

The Tanager

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BANC PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2021

By Shirley Shaw

2021 has been a busy year for us, and I'm so excited to have played a part along with the fine people who support BANC by serving on our Executive Council, being on committees, volunteering their labor or expertise from time to time, and making financial donations. It is you who keep the club strong!

Due to the pandemic, we held our monthly programs via Zoom. In January, Andrea Patterson of Braddock Bay Bird Observatory told us the origins of birds' common names. February brought us a nature tour of the Orkney Islands by Carol and David Southby. In March, we learned about the birdlife of New Zealand and conservation efforts for the islands' avian population. Our April program by Tina Stevens from Monroe County's Waste Division enlightened us about the ins and outs of recycling locally. In July, Irondequoit Creek flooded out our plans to reminisce about BANC's past with Lon Myers, but he'll present this program on Zoom on January 14. In October, many of our members linked into the New York State Ornithological Association's annual meeting, where the speaker was Dr. Jason Hill of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies discussing the effects of climate change on montane birds. Then in mid-month came a very special evening: learning about John Burroughs and the influence camping had on his work from his great-granddaughter, Joan Burroughs. November was our annual meeting with the election of officers and trustees for the next year, plus presentations by our members as the Experience Night program. One more 2021 program is on tap: singer-songwriter Christine Lavin will entertain us with her

humorous original songs via Zoom on December 10. If you do not hear Christine, you will have missed out on a musical treat, so be sure to sign up for this year-ending event.

The BANC Program Committee did a superb job lining up outdoor events for us. In late March, Chita McKinney and I led groups to the Big Field in Webster to observe woodcock courtship displays. The Southbys took us on three field trips: to find spring wildflowers at Harris Whalen Park in Penfield in early May; in July to the Sibleyville Nature Reserve in Mendon, where we enjoyed a spectacular view and saw what nature had to offer at the height of summer; and to Shadow Pines, a new Penfield park, in

(continued on page 2)

In This Issue

President's Report	Page 1
Meet a Member	Page 4
The Spotted Lanternfly	Page 6
Coming Events	Page 8
NYSOA Annual Meeting	Page 9
Membership Form	Page 11

(President's column - continued from page 1)

October to learn about the variety of trees there. We visited our Vice President Steve Melcher's Odonata Sanctuary in August, admiring the plants, butterflies, and dragon and damselflies around his pond, not to mention a few special rescue animals in his barn. In September, Joe Hurley took us on a tour of Hurley Woods in Victor, where he has a fine collection of trees and pollinator plants. Rainy weather in October did not deter a hardy group led by mushroom-expert Carl Wolf from looking for fungi in Powder Mills Park.

Because of health concerns, we had to suspend our popular potluck suppers and indoor activities at the clubhouse. We inaugurated brown bag picnics on the lawn with walks designed to showcase what the Sanctuary offered: a June sunset stroll turned into a pick-up-sticks focus to clear the trails after a storm a few days prior, and in August we were delighted seeing all the late summer wildflowers as Carol Hinkelman led us around our trails. Unfortunately, our July event was cancelled due to flooding.

We held our traditional Spring and Fall Cleanup and Habitat Restoration Days in April and November. We added to those two a Privet Pulling Sunday in September. Thanks to Chris Lajewski of Montezuma Audubon Center, we were able to borrow privet poppers in addition to our own so more people could work. We were able to keep the poppers into October, and we thus added privet pulling to our October open house activities when a group of Scouts provided the labor. Also, member Jane McConnochie brought some teenagers from a habitat restoration class that she is teaching through Pittsford Recreation to BANC in October for privet pulling. We must continue this community outreach to make a dent in the number of invasive plants that we must remove from our Sanctuary.

For me, the most exciting activities were our family-oriented open houses, spearheaded by Ellen Prill with the assistance of several members. The five of these events proved very popular and attracted adults

and children to enjoy our facilities. Activities included trail walks, birdwatching, games, crafts, and stories. We gained some new members, but most of all, we benefited from the happiness and enthusiasm the children brought. We plan to offer these open houses monthly spring through fall in 2022.

Attracting families is necessary for BANC's future. Besides the outreach of our open houses, Jane McConnochie started a children's tree club at BANC. We are so grateful to Jane for organizing this wonderful nature education opportunity for students from our neighbor, Park Road Elementary School. Also, we may make a connection with a Girl Scout Troop to use the Sanctuary for meetings.

BANC, it goes without saying, should be a club for all age groups. Joe Hurley along with Mary Moore, Steve Melcher, and Jane McConnochie are working with a professor from St. John Fisher College to make the Railroad Mills property a research site for biology and environmental science students. We are in the early stage of discussion, and more information will be shared as plans come together.

Obviously, we must keep our building and grounds in good condition. We simply do not have adequate financial resources for all the work that is needed on our forty-year-old building and our trails. Under the leadership of member Sue Robertson, we applied for a Recreational Trails Grant in July. This grant will allow us to do drainage work and boardwalk renovations to keep trail users safe and will provide enough money to do all the work needed at one time. Next we formed a fundraising committee (Julie Clayton, Joe Hurley, and Carol Klinger), which applied for a grant from the Muller Foundation. This grant will provide money for our share of the work in the Recreational Trails Grant proposal or will be used for lots of needed trail work if we do not receive Recreational Trails funding. We will hear at the end of the year if we receive the trails grant and early in 2022 if we are approved for Muller Foundation funding.

(continued on page 3)

(President's column - Continued from page 2)

Grant funding is great, but we must have your financial support as grants only fund specific projects and take months from the time of application to getting the money in our bank account. I've been a "broken record" this year asking for donations that are so needed. Thank you to all who donated.

A huge expense we unexpectedly encountered this fall was the cost of renovating our parking lot. The monsoon-like rains that we experienced in April made parts so mucky that one member got stuck when she tried to back her car out. Checking after other heavy rains revealed that condition was not a one-time problem. We discovered that layers of organic material had built up over the stone surface put down 10-15 years ago, and the berm built to disperse water flowing down the hill had significantly deteriorated. With October one of the rainiest on record, making the parking lot reliably usable became a critical need. Work began only to have a large tree fall into the parking lot after one of the month's storms, meaning several hundred more dollars for removal before the parking lot renovation could continue. The Executive Council does its best to keep our costs within budget, but as any homeowner knows, the rule is to expect the unexpected.

I know that a lot of our long-time members are used to our annual booklet and in-person activities to stay current about what's happening at BANC. Even before the pandemic's uncertainties created chaos with

planning events, our Program Committee had arrived at the conclusion that we no longer had enough volunteers with the time required to produce the booklet. It had also become more difficult to line up program presenters over a year in advance, and it was next to impossible to communicate changes when various circumstances arose. We were well on our way to using our website and e-mail as our primary communication tools before we ever heard the word "Covid." I realize that relying on electronic communication is a problem for some of our members who don't have a device or don't feel comfortable using one. We still offer our paper *Tanager* quarterly to those who pay for it, but the benefits of using the website as our primary source of information to our members and the community outweigh the disadvantages. In 2022 we hope to offer some events that are weather-dependent and cannot be put together in advance. Members will be e-mailed with short notice when we can schedule these, and whenever circumstances require changes in any of our plans, the website and e-mails will let you know.

As I close, I would like to send out special thanks to Jon Dombrowski, who is leaving our Finance Committee and Executive Council. Jon has served on the Council for many years, and we have relied on him to put together our budgets and for financial advice. A job well done, Jon. Thank you.

It has been an honor to serve as BANC president for the last two years. I look forward to continuing to help BANC by serving as a trustee on the Council for the next two. Thank you for your support, and for all you mean to BANC.

The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive. The great opportunity is where you are.

John Burroughs

Meet A Member—Jane Cogshall McConnochie

By Richard Ashworth

This time around, I'd like to introduce you to the newest member of the BANC Executive Council, elected at our recent Annual Meeting to the role of Recording Secretary.

Jane was born in Ithaca, where her parents were both Cornell graduates. The family moved to the New Jersey shore when she was five. After undergraduate studies at Princeton, she taught middle school math in New York City. Later, she gained her doctoral degree at the University of Michigan in education administration and moved to Washington DC, where she worked on teacher policy development for fifteen years, most recently on large scale evaluation of teacher professional learning programs.

While in DC, Jane met and married her husband Tim, who works in space-related research. They have two sons, aged 10 and 8, and have lived for the past six years in Pittsford, just a stone's throw from Powder Mills Park, where they both work remotely from home.

Jane is passionate about climate change, conservation, and the care and maintenance of trees – a calling which has developed gradually over the years: as a child, she enjoyed the woods and falls when visiting her grandparents in Ithaca; while living in New York City and Washington DC, she appreciated the need for access to nature; in Michigan she spent time mountain biking; and following a legacy of her father's family, she took up beekeeping for a while with the help of the Rochester Bee Keepers' Association.

Recently Jane has embraced a wish to transition out of her academic role in education research to couple her growing interest in the natural world with her long-standing fascination with teaching and figuring out ways to make complex information meaningful to different audiences. She took several courses in the Environmental Conservation and Horticulture Department at Finger Lakes Community College,

focusing on trees, and last school year led a group of fourth graders in an informal afterschool program called Tree Club at the BANC sanctuary. She is currently leading a project with a group of middle and high school students through the Pittsford Recreation Department to remove invasive plants and plant native species in a plot at the Deblase Open Space. She has a future vision of a youth jobs program devoted to invasive removal and habitat restoration, incorporating both educational aspects and relationship building for working teams. (Her backyard borders a wild area which provides an opportunity to practice this with her own family.)



Jane Cogshall McConnochie

Photo by Richard Ashworth

Jane says she had often driven past the BANC sanctuary without recognizing what it is. It was an advertisement in the PTSA newsletter, related to habitat restoration, that led her to the BANC website and subsequently to membership in the Club. She added the sanctuary to her other favorite local spots for walks in nature – Powder Mills Park, Mendon Ponds and Bergen Swamp. She is now looking forward to learning more about BANC through her role on the Executive Council and getting more involved in Club activities.

Thank you, Shirley!

By Julie Clayton

Shirley Shaw has a bubbly personality and has been extremely important to Burroughs Audubon Nature Club for the past ten years. Since 2012, Shirley has served as either President, Vice President or Recording Secretary. She has been our president for four of those years. That is quite a commitment! Shirley has also been integral to several committees. Her concern for BANC and many hours of volunteerism have been extraordinary! We would like to thank Shirley for sharing her knowledge of nature and administrative skills with us. Thank you, Shirley Shaw!



Shirley Shaw and Carol Hinkelman

Photo by Marigrace Piazza

Time to renew your membership

You may renew your membership now, either by mail or online. See the form on page 11 (online only), or go to bancny.org/membership.html.

New Members

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

Laurie Konte	Pittsford
Kathy Wilson	Pittsford
Adelia Fox	Victor

Carl Benedict

By Carol Hinkelman

Carl Benedict, a long-time BANC member, passed away in September. He served on the BANC Executive Council for several years and was a very active member of the Building and Grounds Committee for 25 years, repairing club equipment, working on boardwalks, maintaining the clubhouse, and doing anything else that was needed. Carl and Jerry Jenkins spent many hours installing and fine tuning a security system for the clubhouse in the 1990's after there were several vandalism incidents at the sanctuary. Carl was chairman of that committee for a decade and helped to oversee the construction of the clubhouse addition. The committee members painted the inside of the addition, ordered and installed the composting toilets, the water heater, and the cabinets, counters, and sink in the kitchen. BANC is the beneficiary of all his hard work for the club. We send our condolences to Carl's wife Jean and family.



Carl Benedict (left) and Jerry Jenkins installing signage at BANC Sanctuary

Photo by Marigrace Piazza

Beware the Spotted Lanternfly

By Carol Hinkelman

New York's agriculture and winery industries are very worried about the latest alien invasive insect pest in the U.S., the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). The SLF was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 and it has now spread to at least nine nearby states, but Pennsylvania has the worst SLF infestation and economic damage. Individual adult SLFs have been identified in several New York counties, most often in those near the Pennsylvania border. It was found in some New York City parks in July of 2020 and in Ithaca that Fall. Because there were SLF egg masses on some trees in Ithaca, 50 trees near the Cornell campus were cut down. They had to be sure they got rid of all the egg masses which can be high up on the trunks where they are hard to see.

The SLF is a plant hopper native to Asia where it feeds on the Tree of Heaven. Although the SLF evolved in Asia along with the Tree of Heaven, in the U.S. they also feed on a wide variety of plants such as grapevines, hops, maple, walnut, and fruit trees as well as dogwoods, lilacs, pines, and other trees. Eggs are laid in September in masses of 30-50 most often on tree trunks, but can be on any hard surface. The SLF can only jump or fly short distances, so it spreads longer distances mainly by laying egg masses on things like vehicles, outdoor furniture and equipment, firewood, stone, bricks, or plants, which are then unknowingly transported to other areas.

The eggs hatch in April to become small black wingless nymphs with white spots. They go through several stages and eventually turn red with white spots before becoming an adult fly in July. Both the nymph and the 1" adult have specialized mouth parts that can pierce plant leaves, stems and trunks to suck the sap. SLFs gathering and feeding in large numbers stresses and weakens the host plant and causes it to ooze and weep and sometimes give off a fermented odor. The insects also secrete a honeydew which can

develop a sooty mold on it. Where large numbers of SLFs gather, the leaves and the ground under a tree may be coated with honeydew and mold. Sooty mold can interfere with plant photosynthesis and affect



Spotted Lanternfly

*Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia
Bugwood.org*

plant growth and fruit yield. The sticky honeydew gets on everything and can attract other insects making outdoor activities unpleasant for residents and tourists alike.

New York has a thriving apple, grape, and orchard industry and many wineries. The SLF could inflict major crop damage and huge losses to these businesses as they have already done in Pennsylvania. Forests may also be at risk. The NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets are actively working to detect and prevent SLF infestation and damage here. You can help by learning to identify the SLF nymphs, adults, and egg masses and reporting them promptly.

From September to May egg masses may be seen on tree trunks and solid surfaces. SLF eggs are seed-like and laid in side-by-side vertical columns about 1" long. The whole egg mass has a gray or brown coat-

(Text and pictures continued on page 7)

(Beware the Spotted Lanternfly - continued from page 6)

ing which looks smooth and shiny at first but becomes dry, cracked, or scaly over time. It may eventually fall off, revealing the rows of eggs. There has been an outbreak of Gypsy Moths in our area the last two years, so Gypsy Moth egg masses can be found on some trees now. They are fibrous light tan masses the size of a nickel or a quarter and contain a clump of 500 to 1000 spherical eggs. Take a photo of the egg mass so it can be identified by the experts.

From April to October, you might see the black or the red stage SLF nymphs feeding in large numbers. The 1st long adults begin to appear in July with grayish wings with many round black spots and black or gray wing-tips. When startled or flying they will show the bright red on their hind wings. It is easiest to see the nymphs or adults gathered on host plants at dusk. If you notice oozing sap or sticky honeydew and sooty mold on or under the tree or plant, look for the insects.

Report any sightings of SLF egg masses or the insects at any stage to <https://agriculture.ny.gov/slf>. Be sure to include a photo and the street address, zip code, intersecting roads, landmarks, or GPS coordinates. If you can collect an insect, put it in a plastic bag and freeze it or in a jar with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. When you travel through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, or Virginia, be sure to inspect your vehicle for SLF egg masses and remove them. You can help to keep SLF from becoming a major problem in New York State.

Spotted Lanternfly

Photos by Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org



Adult —Wings Open



Adult—Wings Closed



Red Stage Nymph



Black Stage Nymph



Adult At Rest on Branch



Egg Mass

Coming Events

All events, except the March 30 Woodcock Walk, will be held on Zoom. Registration will be required. See the links at our website, bancny.org or call 585-747-6567.

Friday, January 14, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

An Evening with Lon Myers, Humorist and Self-Taught Naturalist .

Lon Myers will share fun and humorous memories of growing up in the '60s, '70s and '80s with Burroughs Audubon. He will relay fun stories of colorful characters, playing in the old house, kids' summer camp and more. Lon is originally from the Rochester area and served on the executive committee of BANC. His parents both served as president. He is currently Chairman of the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage, an annual nature event sponsored by the Audubons of Rochester, Buffalo, Jamestown, and Erie. Lon is a self-taught naturalist having led nature walks for nearly 50 years. His walks include Beginning Birding, Night Walk, Stream Adventure, Sharing Nature with Children, and an adult-themed talk of mythology and animal behavior. He currently resides in the Philadelphia suburbs where he leads walks for local nature organizations.

Friday, February 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

South African Wildlife, Presented by Jutta Siefert Dudley, a recent traveler in the bushveld.

This presentation features wildlife in three private preserves in northern South Africa. Once used for farming and ranching by European colonists, the reserves are examples of sites transforming into habitats conducive to supporting the myriad fauna and flora that once occupied these semi-arid lands. Photos and video clips will take you on a virtual safari to these sites to see the landscape and observe animal behavior. Jutta will share information she's learned about the wildlife, and we'll contemplate some of the complications in maintaining reserves.

Friday, March 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Why Native Plants Matter.

Recent scientific studies show that our native pollinators are in decline. Douglas Tallamy's research reveals that our native insects depend on native plants to survive. We are all called to take action to preserve and replant more natives in our wild areas and home gardens to protect the biodiversity that we depend on for a healthy ecosystem that supports us. Megan Meyer, a local Master Gardener with a background in landscape design and plant propagation, will explain why native plants are so important.

Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Woodcock Walk.

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 Chita McKinney in Webster on March 30 at 7:30 p.m., weather permitting. Advanced registration is required to notify participants if the walk must be postponed until March 31 due to weather. Information about registration will be available soon.

Dress warmly. Bring a folding chair and flashlight. We will take a short walk to listen for frogs and birds before the woodcocks begin to display.

NYSOA Annual Meeting 2021

By Richard Ashworth and Steve Melcher

The New York State Ornithological Association is an organization devoted to the scientific study and conservation of birds and to recreational birding. It includes both individual members (426 in total) and 40 nature clubs. BANC has been an active member club for many years.

Traditionally, NYSOA holds an Annual Meeting over three days in October, hosted by a member club and including local field trips, presentation of scientific papers and workshops, a banquet with keynote speaker, and other social activities. Essential Association business is conducted at a Delegates Meeting, where all member clubs are represented.

As a result of COVID restrictions, this year's Annual Meeting (like that in 2020) was conducted by videoconference on Zoom and limited to an evening presentation and the Delegates Meeting, where we represented BANC.

Our BANC President, Shirley Shaw, concluded her two years as President of NYSOA by chairing the Delegates Meeting. Her term has covered two extraordinary years, and she is to be congratulated on carrying the Association successfully through these tumultuous times. Typically, her management of the meeting was thoughtful and efficient.

Shirley presented an overview of the year's activities, followed by eighteen reports from each of the volunteer committees covering major Association functions and projects. Among them, these may be of particular interest to BANC members:

One important program is data collection for the third New York Breeding Bird Atlas, of which NYSOA is a lead organization. In spite of the COVID limitations, this second year of the project has been successful, with over 250,000 checklists being submitted by over 2,300 observers.

NYSOA manages the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), which is the official authority on the bird species observed in the state. In addition to the evaluation of reports submitted to the Committee on rare bird sightings, they now undertake review of the multitude of records input to the

rapidly expanding eBird database, but they have succeeded in staying current with their deliberations.

The Conservation Committee continues to lobby both federal and state authorities to support legislative initiatives to strengthen species protection and to oppose potentially damaging projects, including proposed wind projects on the shores of Lake Ontario.

The New York State Young Birders Club marks its thirteenth anniversary this fall, and currently has 38 members aged 10-19. The Youth Leadership is headed by its President, Robert Buckert from Rochester. There are also 38 supporting adults.

At the end of the meeting a full slate of Officers and Directors for 2022 was elected.

More information about NYSOA is available on its website (nybirds.org) or, of course, by talking to Shirley Shaw.

2022 BANC Officers

The following people were elected on November 12, to serve during 2022 unless otherwise indicated:

Ellen Prill	President
Marie Heerkens	Vice-President
Marigrace Piazza	Corresponding Secretary
Jane McConnochie	Recording Secretary
John Shaw	Treasurer
Joe Hurley	Financial Trustee 2022-2023
Frank Crombe	Financial Trustee 2021-2022
Julie Clayton	Trustee 2021-2022
Shirley Shaw	Trustee 2022-2023
Lura Kelley	Trustee 2021-2022
Carol Klinger	Trustee 2021-2022
Mary Moore	Trustee 2021-2022
Steve Melcher	Trustee 2022-2023

Pictures from Recent Events

The following pictures were taken by our members at recent BANC events.



Hike at Hurley Woods, Joe Hurley's Property

Photo by Richard Ashworth



Joe Hurley at Hike

Photo by Richard Ashworth



Key Club Members at the Work Day

Photo by Julie Clayton

BURROUGHS AUDUBON NATURE CLUB (BANC) 2022 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	\$
Add \$4.00 for outside restroom key	\$4	\$
Extra Donation Appreciated	\$	\$
		Total \$

Pictures from Explore Nature Day

The following pictures were taken by our members at the October 10th event.



Photo by Richard Ashworth



Photo by Ellen Prill



Loretta Morell, wearing the Tree Ring name tag that she decorated. That was offered at the event.

Photo by Marigrace Piazza



Adult Spotted Lanternfly, Wings Folded

See story on Page 6

*Photo by Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia
Bugwood.org*



Shadow Pines Hike in Penfield

Photo by Marigrace Piazza

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are holding our members' meetings online.
All events require registrations. Program details are on page 8.

Friday, January 14, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

An Evening with Lon Myers, Humorist and
Self-Taught Naturalist

On Zoom

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South African Wildlife, Presented by Jutta
Siefert Dudley, a recent traveler in the
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On Zoom

Friday, March 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Why Native Plants Matter, presented by
Megan Myer

On Zoom

Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Woodcock Walk

Webster