

The Tanager



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Burroughs Audubon Nature Club

c/o John Shaw

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President's Annual Report

by Marigrace Piazza

At the end of 2021, BANC received the good news that we qualified to receive the federally funded Recreational Trails Grant, administered by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. Since then, much detailed work has been done to comply with the government regulations and procedures required to receive the funds. This year, we hired a landscape architect firm, and we are now waiting for the state to approve the preliminary design. The next step will be to have the final design work done and submitted for approval, followed by a search for a contractor to do the work. Breaking ground on the project may start in 2024. I want to thank Shirley Shaw for her countless hours of painstaking work serving as the principal administrator of this grant for BANC.

The club had another successful year of appealing and popular programs, starting with our winter meetings via Zoom and ending in person again with our Annual Meeting and Experience Night. The program committee is one of our most vital, effective committees and is essential to keeping the club relevant and worthwhile.

Thanks to Julie Clayton, who is currently leading the committee.

Members and non-members had the opportunity to attend five different talks via Zoom throughout the year, five field trips in diverse locations around the Finger Lakes area, and two walks on our property focused on amphibians in April and mosses in August.

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Due to lifting the pandemic restrictions, we were happy to offer more social gatherings this year at the clubhouse. It was great to gather together again at our ice cream social in May, a potluck dinner with the Rochester Area Plein Air Painters in July, a brown bag dinner including a presentation on garnet sands in August, and the annual picnic in September with the Executive Director of the Genesee Land Trust as the guest speaker.

The program committee continues to offer events to encourage families and children to visit our sanctuary. We had two successful events with this in mind: Family Nature Night in June and the Spooky Scavenger Hunt in October.

In order to encourage membership, we strive to make our club more visible to the outside community. Several organizations have brought people to our sanctuary this year: St. John Fisher University, Canandaigua Botanical Society, Rochester Birding Association, Rochester Ecology Partners, Tinkergarden, Victor Key Club, Victor-Farmington Community Library, and a Sound Bath therapy group from Eutierria Wellness.

Under the leadership of Jane McConnochie, the habitat and restoration committee is working on several projects in order to restore and maintain the native flora on our property. There have been two power hour sessions monthly since June with the purpose of increasing outreach and building community while removing invasive plants and adding more native plants to our property. Fencing has been purchased to create a deer enclosure near Keller's Knoll. The habitat and restoration committee has also organized and led the workdays in April and November. Jane has been a steadfast volunteer for BANC and is very committed to our habitat restoration efforts. I would also like to thank Carol and David Southby for their continued guidance and hours of volunteer time in this regard.

BANC is currently in good financial health, but the council continues to make careful considerations when planning the budget.

We are a fiscally conservative organization, and we carefully analyze the pros and cons before any large expenditures are made. I am grateful to our treasurer, John Shaw, and the finance committee for guiding the council in making good decisions about how to best use our financial resources.

We have seen a decline in membership numbers this year, and how to remedy this is an agenda item at most of our executive council meetings. We have some new ideas in the works for 2024, such as targeted events a few times a year dedicated to new member orientation. Joe Hurley has taken charge of this initiative. Steve Melcher has helped to publicize the club and our events by managing our Facebook and Meet-Up pages. Besides being treasurer, John Shaw does a marvelous job publishing *The Tanager* four times a year and managing our website. I cannot imagine how much time John puts in a week for the sake of our club!

According to a survey that BANC sent to our members in 2022, the ability to use our trails is the most important benefit of being a member. Our property is our most valued asset. We have struggled in recent years with keeping up with some needed work related to buildings and grounds and have not had a leader of this committee in some time. We are much indebted to Dean Clayton, who has faithfully mowed our lawn and trails and done a lot of the maintenance work on our grounds and clubhouse over many years. This is not a job that one person can do alone. Although we have people who are willing to help, a leader has not come forward who is willing to organize and initiate projects. The club does not have unlimited resources to hire professional help as needed to keep the property safe and well-maintained. We are an organization that relies mainly on volunteers.

When the trail grant work is completed, we will have newly restored boardwalks and many drainage issues on the property resolved. We will also have the ability to attract new community members to BANC. There will be a wheelchair-accessible trail leading from the lawn to the Swamp Boardwalk. The grant's

(Continued on page 3)

(President's Message - Continued from page 2)

purpose is to open up the world of nature to everybody. I am looking forward to the next few years as we make some transitions in order to get ready to invite more diverse groups to our club.

I would like to thank the council for working so hard for BANC this year and would like to say a special thank you to Joe Hurley, who will be leaving the council at the end of the year. He has served as a financial trustee for several years. We will miss his good guidance and ideas but glad that he will continue to serve on the finance committee and the habitat restoration committee.

Jutta Dudley and Richard Ashworth are two examples of faithful volunteers to BANC. They are always ready and willing to serve in a myriad of capacities when called upon to help.

There are so many of you who share your time and talents with BANC. Giving back to our organization has always been a source of good feelings for those who pitch in. We appreciate all of you who have done something to further the mission of our precious club. Thank you for your invaluable support.



Family at Bat Station at Spooky Scavenger Hunt

Photo by Jutta Dudley

From Experience Night (see p. 4)



Marigrace Piazza shows picture from Plein Air Painters program.



Jane McConnichie shows a photo from her stay in Florida.

Photos by Richard Ashworth

Annual Meeting and Experience Night

By Sabrina Commisso

On November 10th, Burroughs members enjoyed an in-person Experience Night, voted for the 2024 Board, and sampled some sweet treats. It was the first face-to-face end-of-year meeting in a few years due to COVID. We were treated to a range of member encounters, including musical performances. Business was conducted first, and there were no upsets in the voting results.

Marigrace Piazza started off the evening's fun by talking about a book she had recently read, "American Journey" by Wes Davis, and offered to lend it to fellow members. She also showed us a couple of paintings completed by Ed Boowmeester, which we were able to view close up after the presentations. (see photo on p. 4.)

Jane McConnochie continued with slides and stories of the wildlife on Marco Island, FL. She has been going down to Marco Island for years when the area was largely undeveloped. Jane spoke of the rise and fall of the local burrowing owl population and measures taken to help protect them, especially their nests. She showed adorable gopher tortoise photos (a threatened species), as well as manatees, pelicans, and other Floridian birds. (see photo on p. 4.)

Carol and David Southby provided photos of our Halloween kids' event at the sanctuary, which was held on October 21st. (They were unable to attend, but Shirley Shaw presented on their behalf). Even though it was rainy and cold, even more children and their families arrived for this year's scavenger hunt than last year! There were several cute costumes, a few scary ones, and a couple of grumpy teenagers. The photos also showed Carol's fabulous spider, frog, and bat decorations inside, including the froggy picnic complete with flies.

Julie Clayton then played guitar and sang for us two wonderful nature-themed melodies. Her guitar teacher was even in the room, but Julie did not seem nervous at all! She managed to coax some of us to sing along a few times.

A very sweet and inspiring poem entitled "When I am Among Trees" by Mary Oliver was then read by Barbara Gibson. Barbara did a wonderful job unveiling the soul of this poem for members to contemplate.

The evening ended with superb photos by Richard Ashworth of local birds. Richard has a talent of taking photos from different angles or conditions that reveal inconspicuous details or aspects of the bird's personality.

After Richard's photos, we mingled, nibbled some more, and continued to share stories. Members appreciated this peaceful, enjoyable Experience Night.

For a list of the newly elected council, see p. 5. For photos, see p. 10 (online)



Julie Clayton entertaining us with nature themed melodies

Photo by Richard Ashworth

Our Annual Picnic

By Julie Clayton

On Saturday, September 16, BANC members brought food to share at our Annual Picnic held at the Clubhouse on Railroad Mills Road. We enjoyed the dishes that we had brought for each other. It was great to see other members and friends and share food together again!

We were fortunate to have Lorna Wright, the new Executive Director of the Genesee Land Trust, as our guest speaker. Lorna grew up in many different places, attended school at the University of Rochester, and earned a BA in Biology. Later, she worked to attain dual master's degrees in Environmental Management and Forestry from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Lorna lives in Rochester with her husband and young twins.

Lorna addressed the issue of Climate Change in the Rochester area and how the Genesee Land Trust is working to help mitigate and adapt to the challenges that we are facing. The Land Trust, which was founded fairly recently — in 1989 — conserves local farms and preserves and protects natural lands and waterways in the Greater Rochester region. It also works to secure locally grown food. The Genesee Land Trust serves a wide portion of Western New York, including Monroe and Wayne counties, and portions of adjacent Genesee, Orleans, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, and Cayuga counties.

By working with landowners and local communities, Genesee Land Trust has protected over 7,500 acres of land! This includes 19 public nature preserves and farmland owned by 21 family farms. They are all open to the public.

Many of us BANC members are also members of the GLT. We appreciate the work that this amazing non-profit organization does. We were happy to listen to the words of this new director and we wish Lorna all the best in her new position!



Lorna Wright telling us about the Genesee Land Trust at the picnic.

Council Elections

At the annual meeting on November 10, 2023, the membership elected the following as officers and members of the Council:

President: Marigrace Piazza

Vice-President: Jane McConnochie

Recording Secretary: Sabrina Commisso

Treasurer: John Shaw

Finance Trustee: Carol Klinger

Trustees: Shirley Shaw, Steve Melcher, Lois Dannenberg, and Derek Pulhamus

Continuing on the Council will be Chita McKinney, Finance Trustee, and Lura Kelley, Trustee. Joe Hurley will be leaving the Council.

Photos are on page 10 (online)

Coming Events

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

Friday, January 12, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Plants for Birds
Zoom

Bring birds to your home today by growing native plants. Chris Lajewski, Center Director at Montezuma Audubon Center, will give a presentation about the best plants for the birds in our area. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment.

To sign up, go to www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-plants. The Zoom information will be sent to you shortly before the event.

February 9, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

All About the April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse
Zoom

Watching a total solar eclipse is an awesome experience. On April 8, we will have the opportunity to experience it! To prepare you for the event, David Bishop of the Rochester Academy of Science, Astronomy Section, will tell you how eclipses occur, where the upcoming eclipse is visible, what to expect as totality approaches, what safety precautions are needed, what to look for during totality, and where you can join others to enjoy the event.

To sign up, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-46811482-eclipse>. The Zoom information will be sent to you shortly before the event.

Friday, March 8 2024, 7:30

On the Edge: The Perilous Lives of Birds
Zoom

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

To sign up, go to www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-ontheedge. The Zoom information will be sent shortly before the event.

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

Woodcock Walk
Webster

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

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

Advanced registration is required so can we notify you if weather will cause a cancellation. To sign up, go to www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-ontheedge.

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

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

Cleanup and Habit Restoration
Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

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

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

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

BANC Orientation
Sanctuary

New, prospective, and current members: Learn what BANC is all about! Presentation followed by sanctuary tour.

Spooky Scavenger Hunt

By Julie Clayton

On Saturday, October 21, BANC Sanctuary was visited by princesses, a Roman soldier, ghosts, Spiderman, Ironman, a large walking/talking taco, a unicorn, a man-sized squid, witches, and many more welcome Halloween guests of all shapes and sizes!

Children, assisted by parents and friends, walked the trails in search of finding animals on their scavenger hunt list to discover how these creatures were preparing for the cold, winter months. (The animals were represented by their pictures staked up along the trails.) The children learned that the wood frog freezes, but does not freeze to death in winter! The bird wearing Halloween colors (black and orange) that leaves our area before the winter arrives is the Baltimore Oriole. We won't see one at Halloween.

The children found all of the animals on their lists and earned prizes for their efforts. They also went into the Sanctuary building to enjoy cider and donuts. Thankfully, the weather cooperated and the children and adults, wearing big smiles, really seemed to enjoy the event!

Also, enjoying the event were our volunteers who helped make the afternoon great fun -- Kathy Henrie, Lieve Bain, and Sabrina Commisso. Kudos to Kathy who arrived from New Jersey on time to participate! She is a real trooper! Our Jutta Dudley participated on the committee and was very helpful.

Our Spooky Scavenger Hunt was well-attended thanks to Jane McConnochie, Marigrace Piazza, and Richard Ashworth who provided publicity. Julie Clayton brought the cider and donut munchkins and once again let her Halloween alter-ego emerge (as a scary witch.)

Carol Southby and Shirley Shaw did much planning and organizing, and Carol again superbly decorated the Clubhouse (inside and out)! It was a Halloween extravaganza! Come next October and enjoy the fun!



Family at the Spooky Scavenger Hunt

Photo by Julie Clayton



Showing off Halloween Costume

Photo by Julie Clayton

Meet A Member — Kathy Sheridan Henrie

By Richard Ashworth

BANC is unique among local organizations in embracing all branches of nature study and involvement. This month's featured member, Kathy Sheridan-Henrie, closely echoes this characteristic in her eventful life to this point and in her diverse interests.

Kathy grew up near the Delaware River in New Jersey, close to the Pennsylvania border, where her mother and brother still live. Although her parents were not particularly drawn to nature, the two siblings spent much of their time outdoors and Kathy's interest was sparked by her participation in summer camp, age 12.

Her affiliation with upstate New York began with her studies in education at Syracuse University. However, after graduating she spent two six-month periods in Norway, where she very much enjoyed working outdoors on a strawberry farm.

On her return to New York, Kathy lived for a while in Naples and continued her interest in farming by working in the local vineyards. She first applied her academic qualification as an art teacher in Dansville, but returned to school for commercial art and turned to landscape design. This satisfied her for a while, but the exposure to unpleasant chemicals and the changes in the skills of the trade with the advent of CAD caused her to give it up and work as a para-educator in Rochester and special ed. at BOCES before her retirement.

Allegany State Park has had a profound influence on the development of Kathy's immersion in and knowledge of the natural world. Married to her hus-

band John and the mother of two boys, they would rent a cabin in the summer, and Kathy would enroll in many nature programs led by the resident naturalist. She learned of the Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage and has been attending it for the last eighteen years. There she met Jerry and Lois Jenkins, who introduced her to BANC. She joined the Club and, soon after, Jane Stock recruited her to become one of the BANC representatives on the ANP Organizing Committee. Sixteen years later, she is still serving in this role, currently together with Frank Crombe.

Most recently, Kathy chaired the BANC Nominating Committee, with help from Lieve Bain and myself.

Kathy's multiple outdoor activities include hiking (often with Lieve) and trail running with TrailsROC. She enjoys

looking for salamanders, beavers, wildflowers, and fluorescent minerals. She has spent time monitoring and assisting horseshoe crabs at Delaware Bay during the annual spring spawning. In addition to BANC, she is an active member of Rochester Birding Association, Rochester Area Mycological Association and the Fossils and Minerals sections of the Rochester Academy of Science.

It is difficult to imagine a BANC member more representative of the Club's spirit and purpose.



BURROUGHS AUDUBON NATURE CLUB (BANC) MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. If you join after October 1, 2023, your membership continues through the year 2024.

Please send your check, payable to BANC, along with this form, to:

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

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

Name(s) _____

Children's Ages (optional) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Date _____

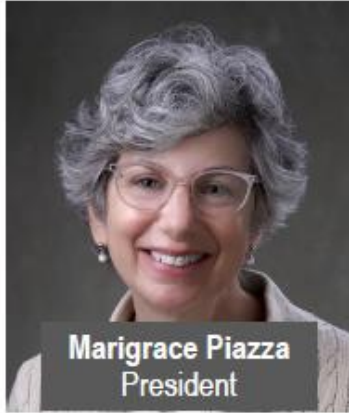
How did you learn of us? _____ Birth Month (Optional) _____

Check one: New Member _____ Renewal _____

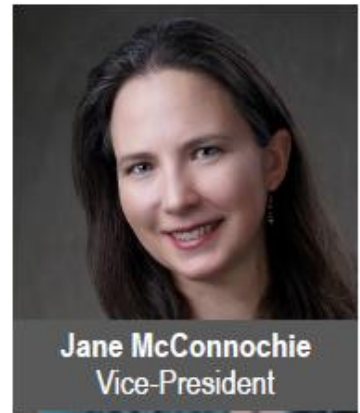
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	DUES	AMOUNT PAID
Individual	\$25	\$
Couple	\$35	\$
Family, including children under 18	\$40	\$
Supporting Membership	\$75	\$
Life Membership	\$500	\$
Add \$10.00 for Tanager hardcopy mailed	\$10	\$
Extra Donation Appreciated	\$	\$
		Total \$



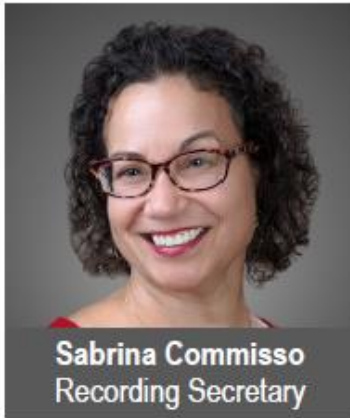
OFFICERS AND COUNCIL 2024



Marigrace Piazza
President



Jane McConnochie
Vice-President



Sabrina Comisso
Recording Secretary



John Shaw
Treasurer



Carol Klinger
Financial Trustee



Chita McKinney
Financial Trustee



Lois Dannenberg
Trustee



Lura Kelley
Trustee



Steve Melcher
Trustee



Derek Pulhamus
Trustee



Shirley Shaw
Trustee

Photos by Richard Ashworth



Common Yellowthroat



Robin

Photos from the program “On the Edge: The Perilous Lives of Birds” we will have on March 8, 2024. See Coming Events on Page 6.

Photos by Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner.

Dues Are Due

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

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

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

BANC
374 Cromwell Drive
Rochester, NY 14610

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

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

TRAILS GRANT REPORT

By Shirley Shaw

Good news! Our preliminary design has been approved. Final plans will be created by our Landscape Architecture firm SWBR and will be submitted for approval.

Pardon Our Dust!

Some of our boardwalks are in disrepair until they can be rebuilt as part of the grant work. Keep a look-out for some Trail Closed signs near the Balsam Fir Trail boardwalk and on the Woodland Trail near the step down boardwalk where it nears the Creekside Trail. Enjoy our sanctuary but be a little extra careful and “pardon our dust.”

New Members

The following new member has joined. We welcome her to BANC:

Cathy Senecal-Rice

Pittsford

A Call for Contributions

By Jane McConnochie

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

Can you help?

The following volunteer positions are open:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Graphic designer: Are you or anyone you know able to update our logo to vector art? More points if you know what that means!

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

Student service-learning credit is available to student volunteers.

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

Zurich Bog Field Trip

On September 19, 2023 we had a field trip to Zurich Bog. Here are some photos:



Shirley Shaw unwittingly shows off her muddy leg, having cleverly discovered a hole in the mat of sedges on the edge of the fen, she tested its depth by sticking her boot into it.



This Viceroy butterfly was seen flitting among the red mosses and blueberries and cranberries of the Zurich bog.



The group explored the fen, picking their way among wildflowers and red maples and poison sumac, across a mat of stitched together sedges on top of an invisible pond, which felt like walking on a waterbed.



The Year in Habitat Restoration at the Burroughs Sanctuary

By Jane McConnochie

The year 2023 was a productive one for habitat restoration at the sanctuary thanks to many dedicated volunteers. Through twice-monthly Power Hours and biannual Clean-Up events, restoration activities largely focused on removing invasive plants and planting locally native ones in their place.

This work is vitally important for the health of the ecosystems that make up the sanctuary. For example, replacing exotic privet shrubs with native spicebush or elderberry shrubs not only provides food for native caterpillars, which birds rely on to feed their young, but also the fruits of native shrubs contain higher percentages of fat and protein for mammals and birds than invasive shrubs.

Because invasive species are so tenacious it will be a never-ending, ever-evolving struggle to give our native plants a leg up. But we made some strides in 2023 that we plan to build on in 2024!

Here is a recap of activities and impacts from this year:

- We identified four patches of Pale-yellow swallowwort growing near the Woodland Trail. Volunteers removed as much as possible, preventing seed set (we think), however, the patches will require on-going monitoring and removal to prevent swallowwort from taking over as it has in nearby Powder Mills Park.
- We removed hundreds of privet plants and bitter-sweet vines, and several large Autumn olive, buckthorn, and invasive honeysuckle shrubs.
- We continued to tackle Garlic mustard and Vinca growing near the Woodland Trail.
- We began to install deer enclosure fencing to protect native plants from our hungry deer population.
- We shuffled tree cages around to ensure young trees would remain protected from buck rub (in which male deer scrape their antlers on young tree trunks, often damaging them beyond recovery) until their bark is thick enough to withstand it (this can take a decade or more).

- We planted locally native elderberry and spicebush shrubs; pussy willows; elm, tulip, and oak trees; and some Christmas ferns. These were donated by BANC members and carefully screened for their appropriateness for the sanctuary habitat by members of the Habitat Restoration Team before planting.
- We enlarged our nursery beds with fall leaves in preparation for nurturing more young native plants to eventually move to other areas of the sanctuary once they are big enough to compete in the wild.
- We collected seeds from sanctuary plants growing along the boardwalks that will be replaced in the next year or so and moved a few native plants to safety from the construction.

And boy are we tired! But we'll rest up over the winter because we will need to accelerate the pace of tree and other perennial planting to prevent the invasives we removed from re-establishing themselves.

More volunteers are always needed and welcome. Our 2023 accomplishments prove that together we can make a real difference.

Look for a new Power Hour schedule in 2024 and join us when you can!

Finally, special thanks go to the following Habitat Restoration heroes who showed up in force to one or more restoration event – Laurie Konte, Lois Dannenburg, Derek Pulhamous, Joe Hurley, Carol Southby, Dave Southby, Marigrace Piazza, Shirley Shaw, and the Victor High School Key Club. You guys rock.

See photos p. 15.

Photos from Habitat Restoration

Photos by Jane Coggshall McConnochie



On the second Sunday in August, Habitat Restoration Power Hour volunteers, Lois Dannenberg and Derek Pulhamus, take a quick break to say hello to a young snapping turtle making use of the sanctuary trails.

This snapping turtle either lives in the permanent shallow waters of the sanctuary or was just passing through as it was seen out and about on sanctuary trails during an August Power Hour. Snapping turtles evolved over 40 million years ago and their populations are still relatively strong today, however habitat loss is an ever present danger. They are often incorrectly blamed for feasting on too many water fowl, but these are incidental foods for them--over 65% of their diet is aquatic vegetation and they play an important ecological role as scavengers. (According to this article by Suzanne Kynast from the Tortoise Trust: <https://www.tortoisetrust.org/articles/snappers.htm>)



More Photos from Zurich Bog



Purple pitcher plants (*Sarracenia purpurea*) bloom in early-to-mid June but often their flowers (minus their petals) persist into September, as this one, located at the edge of the Zurich bog walking trail, did. This bloom had lost most of its usual red and purple hues leaving only a stunning yellow.



Zurich Bog is host to quite a few Purple pitcher plants (*Sarracenia purpurea*), one colony of which is pictured here. Pitcher plants capture rainwater in their modified leaves, into which hapless invertebrates occasionally fall and are eaten and digested by mosquito and other larvae helping unlock their nutrients, which the plant uses to supplement its nutrition, most of which is obtained through photosynthesis like normal everyday

Photos by Jane Coggshall McConnochie

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Program details are on pages 6. Some programs require registration. See details.

Friday, January 12, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Plants for Birds

Zoom

February 9, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

All About the April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

Zoom

Friday, March 8 2024, 7:30 p.m.

On the Edge: The Perilous Lives of Birds

Zoom

March 28, 2024 7:30 pm

Woodcock Walk

Webster

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

Cleanup and Habit Restoration

Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

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

BANC Orientation

Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road