides such as Monsanto's Roundup.™

Recent studies found that these crops have backfired. Not only has herbicide use skyrocketed, but there is now a nationwide crisis in weed management for farmers. Roundup™ has become ineffective as the weeds develop resistance due to continuous exposure to the chemical, and herbicide-resistant superweeds have evolved and spread. As a result, farmers are using more and stronger herbicides and they and their communities are increasingly being exposed to these toxic chemicals. Even Roundup™ is now being proved to be not as benign as claimed. It can cause birth defects, reproductive problems, DNA damage and cancer.

A GM corn variety was recently approved that is tolerant of the older and more dangerous herbicide, 2,4-D, which was part of the infamous Agent Orange used in Vietnam. Widespread planting of this corn will lead to a surge in the use of 2,4-D, which is very volatile and can drift for miles onto other crops, flowers, and wild plants that are not tolerant of it. It can also drift into air, water and wildlife habitat having adverse effects on public health, the environment, and the livelihood of other farmers. Organic farmers could lose their certification if herbicides are found on their crops. It is very toxic and dangerous to both humans and animals and will impact endangered species and critical habitats.

Bt toxin is produced naturally by certain soil bacteria and has long been used safely as a biological pesticide spray in place of toxic chemicals, by organic and sustainable farmers. Then the GM industry developed a corn variety that produces the Bt toxin right in the plant to prevent pest damage. Now pests like the corn rootworm are becoming immune to the Bt toxin and as more pests develop resistance, the toxin will no longer be useful to organic farmers who have few other natural alternatives to use on their crops. The Bt toxin has been found in the bloodstreams of pregnant women who have eaten this corn.

Chemical companies like Monsanto, Dow, Bayer, BASF, Syngenta, and Dupont which brought the world DDT, Agent Orange, and PCB's have become agribusinesses and promote use of their chemicals by developing GM crops dependent on them. They have bought up seed suppliers and removed many of the old seed varieties from the market, reducing biodiversity and making it difficult for farmers to grow anything but GM varieties. Due to buyouts and mergers, the top ten agribusinesses now control 89% of the agrochemicals market, 66% of the biotech market, and 67% of the global seed market. Global revenue from sale of GM seeds alone was \$14.8 billion in 2012.

Farmers in developing countries traditionally saved seeds from their crops to plant the next year and grew those crops without fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. GM crops have been heavily promoted as a solution to world hunger, but in reality, they are causing the industrialization of agriculture around the world, and farmers, who can't afford it, are becoming dependent on the companies that control the expensive seeds and chemicals needed to produce food crops.

The promises of biotechnology have so far not increased yields, made crops drought tolerant, or lowered costs, and they have had serious public health and environmental impacts. The major advances in yields, pest and disease resistance, drought tolerance and nutritional improvements in crops have been due to conventional crop breeding, not GM technology.

Carol Hinkelman

SANCTUARY VISITORS

On August 17, member Bill Bross escorted a group of Canandaigua Botanical Society members to the Sanctuary. They enjoyed their visit and took many photos of plants. The society, founded in 1874, is the second oldest botanical society in the U.S. More of their photos can be found at:

Canandaiguabotanicalsociety.blogspot.com



Trumpet vine



Sunflowers

MEET A MEMBER – MARIGRACE PIAZZA



Successful, enduring organizations like BANC owe their continuing energy in large part to a cadre of 'unsung heroes' – dedicated members who work quietly behind the scenes without reward or, often, recognition to keep the wheels turning and further the goals of the enterprise. Marigrace is one of those people.

Born in Rochester to a family of Sicilian origin, she developed an interest in nature and the outdoors at an early age, fostered by family summers in the Adirondacks and by Girl Scout activities. This interest was continued as she studied Biology (and French) at Binghamton, focusing on botany and zoology.

After gaining her Master's degree in teaching at Duke University, Marigrace taught for a while and married Tony. They lived in the Philadelphia area for five years and Marigrace worked for a biology abstracts company before they moved to Rochester in 1987. She left work with the arrival of their two daughters, Elise and Nina, but later returned to teaching at Park Road school in Pittsford, where they have lived for many years. She now works as a science tutor at the Calkins Road Middle School, where she coaches diverse events for the Science Olympiad; her favorites are the natural history events pertaining to ornithology and forestry.

Marigrace was introduced to BANC as a youngster, when Joyce and Frank Myers were active as Girl Scout leaders, and she remembers visiting the Sanctuary for birding. Back in Pittsford

in the early 90's, she rediscovered the club and the Sanctuary through Lois Jenkins and Bob McKinney, who led programs with her own children.

Her active involvement with BANC began when Ginny Wilterdink asked for help. Marigrace's children were leaving home and she became an important contributor to the efforts of the BANC Garden Committee. She is now Chair of the Garden Committee and has also served on the Executive Council and the Nominating Committee. She takes particular pleasure in enjoying the butterflies and working in the Sanctuary gardens, where she has appreciated the expertise shared with her by David and Carol Southby.

As you can see, Marigrace fits the mold of many BANC stalwarts with her broad interest in different fields of nature and her history of having been brought into our midst by the personal attention of several long-time members.

Richard Ashworth

Fall Clean-up

Many hands made light work at our Fall Clean-up Day, but hard-working members need equipment and supplies to help do the job. The club needs several items right now.

- A vacuum cleaner for the clubhouse
- Tarps for carrying raked leaves to the compost areas.

If you would like to donate any of these items to the club, please call Julie Clayton at 249-9489.

A BIG thank you to all who helped with the raking and cleaning of the Sanctuary!



JOHN JAMES AUDUBON'S ART



Most people have some sort of preconceived notion of who John James Audubon was, but how much of the information floating around in the media is truth and how much is legend? Then along comes Lucy and fact won out over fiction. After all Lucy Winters Durkin is the great-great granddaughter of Audubon and an art historian at the Memorial Art Gallery and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. Lucy obviously inherited her flair for speaking from Audubon and her talent for teaching from Lucy, her great-great grandmother and namesake.

The exuberant, outgoing, charismatic personality of John James was beautifully described, as well as his passion for his beloved birds. Lucy masterfully illustrated the unbounded talent of the man while bringing him gently down off the pedestal that history has put him on. Professor Durkin clarified the importance of the family dynamic with Lucy Blakewell Audubon as the glue that held them all together through some of the most tumultuous times any family should endure. The gist of Lucy's' speech that surprised no one was the fact that Audubon would probably have never reached the pinnacle of success without his strong and beloved "Lucy." John James Audubon with his many flaws and extraordinary talents was destined to change the worlds of science and art forever with the help, encouragement and support of his amazing wife Lucy and their great-great granddaughter Lucy was the perfect conduit to help us step into the minds and hearts of our revered figurehead, the man who stands for all we hold so near and dear to our hearts.

I for one who has tried to wear Audubon's ragged shoes felt that I was channeling the great one himself through Lucy Winters Durkin. From the very moment she began to speak I felt his presence and was right at home.

Mark Carra



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kathy Bastuk	Patricia Martin
Shirley Bignall	Jeremy & Amber Newman
Sarah Conley	Bill O'Neill
Mary Doyle	Tim and Shastin Phillips
Robert Cummings	Steven and Jennifer Recard
Lucy Durkin	David and Phyllis Reynolds
Judith Engerman	Nancy K. Rice
Bob Hartter	Michael Schell
William Hallahan	Laurie Schulman
Fred & Patty Haynes	Tom Shepard
Marie Heerkens	Bob Swarthout
June Johnston	Carol VanBuren
Deb Koen	

2014 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Shirley Shaw, shirley@jashaw.com	President
Carol Hinkelman, carolh@rochester.rr.com	Vice-President
John Gordon, johnegordon@juno.com	Treasurer
Julie Clayton, juliec@rochester.rr.com	Rec. Secretary
Linda Smith, lindnor@frontiernet.net	Corr. Secretary
Jon Dombrowski, jondombrowski@rochester.rr.com	Finance Comm.
Frank Crombe, fcacrombe@hotmail.com	Finance Comm.
Joanne Altre, joannealtre@yahoo.com	Trustee 2012-14
Christine Benard, czbenard@gmail.com	Trustee 2013-15
Sabrina Commisso, comisso@frontiernet.net	Trustee 2013-15
Sarah Conley, sarah@thebarnowlonline.com	Trustee 2014-16
Art Trimble, arttrim@frontier.com	Trustee 2014-16

Ticks Spread Red Meat Allergy

Just when you think you've used enough repellent and tucked your pant legs deep in your socks, a tinier tick that researchers say is making people allergic to red meat is expanding its habitat. This is the lone star tick, so-called because the females have a single white spot on their backs. Normally found in the Southeast, lone star ticks have spread widely north and west.

According to an article in the June 11, 2013 *Wall Street Journal*, a bite from the lone star tick, *Amblyomma americanum*, can cause a person to develop an allergy to meat and meat products resulting in hives, anaphylaxis or severe shock.

The connection was discovered by U.VA allergy specialist Thomas Platts-Mills while investigating why some cancer patients had severe allergic reactions to a certain drug. Blood tests revealed these patients had an antibody that is present in the drug and in meat. People who are bitten by lone star ticks often develop these antibodies. Since most of the antibodies are concentrated in the fat of animals, these allergy symptoms appear 4 to 8 hours after consuming meat.

While it still hasn't been conclusively proven the tick bites trigger the creation of the antibodies, researchers have collected blood samples of more than 1,000 tick bitten people with these antibodies who have reported a delayed allergic reaction after consuming red meat.

So if you're thinking of a juicy burger after your next hike, make sure you're protected.

Chris Benard

For more information, check out the following websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/stari/disease>

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/11/21/165633003/rare-meat-allergy-caused-by-tick-bites-may-be-on-the-rise>

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2012/11/27/165282684/to-fight-tick-borne-disease-someone-has-to-catch-ticks>

Two sightings have been reported recently: one in Powder Mills Park and one on Fishers Road.



Fall Wanderings in Letchworth

An enthusiastic group set off in bright fall sunshine to explore for late blooming wildflowers near the south end of Letchworth State Park. Our first stop was an area off Short Tract Road in Oakland that traced the route of the old Erie Canal. Soon after parking we were thrilled to see the spectacular, blue, Fringed Gentians growing in the moist areas alongside the roadway. Further down the path in the drainage ditch were carpets of Grass of Parnassus with their pearlescent white petals lined with green veins. Then we started to work out some names for the array of asters and goldenrods that lined our path. Frost, Calico, Arrow-leaved, Purple-stemmed, New England and Smooth Asters were some that were identified along with Canada, Gray-stemmed, and Grass-leaved Goldenrods. Walking down the trail our botanizing was interrupted by good looks of several butterflies. Pearl Crescents flitted along the trail while Orange and Clouded Sulphurs nectared further up the bank.

We wandered slowly downhill into a wetter part of the trail where large patches of Turtlehead were growing. We made a note to come back and check these for Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly caterpillars next June.

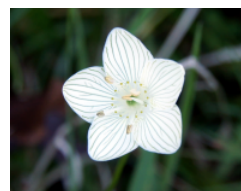
After reviewing the asters and goldenrods on our walk back, we set off for Letchworth State Park where we lunched at the Parade Grounds. We explored the woodland edge to see Zig-zag Goldenrod and other plants of the drier areas then drove on to check out the edge of the Trout Pond. Here it was easy to see a vista of Fringed Gentians and in patches, the delicate Grass of Parnassus, without having to get damp feet. We did some walking to get a closer look and were rewarded with a rare, late-flying butterfly, the Leonard's Skipper, which posed for photos and close study. Quite a treat to end with, although some of us went on to the Wolf Creek area to look for more goldenrods and asters and found several that we had not seen earlier in the day.

In all we saw seven species of asters with three more at Wolf Creek, and five species of goldenrod plus two more at Wolf Creek all in colorful displays of fall color.

Carol & David Southby



Leonard's Skipper



Grass of Parnassus



Fringed Gentian

Photos by Susan Robertson

The Tanager

**Burroughs Audubon
Nature Club
c/o John E. Gordon
126 Ayrault Rd.
Fairport, NY 14450**



TO:

**If you haven't renewed
Your membership,
Please do it Now**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 10, 7:30 PM
St. John's Meadows
THE WINTER SKY
Presenter: Jackson Thomas

Friday, February 14, 7:30 PM
St. John's Meadows
NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE
Presenter: Ted Tatarzyn

Saturday, February 22, 10:00 AM
Holy Selpuchre Cemetery
PRELUDE TO SPRING
Leader: Janet Miles, 787-0507

Friday, March 14, 7:30 PM
St. John's Meadows
BUTTERFLIES AS BOTANISTS
Presenter: Steven Daniel

Saturday, March 29, 8:00 AM
High Acres Nature Area
EXPLORING HIGH ACRES NATURE AREA
Leader: Bruce Cady, 248-8959