

## 2012 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, 2012 (unless you are a Life, Honorary or Emeritus Member, or joined since July 1.) Renewals are due by Jan. 1, 2012. 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.

Unfortunately some of our members have not yet paid their 2011 dues. **Please look at the mailing label on your *Tanager*. If it says "2011 dues are due", you must pay your 2011 dues by December 31, 2011.** Without payment your membership will have expired, your name will be dropped from the membership list and you will no longer receive a *Tanager*. More importantly, you will lose access to our wonderful facilities and programs.

**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.

### 2012 Membership Dues

**Category:**

**Dues:**

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

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

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**Burroughs Audubon Nature Club**  
c/o John E. Gordon  
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**December, 2011**

One of our major concerns this year was the preservation of a small section of the Auburn Trail which is adjacent to our sanctuary. Rare plants needed to be protected and preserved. Many meetings were attended by Steve Daniel and other club members to plead for support. However, the trail was widened by the town of Victor to accommodate hikers and bikers. This was a great loss. We must be ever vigilant to conservation issues and take heed to Carol Hinkleman's conservation reports each month and columns in *The Tanager*.

I want to thank the committee heads, pot luck organizers, open house chairmen, and guided walks instructors. Mostly friends and relatives come to the guided walks but we like to try new ideas. Our immaculate sanctuary building was kept that way by Virginia Wilterdink and her committee while the grounds and maintenance were carefully tended by Steve Maley and his staff.

We had wonderful field trips organized by Steve Daniel and Janet Miles.

New this year was the tackling of invasive plants. Under David Southby's guidance privet and other plants have been identified. Paul Brach removed thousands of privet.

Treasurer John Gordon reports that we are financially stable. Our unencumbered expenses are only a few hundred dollars.

As our garden consultant, David Southby also has the job of arranging for our 3 year supply of horse manure to be delivered to the sanctuary's gardens. Our finances are limited so I have a manure envelope here should you like to drop a dollar in.

There were hummingbirds visiting our gardens this summer which were managed by Marigrace Piazza and her committee.

Also new this year is the adoption of e-mailing for *The Tanager*. By doing this, we will save some money and you can see Richard Ashworth's incredible photographs in color in his "Meet A Member" column. Paul Dudley is our webmaster. Many thanks to *The Tanager's* long time editor, Jerry Jenkins, for helping with this transition and his editing responsibilities.

Cathy Chin, publicity person, had a photo and a notice about Burroughs in the City newspaper, and a Democrat & Chronicle Section B front page notice inviting the public to help us with our annual clean-up, on the day of the clean-up. They were even promised hot soup and bagged lunches.

We note with sorrow the passing of three of our very active members this past year, Steve Weber, Kris Smith, and Bob McKinney. Their contributions to sanctuary management, programs, the library, demonstrations and board activity have enriched our organization. We will remember them as we walk the beautiful winding trails, admire the gardens, and continue to preserve this remarkable piece of land.

An activity you can look forward to this coming year will be a wonderful banquet with Mary Cordon and her committee in a new facility. She is also the refreshment chairman. We need more people to sign up to bring refreshments in the winter. We will be meeting at St. John's Meadows where there is no charge. Thanks to Art Trimble for his assistance with this and his help this year. Marcia Kramer is developing a program with Helmer Nature Center. Watch for it. And of course there will be an Alleghany Pilgrimage this year with Harold and Jane Stock.

In 2013, we will be 100 years old. Lois Jenkins will head the 2013 Historical Committee. Joanne Altre will help with her recollections of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members, you are welcome to join the committee.

I want to thank the board for making this a fruitful presidency during the past two years. I expect to be succeeded by the nominee, Julie Clayton, who has served as president before, is the current membership chairman, and who has planned our memorable indoor programs this year.

In closing, I have a poem by a religious figure, Theodore Herzl.

"I am only one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do,

And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do."

Please see that our sanctuary retains its beauty and walk with other members into the celebration of 100 years.

*Nancy Rosenberg*

## IN MEMORIAM

This past fall has been a very sad season for BANC. We lost two very well-loved and devoted members:

**Kristine Smith** (6/19/44 – 9/29/2011) passed away following a short illness. Kris was an avid nature lover and someone who cherished peace and hated injustice. She was active in our club as well as many other community organizations. Kris was an active member of Metro-Justice, and patrolled her Rochester neighborhood streets as a Pac Tac volunteer. She was acting treasurer for the Retired Public Employees Association. Kristine helped our organization in many ways. She had served as trustee on our board for two terms. A librarian by profession, she was our librarian and also recorded the daily sightings at the Sanctuary. She served on the booklet, historical, and refreshment committees and helped to update our brochure. She was always willing to lend a helping hand wherever one was needed.

Kristine grew up in Saratoga Springs. She went to Westbrook Jr. College in Portland, Maine and then to Keene State College in New Hampshire. Kristine earned her Masters Degree in Library Science from SUNY Albany. Kris was employed at our own excellent Rochester Public Library System. She started out at the Arnett Branch in 1968, and then went to the Art Division at the Central Library. She worked in Central's Business Division and the Inter-library Loan Department. She became head of the Reynolds Information Center in 1988. Her last position was as Branch Head at the Maplewood Library from which she retired in April 2000.

After retiring, Kris took up horse-riding lessons. She also took several trips to see her very favorite animals – bears! She traveled to Alaska, Greenland and Churchill, Canada among other places to see them! She loved her cats, as well.

Kristine leaves behind her son, Nathaniel "Nate", who lives here in Rochester, and many, many friends who will miss her genuine smile and enthusiasm.

On October 26, our good friend and long-time member, **Bob McKinney**, died peacefully at the age of 86. Bob is survived by his wonderful wife, Chita and children, David and Laurie, as well as many other family members and good friends.

Originally from Elmira, NY, Bob moved to Rochester when he was very young. He was a Kodak retiree and had worked at there as a chemical engineer.

Bob was a BANC member since 1944 and had been president in 1961-62. He had held just about every office in our council. Bob was also involved in the Eastern and Ontario Bird Banding Associations. He was Treasurer of the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. When area birders think of bird-banding, they think of Bob McKinney -- the master!!! (Recently, the board of directors named the banding lab after him!) He was also very active in the Alleghany Nature Pilgrimage weekends. He would band birds every year and fascinate workshop attendees from all over Western New York State! He was known as "the bird man".

## TAKE A WALK

Take a walk, even this late in the fall, and you'll likely see the green, round-to-heart shaped leaves of garlic mustard looking vibrant and healthy, anticipating spring when they can complete their life cycle and create their dozens of cross-shaped white blossoms and hundreds, if not thousands, of seeds.

This biennial, *Alliaria petiolata*, came to North America in the mid-1800s as an ingredient for salads and sauces. Medicinally, the roots were kept in oil for weeks then discarded with the resulting garlic-infused oil rubbed on the chest of those suffering from a cold, like we do today with Vicks Vaporub.

Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University reports that in its native Europe, garlic mustard grows in small isolated populations, and has over thirty different insects species attacking its stems, leaves and seeds. In New York, it has none and even the deer won't eat it.

In its audacity, garlic mustard has invaded Cornell Plantation in Ithaca. According to Nancy Ostman, the Plantations Natural Areas Program Director for Cornell University, "Our staff spends more and more of its time finding new ways to beat back invasive plants."

Garlic mustard poses a severe threat to native plants and animals in forest communities. Once introduced to an area, garlic mustard monopolizes light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space. Wildlife species that depend on these early plants for their foliage, pollen, nectar, fruits, seeds and roots, are deprived of these essential food sources when garlic mustard replaces them.

Many native wildflowers that complete their life cycles in the springtime such as spring beauty, wild ginger, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, hepatica, toothworts, and trilliums occur in the same habitat as garlic mustard.

Garlic mustard also poses a threat to one of our rare native insects, the West Virginia white butterfly (*Pieris virginianensis*). Several species of spring wildflowers known as "toothworts" (*Dentaria*), also in the mustard family, are the primary food source for the caterpillar stage of this butterfly. Invasions of garlic mustard are causing local extirpations of the toothworts; and chemicals in garlic mustard appear to be toxic to the eggs of the butterfly, as evidenced by their failure to hatch when laid on garlic mustard plants.

The Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council (MAIPC) offers a mildly retaliatory way to fight garlic mustard. On their web page <http://www.ma-eppc.org/weedrecipes.html> are recipes for savories such as Garlic Mustard Salsa and Garlic Mustard Pasta.



Chris Benard

## 2011 NYSOA Annual Meeting

BANC is a long-time member of the New York State Ornithological Association, formerly the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.

The 64th Annual Meeting of NYSOA was hosted by the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club and was held on September 23-25 at the Circle Lodge in Hopewell Junction, NY. There were about 150 registrants, and I attended as a voting delegate for BANC.

The NYSOA Annual Meeting comprises a number of bird-related activities: workshop sessions, research reports through paper presentations and poster displays, vendor and organization exhibits, and a keynote presentation. There are also a number of local field trips for individual attendees. For delegates there is a brief early morning field trip, but the main event is the Annual Business Meeting.

In addition to the usual procedural items, the Business Meeting included reports from NYSOA committees, elections for the next year, and a vote on by-law changes.

In her President's Report, Carena Booth was pleased to record that, after eight years of gradual decline, membership had increased by 5% over the past year. A particular celebration was the success of the new Young Birders Club for ages 10-19. This group has now grown to 37 youth members from 22 a year ago, supported by 23 adults and 18 partner clubs (of which BANC is one). Its field trips have been well and enthusiastically attended, and many of its members are actively involved in conservation and research projects. (In fact, three members were contributors to the paper sessions at the meeting.)

In addition to its sponsorship of the Young Birders Club, NYSOA has recently re-instituted weekend workshop/field trip events for members around the state, and enhanced its Internet facilities, including a searchable on-line archive of its *Kingbird* publication.

The Conservation Committee report concentrated on two topics. All New York clubs were urged to join those most directly affected in supporting the NYSOA position on the hydro-fracking issue to demonstrate that the serious concern is statewide, not just local in the Marcellus Shale region. We were also asked to be prepared to comment on a forthcoming NYSDEC draft recovery plan for Spruce Grouse.

NYSARC, the New York State Avian Records Committee, is now almost current with evaluation of submitted reports of rarities, although fewer submissions have been received than expected, given recent occurrences. Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Common Ground Dove and Hermit Warbler have been added to the state list, and Hooded Crow and Gray-hooded Gull are under consideration.

NYSOA makes a number of awards each year. This year there were no club applications for its small grants (<\$100), but there were three recipients of the Lilian

Stoner Award, which provides financial support for young birders to attend the Annual Meeting. These included Reg Lawrence from Rochester, who serves as the current President of the Young Birders Club. A special recognition was also given to Fred and Louise Jordan from Richmond, NY, for their gracious hosting of many visitors to see the Lewis's Woodpecker which frequented their backyard feeder last November.

The Nominating Committee presented a full slate of Officers and Board members for the coming year, who were unanimously voted in. However, there are several committee positions which remain vacant, and for which volunteers are being sought. Jeanne Skelly retired as Secretary of NYSARC two years ago, but she is still covering the position until a replacement can be found. Similarly, Tim Baird's resignation as Editor of *New York Birders* is now a year past, although he is still producing the journal at this time.

Delegates also voted for several changes in the NYSOA by-laws. In anticipation of future membership of groups other than clubs, all references to 'member clubs' were replaced by 'member organizations'; the rules for the Board were amended to impose eight year term limits on all positions except Treasurer and Recording Secretary, and to remove the no-longer-needed Corresponding Secretary position; a new Marketing and Publicity Committee was added; the Patron, Benefactor, and Life membership categories were closed to further members.

The eight paper sessions presented a fascinating variety of research projects being undertaken in New York, from brain regeneration in songbirds to stopover habitats for migrants in the Lake Ontario basin (a study in which a number of Rochester area birders participated).

Unfortunately, at this point none of the member clubs has committed to hosting the 2012 Annual Meeting.

*Richard Ashworth*

## Attention! Regarding Dues Increase and Field Book of Activities

At the October 3 meeting, the BANC Council voted to increase dues amounts. We are sorry about the increase, but feel that it is necessary in order for our organization to remain solvent. Along with that decision, it has become a financial necessity to mail our club newsletter, *The Tanager*, via e-mail. Please be aware that if you wish to continue to receive *The Tanager* in paper form through the Postal Service, you are asked to pay a \$5.00 annual fee in order to cover the mailing expense. It is very clear on our membership renewal form so that the newsletter committee will be aware of your decision. We feel that we are acting in the best interest of the club to send *The Tanager* via the internet and defray our expenses.

Our *Field Book of Activities*, however, will all be mailed through the Post Office. This year, members will receive the *Field Book* separately from *The Tanager*.

*Julie Clayton*

## HYDROFRACKING UPDATE

Three years ago most of us had never heard of high volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, Marcellus shale, backflow, etc. Now we have TV ads every night from the gas industry about the clean energy and good jobs produced, newspaper articles about the pros and cons of hydrofracking for natural gas, and maps of land already leased for gas wells in New York State. There have been many local showings of the film "Gasland" which documents the pollution of drinking water and health problems from hydrofracking that have occurred in other states.

Jeannette Barth, Ph.D., president of an economic research and consulting firm in NY, has done studies on the likely economic impacts of hydrofracking in NYS. She found that the gas industry has exaggerated the economic benefits of hydrofracking for natural gas and so has the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in its 1200 page draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS). There will be jobs, but most of the workers travel with the gas companies from place to place since the wells only produce for a few years, and these workers from out of state drive up the cost of rental housing for local people. Few local people will get jobs and the ones who do, won't have them for more than a few years. That is the typical boom and bust cycle in extractive industries. Counties in Pennsylvania and West Virginia where a lot of gas drilling has been done are not better off economically than those that didn't have it. More jobs are actually produced by alternative energy companies. Gas reserves and the number of years of production have also been exaggerated.

When economic impact studies were done for the dSGEIS, the many costs of hydrofracking were ignored:

- the loss of revenue and thousands of jobs in agriculture, tourism, winemaking, hunting, fishing and recreation businesses

- millions of dollars of damage to state infrastructure such as roads and bridges from the hundreds of tanker truckloads of water transported to well sites when NYS already has a huge backlog of roads and repairs and no money to pay for them.

- possible drinking water contamination. The New York City and Syracuse watersheds have been put because their water isn't filtered, essentially admitting that the process is unsafe. The drinking water of other New Yorkers who use wells or get their water from other watersheds, is not protected.

- health impacts from the air pollution from drilling and heavy truck traffic

- decline in property values in drilling areas. Property owners in drilling areas also will have trouble getting mortgages and property insurance.

- decline in local tax revenues.

- negative financial impacts on towns from the cost of dealing with problems created by drilling.

There are many other flaws in the dSGEIS besides the exaggeration of economic benefits and omission of the costs. Despite its 1200 pages of data, the dSGEIS does not:

- analyze the cumulative impacts of hundreds of wells across the state.

- study the impacts of the network of pipelines and compressor stations needed.

- contain any public health risk assessments from air and water pollution.

- address the increased staffing needed to enforce regulations. The DEC has had major budget and cent years.

- ban the use of hazardous chemicals in the hydrofracking solutions.

- require hydrofracking wastewater to be treated as hazardous waste. There are no wastewater treatment plants in NYS that can remove the toxic chemicals and radioactivity of flowback water.

- prohibit drilling over principal aquifers.

- prohibit open pit storage of wastewater and drilling mud, a hazard to wildlife.

- prohibit spreading wastewater on roads to keep dust down. Drilling wastewater from Pennsylvania has already been spread on some New York roads.

- analyze the safety risks of heavy tanker truck traffic on roads with slow-moving farm equipment, Mennonite horse-drawn carriages, or sight-seeing tourists, etc.

It is important to call or write to Gov. Cuomo and your state legislators asking them to completely ban hydrofracking in New York State. Natural gas is cleaner energy than coal or oil, but is hydrofracking worth the cost to New Yorkers? Clean air, clean water, clean soil, and the natural beauty of New York State are priceless for us and our children and grandchildren.

More information is available at:

<http://www.r-cause.net>

<http://cleanwaternotdirtydrilling.org/rangers>

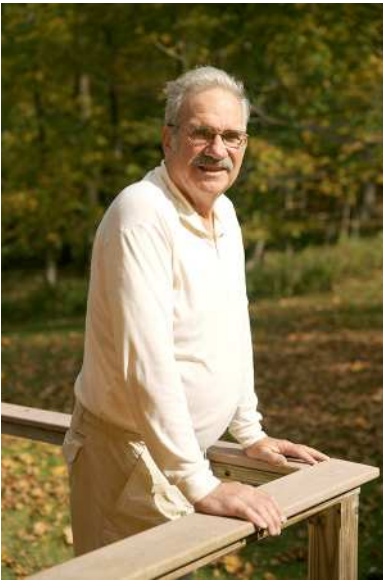
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html>

<http://newyork.sierraclub.org>

You can use this web site to easily send a message to Gov. Cuomo: <http://www.amillionfrackingletters.com>

or just write to:

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224 (518) 474-8390

**MEET A MEMBER – PAUL BRACH**

Many of you probably don't know Paul Brach. By his own admission, he likes to 'fly under the radar' and maintain a low profile. However, Paul is an interesting individual and, as members of BANC, we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Paul was born and raised in Rochester. He majored in chemistry at the University of Maine, but returned here to work at Xerox as a materials scientist – a career of 37 years before his retirement 14 years ago. Married for 49 years, Paul has three sons.

Paul's love of nature was first sparked through his work as a twelve-year-old for his Boy Scout Forestry merit badge, and this blossomed into a lifelong interest in botany: first trees, then the addition of flowers and, in the last 3-4 years, mycology. Paul is one of a small number of botanists who maintain a 'lifelist' (currently around 13,000 flowers and trees).

He has been a member of BANC for forty years and twice served as President, in 1981-2 and again in 1992. In addition, Paul has been President of the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society and has been very active at Zurich Bog. Paul visited China to participate in a conference on the relationship between North American and Asian flowers; while there he was able to study the flora of Yunnan province, where they wanted to create nature preserves.

Asked about changes at BANC in his 40 years as a member, Paul commented that in earlier times there appeared to be more people dedicated to maintaining the grounds of the sanctuary, which was then very quiet with no houses in the neighborhood. As the walnut trees have grown, so the diversity of the

understory has been reduced - a transformation that has been exacerbated by the arrival of invasive plants like Dame's Rocket, White Snakeroot and Privet. As an example, Paul remembers twelve varieties of violets at the sanctuary, where now there are only two or three.

Paul has been very hard at work at the sanctuary in an effort to stem this tide of change. Over this past summer, he has removed over 20,000 privet saplings to provide areas where native plants can be reintroduced. In the future, when hopefully you can enjoy a new diversity of flowers, pause to give thanks to Paul. His dedication and effort are a model for us all in real conservation work.

*Richard Ashworth*

**EXPERIENCE NIGHT 2011**

On Friday, November 11, our members enjoyed several special presentations provided by our very own, talented and knowledgeable fellow BANC members. Bob Hinkelman showed pictures of a field trip sponsored by BANC and led by Steve Daniel at Counterfeiter's Ledge Preserve near Akron, NY. The flowers were especially wondrous! Marilyn Schindler shared a framed photo of a lovely picture she had taken in the Adirondacks on a foggy morning capturing a canoe being paddled. Carolyn Ragan did a power point presentation about the trip she and Janet Miles had taken to Grand Manan Island in Canada. Some great photos of a grand adventure! Carol and David Southby shared some highlights from Britain, featuring many colorful butterflies. Harold Stock ended the program with two delightful Native American stories.

Many thanks to our technical guru, Art Trimble, who provided his laptop computer and invaluable technical assistance!

It was, indeed, a pleasant way to wrap up a year of educational and entertaining programs presented by several guests and many who are BANC members.

*Julie Clayton*

# **The Tanager**

**Burroughs Audubon  
Nature Club  
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126 Ayrault Rd.  
Fairport, NY 14450**



**TO:**

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

Friday, January 13, 7:30 PM  
St. John's Meadows  
1 Johnsarbor Drive West  
WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS  
Presenters: Jane and Harold Stock

Friday, February 10, 7:30 PM  
St. John's Meadows  
1 Johnsarbor Drive West  
Ecuador REVISITED  
Presenter: :Bob Mauceli

Friday, March 9, 7:30 PM  
John's Meadows  
1 Johnsarbor Drive West  
Newfoundland Odyssey  
Presenter: Art Trimble