

# The Tanager



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**Burroughs Audubon Nature Club**

c/o John Shaw

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2020

*Shirley Shaw*

It has been quite a different year, hasn't it? BANC started the year with much enthusiasm. A new meeting room at Atonement Lutheran Church seemed to be a better fit than the meeting rooms we had used for the last several years, and two wonderful programs, *Penguins* by St. John Fisher professor Greg Cunningham and *Cassowaries to Cannibals to Cuttlefish* by nature enthusiast and world traveler Diane Henderson, drew large audiences.

And then came March. COVID halted our activities, and they did not resume until our Experience Night meeting on October 9, which was our first-ever Zoom meeting. October saw two in-person events, both well attended by people so glad to be in each other's company again, a field trip to Highland Park on October 17 led by Frank Crombe, our tree expert, and Clean Up and Habitat Restoration Day held October 25. Many thanks to Marigrace Piazza and Ellen Prill for coordinating, to Carol Hinkelman for handling registration, and, of course, to all of you who came out to work. Bill O'Neill's program, *Aurora Borealis*, which was cancelled in March, became the program to accompany our Annual Meeting on November 13 on Zoom, and the BANC Program Committee decided that with so many holiday parties and events cancelled, a December meeting was in order. Musician Pat Carey, originally scheduled for August 2020, agreed to entertain us via Zoom on December 11.

The BANC Executive Council meets monthly via Zoom, and there has been much to do. The Sanctuary is a special place, but maintaining it takes an enor-

mous amount of our time and financial resources. Past president Marigrace Piazza had led the way arranging an inspection of our building by Warren Engineering in 2018, and the report from that inspection has been used ever since to prioritize and budget for necessary repairs on our 40-year-old club house. Ellen Prill has used her organizational skills to ensure that work gets done as planned and keeps us abreast of new needs, both for the building and trails. Jon Dombrowski handles the budgeting work for these projects. A crew of many people, including several who live close to 301 Railroad Mills Road, handles most projects which volunteers can do, and Dean Clayton has faithfully continued to mow and do routine maintenance tasks as he has done for many years. In addition, Boy and Girl Scouts have undertaken boardwalk and educational projects. When work that requires a professional must be done, the Council looks for quality at good prices.

BANC's membership has aged, an obvious challenge for the club's future. Appealing to families and at-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(President's report - continued from page 1)*

tracting younger members are important. Marigrace has taken the lead for the last three or four years in our outreach to children's groups. She spearheads our Family Nature Night and continues to serve as liaison to children's groups. It is our hope that these activities will lead to families joining BANC.

A report from our Audit Committee was published in the June 2020 *Tanager* and can be read at <http://www.bancny.org/Tanager/June2020Tanager.pdf>. We have a finance committee of two finance trustees, Jon Dombrowski and Frank Crombe, and BANC member Chita McKinney, who all audit our finances annually. Also, Jon does a great job preparing our budget. Our endowment is invested with the Rochester Area Community Foundation. Long-range projects like a new roof for our building and needs for maintenance equipment could seriously deplete our accounts. Paying dues in a timely manner is important help as are donations. John Shaw, who oversees our website, has made it possible to pay dues and make donations online. With the holidays upon us, perhaps you would like to give a BANC membership to a friend or family member — no shopping involved and the recipient benefits all year long.

COVID has brought us new ways of doing things. Contact tracing requirements mean that registration is required for all in-person events. On-line security means that we must register for our Zoom programs, which are password and "waiting room" protected. Events cannot be planned far into the future as they once were, and changes often occur. Please keep abreast of developments by using our web site and reading our monthly emails. The quarterly *Tanager*, our newsletter, is an important source of all kinds of information: news about conservation, information about planned activities, Meet a Member articles, lists of completed projects and ones that need funding and volunteers, and other matters of interest to members. It can be read on our web site, and paper copies are mailed to members who pay to receive them. Since we can't meet in person, our emails and

newsletters are the keys to finding out what's happening at BANC.

The saddest development over the last year is loss of connection to many of our long-time members. It simply is not safe to hold our members' meetings in person for the foreseeable future. People who do not have computers and an Internet connection are greatly missed. We wish they were with us. Please think about someone you know whom you could encourage to seek help from a family member or friend to get connected. If connection is not possible, urge that person to telephone our Zoom meetings. Only being able to hear what is being presented is not ideal, but it does provide a chance for some participation.

Thanks to all of you for being a part of Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. Our beautiful Sanctuary is always open to members for enjoying nature whether sitting on the porch or walking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing along our trails. Thank you for your contribution of volunteer work, dues, and donations. We look forward to seeing you as much as possible.

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### **New Members**

The following new members have joined:

Ian Fiebelkorn	Pittsford
Andrew Folts	Pittsford
Barb Furstoss	Mendon
Cynthia Martinez-Capolino	Pittsford
Jane McConnochie	Pittsford
Karen Milburn	Pittsford
Michele Minor	Victor
Christie Rochester	Victor
James Roman	Fairport
Patricia Roman	Fairport

## 30 by 30

By Carol Hinkelman

Last year two very alarming reports were made public. In one report, birding experts calculated that North America has 3 billion fewer birds than it had 50 years ago. Some of the causes of this massive bird decline are habitat loss due to development, climate change, deforestation, habitat fragmentation, the abundant use of pesticides, and collisions with windows and buildings.

A 2019 United Nations scientific report determined that we have lost 60% of the planet's wildlife in the last 50 years, and a million species are at risk of extinction. According to that report, biodiversity is declining hundreds of times faster than normal. Just this year's wildfires in Australia alone are estimated to have killed or displaced from their habitat 3 billion mammals, birds, frogs and reptiles, and we are having more and more wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. We are facing a mass extinction of the plants, animals and microorganisms that keep our air clean, our water pure, and our food supplies plentiful.

Both this nature crisis and climate change pose existential threats to mankind.

Nature, like climate, is nearing a tipping point from which there is no return. To save ourselves, we need to save nature and the ecosystems that make life on earth possible. To avoid dire consequences, scientists say that we need to make transformative changes in the way we humans use earth's lands and waters. World-renowned ecologist O. E. Wilson has said it is absolutely necessary to conserve half of the Earth to safeguard the building blocks of our economy, including clean water, clean air and ample food. It is particularly important to protect the areas that are



**Brown pelicans on a rocky shoreline.**

still intact habitat not seriously degraded by incompatible uses or invasive species.

Habitat and biodiversity loss are disrupting ecosystems that have normally regulated diseases and protected human health. Nearly two thirds of infectious diseases such as COVID - 19, Ebola, SARS, and HIV/ AIDS, originate in animals, and the collapse of nature is raising the risk of more pandemics in the future. There are many health benefits associated with people getting outside in nature including lowering the risks of obesity, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, and type 2 diabetes. The current pandemic has also shown us how essential time spent out in nature is to our mental health and well-being.

As a first step to saving nature and stabilizing the climate, we need to protect 30% of Earth's land and water by 2030. This 30 by 30 goal has so far been accepted by the European Union, Britain and Canada. Last year Senators Tom Udall and Michael Bennett introduced in Congress a 30 by 30 Resolution to Save Nature to align the U.S. with those international goals. It creates a roadmap for reversing the conservation, climate, and wildlife crises. Protecting more land and water is one of the most cost-effective strategies for mitigating climate change.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## MEET A MEMBER – MARY MOORE

*By Richard Ashworth*

In this issue I'd like to introduce you to an extraordinary woman, who is newly elected to the BANC Executive Council. I talked with Mary Moore in her delightful barn apartment on a Pittsford farm, with views over meadows inhabited by rescue horses and a donkey.

Mary was born and spent her childhood in Newark, NJ, with three older brothers. For as long as she can remember, she has always liked the outdoors and she enjoyed family summer vacations at the Jersey shore with fishing and crabbing, and trips to Sandy Hook for birding.

Mary attended night school at Seton Hall's University College, studying psychology, English, and philosophy. (At that time, the main Seton Hall campus at East Orange was not open to women.) After one year, with nine other students, she embarked on a 'student ship' to Europe, where they biked around England, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Italy, staying in youth hostels, before returning from Paris to the US. She then completed her degree and gained her BA while working in insurance and retail.

After achieving her MA in Education through a fellowship program, Mary moved into teaching, initially for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students in NJ public schools. After marrying, she taught 1<sup>st</sup> Grade in Pennsylvania, but was unable to return after the birth of her first child, although she did later teach again in Catholic and public schools.

In her mid-40's Mary started backpacking. Finding Sierra Club events waitlisted, she undertook a 9-day trip to the High Sierras with her partner and a girlfriend. She found this a challenging but enjoyable experience, and took several more trips, including canoeing in the Everglades.

At the age of 50, Mary quit her job and moved to New Mexico. Soon she settled in Questa, a mining village on the Red River, 20 miles north of Taos, and

was teaching 6<sup>th</sup> Grade there. She later moved onto the Navajo reservation and also taught in the Zuni pueblo – a challenging task in a largely closed and highly structured community.

In 2007, after 18 years in New Mexico, Mary retired. She bought an RV and worked the summer in a gift shop at the Grand Canyon, exploring many of the trails and enjoying the nature, including sightings of condors. She subsequently drove to visit her daughter Eileen in New York, and to her son Joe and his wife in Washington State, where she

looked after her grandson and granddaughter for a while and enjoyed hiking, birding and observing the orcas.



**Mary Moore**

*Photo by Richard Ashworth*

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*(30 x 30, Continued from page 3)*

In order to achieve the 30 by 30 goal, every level of government will need to be on board and work in collaboration with conservation organizations. In the United States, land must be protected all over the country, not just in the western states and Alaska where the majority of protected land is found now. We can start by advocating for more land to be preserved here in our area and across New York. We must all work to save the nature that we love and enjoy so much.



**Corn Field in Fall**

*Photo By Lura Kelley*

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### Dues

If you haven't already done so, please remember to pay your dues for 2021. Either fill out the form in this Tanager and mail a check to:

BANC  
374 Cromwell Drive  
Rochester, NY 14610

or go to <http://bancny.org/membership.html> to use a credit card.

*(Mary Moore, Continued from page 4)*

Mary spent a short time at the Jersey shore and back in New Mexico before moving to Pittsford in 2011. (Joe and his family had moved to Rochester.) Since moving here, Mary has been working on bird studies through the Audubon Society, and more recently has been focused on climate change and the planting and conservation of native species. For three years she has been lobbying the Pittsford Town Board to eliminate the local use of pesticides, and the results have been a massive reduction in the number of town sites where they are applied. Mary is associated with the Rochester People's Climate Coalition (RPCC) and the 'Color Pittsford Green' initiative and has been active in presenting programs and webinars on a variety of conservation topics.

Mary joined BANC after meeting Ellen Prill on a local hike. She is enthusiastic about the 'still wild' nature of the Sanctuary and particularly mentioned the impressive spring display of Forget-Me-Nots and the Spring Peepers' chorus. She would like to see this vital resource shared more widely, perhaps as a 'living laboratory' site for high school science projects. I'm sure Mary will be a proactive source of ideas and action as part of the BANC Executive Council.



**Mary Moore with Julie Clayton at Habitat Restoration Day**

*Photo by Marigrace Piazza*

## After-school Learning in the Sanctuary: What Happens in Tree Club (Doesn't Stay in Tree Club)

By Jane Coggshall McConnochie

This fall, if you happened by the sanctuary on Railroad Mills on a Thursday afternoon, you may have spotted a gaggle of bemasked fourth graders bounding noisily along the trails, with a hand lens or dichotomous key in hand. They were the inaugural members of the Tree Club, a program I created with two primary goals: 1) to teach kids about trees—their value for people and wildlife, how to identify them, how they grow, and how to take care of them, and 2) to get the kids (and me!) off their screens and outside into nature.

Before the pandemic, I had imagined the Tree Club to be based at Park Road Elementary School, just two miles from the sanctuary, where my kids go to school. As the school year approached, it became clear that all in-person after-school activities at the school would have to be curtailed. Luckily, I thought of the sanctuary and realized that it would make the perfect (socially distanced) classroom. After checking with BANC leadership, I sent an email to the parents of just the students in my son George's class, to see if any would be interested. Nine signed up.

On the first day of Tree Club we talked about what we liked about trees and learned about the different characteristics of leaves that help us identify trees. We then headed out for a tree walk, and boy did I underestimate how excited the kids were to be outside and with each other. They patiently tolerated my quizzing them about whether the leaves were simple or compound, arranged in alternate or opposite patterns, whether the leaf margins

were smooth or serrated. But they ached to run ahead and see what was around the next corner. The sanctuary, with its twisty trails, elevated walkways, and meandering creek, beckoned.

So, for the next three Tree Club meetings, I baked that need to move and explore into the design of my lessons. As they got to know the Sanctuary, I let them discover more and more of it on their own (honing their map reading skills as they went). They began to come to me with questions and observations, slowing down just a bit to take it all in. Luckily one of their parents stuck around to help me keep track of everyone each week, applying Band-Aids® and picking stickseeds out of sweatshirts as needed.

Throughout the fall, we learned why leaves change color and fall off, how photosynthesis works, the difference between red oaks and white oaks, that tulip trees are among the tallest (if not the tallest)

native deciduous trees in North America, that autumn olive trees are invasive but their berries edible



Photo by Jane Coggshall McConnochie

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*(Tree Club, Continued from page 6)*

(and tasty!), that all manner of creatures like to eat trees' cambium (so don't pick at the bark!), and that acorn weevils are a thing among many other arboreal wonders.

Due to the press of obligation and the changing weather, the Tree Club is on hiatus until spring, when the tree flowers bloom again. And although this first year of Tree Club is focused on getting to know trees, I hope that this group of students will continue to participate as they head into middle and high school so that they can do their own more ambitious citizen science and ecological restoration projects at the Sanctuary and around town.

And, as we get a handle on the pandemic, I plan to involve more students from Park Road and other schools and invite guest speakers to share their knowledge and see what we're up to. Eventually, Tree Club members might take the lead on planting and nurturing trees as a way for them to proactively tackle climate change even in just a small way.

I very much welcome suggestions from BANC members for activities and projects and connections. I am somewhat new to the area, and, while I have a background in teaching and education research, my knowledge of environmental studies and science education is not as deep as I wish it were. Email me at [jane.calamity@gmail.com](mailto:jane.calamity@gmail.com).



### **Tree Club**

*Photo by  
Jane Cogshall  
McConnochie*

### **Projects Big and Small and ALL Important:**

*By Ellen Prill*

**Background:** Professional Building Inspection completed three years ago. Based on suggestions and level of need we have been maintaining our building as funds allow. The roof work came to about \$1,600.

(Please feel free to donate to the cause on our website [www.bancny.org](http://www.bancny.org)) Our most costly need is for a roof within the next few years. We will even name a shingle after you!

In November two turbines/whirlybirds/whirligigs (the last synonym is my personal favorite) were installed on the Clubhouse for air circulation. This was done to help eliminate humidity, dampness, chill, musty smell and to prevent mold.

Rubberized waterproof roofing installed on the section of roof by the chimney to prevent leaks.

Loose roof shingles glued.

#### ***Eagle Scout Project Completed in 2020:***

New Aspen Trail Boardwalk constructed by Zach Hutkowski

#### ***Ongoing Girl Scout Projects:***

Touch Table filled with natural objects including related Children's Activities Tree ID with related Children's Activities

#### ***Thank you Frank Cabron:***

Portable sign post for a winter sign letting people know the parking lot is not plowed.

New wooden bench seat for a concrete bench by Keller's Loop.

#### ***Clean-Up Day led by Marigrace Piazza:***

Invasives continued to be removed.

In their place, native trees and shrubs were supplied and planted by the Southbys. Leaves raked.

#### ***No More Outhouse:***

Demolition led by Jerry Spangenberg.

## Meetings in 2021

We have Zoom meetings planned for January and February 2021. You will be sent links for Signup Genius for these meetings. Registration through Signup Genius or by email to BANCrsvp@gmail.com is required.

**January 8, 2021 7:30 pm**

**What's in a Name?** Andrea Patterson of Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

Bird names are often perplexing. Does Wilson really need to have *five* North American species bear his name? Wouldn't the Ring-necked Duck be better named the Ring-billed Duck, and the Red-bellied Woodpecker be better named the Red-capped Woodpecker? Are there Southern Cardinals, Uncommon Mergansers, and Catbirds of any color but Gray? And to top it off, American Redstarts aren't red, Scarlet Tanagers aren't tanagers, and Olive Warblers are neither olive nor warblers! Join us for an evening of fun to hear why the Red Knot was named for an ancient Danish king, why the Green Heron got - and lost - its green back, and why you occasionally get armchair ticks to your birdlist, as we tell the stories behind the common and scientific names of some of our favorite birds.

**February 12, 2021 7:30 pm**

**Orkney Islands Nature** Dave and Carol Southby

In recent years, Dave and Carol Southby have made three trips to Orkney, a group of islands off the north coast of Scotland. There they found and photographed beautiful wildflowers, birds and butterflies set against magnificent coastal scenery and amidst ancient archaeological sites. Dave and Carol are looking forward to showing their images and sharing some of the fascinating history from these windswept isles.



**Fall Fields**

*Photo by Lura Kelley*



**Barb Gibson, Al Robertson, and Joe Hurley,  
Habitat Restoration Day**

*Photo by Marigrace Piazza*

## Program Plans for 2021

In 1913 a group of local people who were enthusiastic readers of the writings of naturalist author John Burroughs began what is now Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. 2021 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burroughs' death, and the 2021 Program Committee is planning to have a Burroughs-themed program, likely in the late summer or fall, as a memorial tribute, as well as articles highlighting Burroughs' words in issues of our *Tanager*.



**BURROUGHS AUDUBON NATURE CLUB (BANC) 2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you join after October 1, 2020, your membership continues through the year 2021.

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 <http://bancny.org/membership.html>.

Check one: New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Ages (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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	\$
Add \$4.00 for outside restroom key	\$4	\$
Extra Donation Appreciated	\$	\$
		Total \$

In order to maintain sound finances, there is a small dues increase.

## Clean Up Day/Habitat Restoration Day

October 26, 2020

By Marigrace Piazza

One of the longstanding traditions that BANC members hold dear is the annual fall clean up day. It is the time of year when volunteers gather to work together to get the grounds and clubhouse ready for a winter rest. It is one of the most faithfully attended events that we schedule each year. I think this is true for two reasons; our members are very devoted to our special sanctuary and it is a great time to give back to the club while socializing with other volunteers.

This year's clean-up day on October 26 will go down in the books as another successful event. In many ways it was similar to all the past clean up days, but in many other ways it was very different.

Carol Hinkelman and Shirley Shaw greeted volunteers on the porch. They made sure that all attendees signed in. This was important for COVID-19 contact tracing purposes.

All of the volunteers wore masks and did their best to keep 6 feet apart. We did not offer our traditional lunch of soup and chili.

Since 2019 the focus of this event has taken a different direction. BANC is now placing an emphasis on habitat restoration and invasive plant removal on this day instead of raking and inside cleaning. Of the 26 people who attended half of them devoted their time to privet pulling under the direction of Joe Hurley or the planting of native trees under the direction of Carol and David Southby. Ellen Prill led the effort to clean up the trails and grounds and Jutta Dudley was in charge of clubhouse chores.

Many longstanding members showed up and immediately started raking. Raking is always appreciated and much more fun to do when you are surrounded by friends and like-minded individuals!!

I had a smile on my face under my mask most of the afternoon. It was a real pleasure to be outside with my BANC friends, some who were helping our club

for the very first time, and some who have served the club for years. I think most of the attendees found the event to be therapeutic. All of BANC's in-person events except one have been cancelled since March. This was the first time most of us had seen each other in person since then. Jerry Van Wei put it best when he told me how great it was to be raking next to real people instead of watching on a screen.

Thank you to all of you who came out that day to support BANC. Here's hoping that next year we will have another successful habitat restoration/clean up day minus the masks.

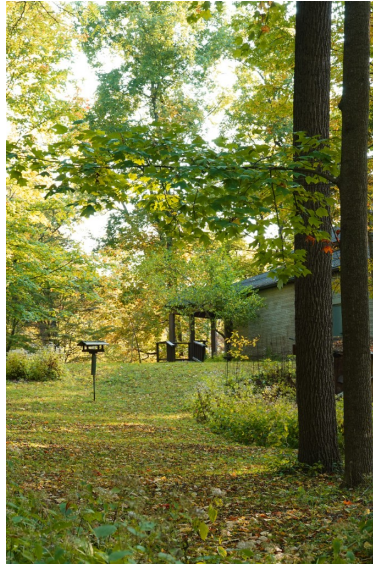


**Michele Miner, Christie Rochester, and Sue Robertson**

*Photo by Marigrace Piazza*

### Pictures of BANC's Sanctuary

*Photos by Richard Ashworth*



**Scenes from the Sanctuary**



**Irondequoit Creek  
in the Sanctuary**



**Aspen Trail  
boardwalk**



**Plaque on  
Aspen Trail  
boardwalk**



**Dave and Carol Southby and Tony Piazza  
Habitat Restoration Day**

*Photo by Marigrace Piazza*



**Unfortunately, some trails had to be closed  
due to erosion**

*Photo by Richard Ashworth*

### **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we do not have any in-person meetings planned. We will be holding the following events on Zoom. We hope to again hold in-person meetings as soon as we can.

**Friday, January 8, 7:30 PM**

Online

**What's in a Name**

**Friday, February 12, 7:30 PM**

Online

**Orkney Islands Nature**