

The Tanager

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President's Message

We are quickly approaching summer and that is always a special time for BANC members. Our beautiful springtime of colorful blossoms and bright green leaves will give way to the fullness of summer. Deep green leaves, wildflowers of many hues, birds flitting from branch to branch, and we humans delighting in the warm weather is what summer is all about in Rochester, New York!

We have many activities planned to take place at our Sanctuary on Railroad Mills Road – open houses and potlucks (Potlucks are always followed by a learning program.) Chris Benard will be welcoming members and friends at her “Come for Coffee” events. We will have guided field trips – to Gosnell Big Woods, Macedon Erie Canal Park, Montezuma Wetlands Complex, Zurich Bog, and our Slater Sanctuary in Dansville. Please refer to our Handbook of Activities for all of the details or refer to our website at www.bancny.org.

We have added a special event that you will not find in the Activities Book. BANC will host a **special family event** from 6 – 8:30 PM on June 29. There will be lots for adults and kids to do and learn about. Please bring your children/grandchildren!

On May 14th, I was asked to open the Sanctuary building for the Mendon Foundation which was holding a guided hike here. I decided to join them and they spotted or heard a total of thirty-two different varieties of birds in the Sanctuary! It was a lovely morning and my appreciation for the Sanctuary grew even more. We certainly have a Sanctuary to marvel at!

The next day on the 15th, Charlie Woodruff and Jayne Deane conducted an “Afternoon Tea”. They brought and brewed many wonderful varieties of tea. Also, Charlie made a presentation about the history of tea. It was a different and enriching afternoon! (We were also treated to scones and delicious sandwiches.) Thank you, Charlie and Jayne!

The Allegany Nature Pilgrimage will be taking place on June 3, 4 and 5. If you haven't registered yet, go to www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com. It is always a weekend of fun and learning!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the committee members who have all been doing their jobs!!! I was going to thank each separately, but I realized I was going through every committee in the booklet!!! **This organization is made up of very dedicated people. Thank you for all that you do!**

Sincerely,

Julie Clayton

2nd ANNUAL CLOTHESLINE PHOTO SHOW

Everyone had so much fun looking at the photos of wildlife and people and landscapes at last year's Annual Picnic that we decided to do it again this year. Bring your favorite pictures sized at least 4X6 inches, though bigger is better to see. We will put them in a plastic sleeve and hang them on our clothesline. You may take them home the same evening.

Everyone attending the picnic, whether member or guest, votes for his favorite photo of people, wildlife and scenery. The winner receives a "Peoples Choice" ribbon. So...get out there and let us share where you've been and what you saw.

And if you can't attend, send your photos with a friend.

Chris Benard

Family Night At The Sanctuary

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club (BANC) is sponsoring an evening of nature activities at its clubhouse at 301 Railroad Mills, in Victor on Wednesday, June 29th from 6 to 8:30 pm. Families with children of all ages are invited to join the fun and need not be members to participate.

During the Family Night on June 29, club members will be on hand with displays demonstrating their particular interests. The trails in the sanctuary will be open to the public for exploring. A scavenger hunt is planned as well as guided walks.

Marigrace Piazza

YELLOW SQUIRREL



Carl Benedict has seen this squirrel in his back yard several times and thought it unusual, so he sent the photo to the *Conservationist* and asked if they could identify it. Their response was: "Thanks for contacting us here at *Conservationist* with your photos of the squirrel. Gray squirrels can be black-furred, albino or many different variations of gray mixed with yellow-to-reddish brown. I have never seen one that color."

Two Poems by
Jennifer Markham

Rana Sylvatica



Hopping, hopping, little frog
Peeking from beneath a log.
With 2 ridges down your back,
Bandit mask that's brown not black.
Pink-tan body must feel nice,
Having thawed from winter's ice.

Cuckoo-flower



When you hear the cuckoo sing,
Then you know it's really spring.
Whether or not you've heard it yet,
Take a walk where it is wet-
Dainty clusters, petals four
Fairy garlands 'round the shore.

Creekside Trail Reroute

This is a reminder that a short section of the Creekside Trail is closed because of safety and liability concerns. This section of the trail comes very near to the creek and the bank has been undercut in some of the curves. The trail has been rerouted, but there is still access to the creek and all of the benches. Nature is constantly changing and remaking the landscape. Enjoy the beauty of our sanctuary, but be careful along the creek where the trail has had to be moved.

Note from your editor:

If you haven't attended a "Come for Coffee", you have missed a great opportunity to enjoy our beautiful Sanctuary while meeting friends and sampling the "goodies" and coffee prepared by Chris Benard. Please stop at the next opportunity (September 22). I'm sure you will be pleased .

MEET A MEMBER – DAVE STRONG



Our club can be proud that over the 101 years of its existence it has numbered among its members many of the most active naturalists and conservationists of our area. Dave Strong should certainly be counted in that fraternity.

Dave grew up in Charlotte and embraced the outdoors at an early age: he was creating his own bird books by the age of ten, and remembers working for his Bird Study merit badge, which was then a requirement for the Eagle Scout program. (He was later to help at the scout troop and eventually became Scoutmaster for four years.)

Dave was a chemical engineer, having graduated from the University of Rochester in 1952. He joined Xerox Corp. and began a career with the company that was to span 39 years in engineering, quality control, production control, long-range planning and disaster management. He gained his MBA from the University of Rochester in 1964 and served as Planning Manager; in a staff capacity he visited Xerox plants, including several in Europe, before retiring in 1994.

Dave's first foray into conservation efforts came shortly after he met his wife, Grace. Grace's mother was active in the East Aurora Bird Club and soon both Grace and Dave were helping at Beaver Meadow. He joined Genesee Ornithological Society in 1974 and served in various roles, ultimately becoming President in 1999 – a position he held until GOS's dissolution. He acted as Secretary of the Rochester Academy of Sciences for several years and organized their Science

Exploration Days. Later he joined Rochester Birding Association and was a field trip leader; he continues today to serve on the RBA Circulation Committee.

Dave also got involved in the Penfield Conservation Board, where he helped prepare the town Environmental Quality Review and served on the Watershed Management Committee, doing pioneering watershed mapping to assist in planning of town development. He later chaired the Board and was appointed to the Monroe County Environmental Management Council.

In the 1980's Dave's contribution to the Thousand Acre Swamp Preservation Committee led to work for the Western New York chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and following its consolidation with the Central New York chapter in 1993 he served as Chairman in the following year. Dave took part in several TNC migratory bird studies and also participated in the state Breeding Bird Atlas. This was followed by a stint on the Land Acquisition Committee of the Genesee Land Trust.

As you can see, there is scarcely any local conservancy organization that has not benefitted from Dave's commitment, enthusiasm and wisdom.

Amazingly, in the midst of all these organizational initiatives and responsibilities, Dave and Grace found time to follow what Dave calls his 'avocation' of birding. Among many trips, those to Trinidad & Tobago and New Zealand stand out in his memory, along with California (with Massachusetts Audubon) and Arizona (with Elderhostels). His legacy has also inspired their three sons, all of whom are accomplished birders – two of them professional ornithologists.

Dave and Grace have been BANC members for ten years and regularly participate in the club meetings and annual banquets. Dave says he remembers visiting the sanctuary many times in earlier years with friends like Bob McKinney and Karen Wolf, but apparently nobody ever suggested that they join!

Three years ago Dave and Grace moved to a cottage at the Highlands of Pittsford, where their home is replete with bird-themed art and where Dave maintains bird feeders (as you can see in the photograph).

Richard Ashworth

New York's Energy Plan



New York State had some modest renewable energy goals in recent years, but wasn't meeting them. This year, for the first time, Gov. Cuomo has proposed a Clean Energy Standard, a binding rule on utilities compelling them to buy increasing amounts of renewable energy. The goal is to have 50% of our energy be from renewable sources by 2030 and 80% by 2050. This proposal is good news for the environment and will help to prevent global warming, but how are we going to meet these goals?

Most of New York's coal plants have shut down and 26 percent of the state's electricity over all comes from renewable sources, most of it from hydropower. Utilities can buy more renewable energy from out of state, but it would be better to encourage local production of electricity thereby creating jobs and contributing to the local economy. Solar power costs have come way down, so many home and business owners are now installing solar. Two large solar plants will be built on land that Monroe County owns in Greece and Penfield and the county will sell the power produced to RG&E.

There are 21 wind power projects currently in New York, but many more will be needed. Offshore wind is a possibility especially around Long Island, but an offshore wind project that was proposed in Lake Ontario in our area died because of so much opposition. Wind power is an important renewable energy source, but careful siting of the wind turbines is crucial.

A major concern right now is the Lighthouse Wind project proposed for land along the south shore of Lake Ontario to our west in Somerset. Apex plans to install 70 wind turbines each 620' tall, much taller than any building in Upstate NY. They would be situated along 12.5 miles of shoreline right in the

major migration route for raptors, waterfowl and songbirds. They fly north to the Great Lakes, but then turn east and follow the lakeshore to avoid flying over the water. Raptors migrate by day, but songbirds migrate at night and often drop down at dawn to feed and rest before taking off again at nightfall. They will have to make their way down in the morning and then up again at night through that strip of turbines with their 150' long rotating blades. The area is also breeding and wintering habitat for grassland birds. A coalition of concerned birding and conservation groups opposes the siting of wind turbines in this critical location and is calling for extensive studies of the bird use of this area before approval is given for the project.

There is an added twist to the state energy plan. Even though nuclear energy is not clean or renewable, the Clean Energy Standard will force utilities to also buy energy from New York's nuclear plants except for the Indian Point nuclear plant near New York City, which the governor wants to shut down for safety reasons. New York's nuclear plants are all getting very old and will have to shut down in the next few years, but the state wants them to stay open long enough to buy time to develop more renewable energy sources.

Nuclear plants are losing a lot of money because electricity is being produced so much cheaper with the current low prices for natural gas and the decreasing costs of solar. This plan will force utilities to subsidize Ginna and the other New York nuclear plants by paying much above market rates for their electricity to cover their high and rising costs. These higher costs will be passed along by the utilities to the individual ratepayers, and the burden will be especially heavy for low income households. Should we be subsidizing nuclear plants that will be closing down in a few years anyway? Wouldn't it make more sense to invest that money into developing more renewable energy sources that we will need when the plants do close?

Also, the state's energy plan does not set goals for energy efficiency and conservation which could reduce our need for electricity. The Clean Energy Standard must be approved by the Public Service Commission which has been having public hearings and accepting public comments. The Clean Energy Standard will make New York a leader in the use of renewable energy, but it must be very carefully implemented.

Carol Hinkelman

PHOTOS FROM RECENT EVENTS



Kelly Smith & Lea Benedict with artifacts from Ward's Science
(March 11 meeting)



AFTERNOON TEA
Hosted by **Charlie Woodruff & Jayne Dean**
(Sunday, May 15)



Beautiful Sanctuary Lawn



Mary Gordon and Flower Arrangements
(May 5)



2016 Banquet at Glendoveers
(April 20)



Cowslips at Sanctuary

The Tanager

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

TO

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 11, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

**BANC Sanctuary
OPEN HOUSE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

Hosts: Shirley Shaw, 385-3907 &
Charlie Woodruff, 434-4604

Friday, June 17, 6:00 PM

**Potluck at BANC Sanctuary
GLOBAL WARMING & WHAT WE CAN DO**

Hosts: Linda Smith, 924-3871 &
Bruce & Mary Ann Cady, 248-8959

Tuesday, June 28, 10:00 AM

**Gosnell Big Woods Preserve
BUTTERFLIES AND WILDFLOWERS**

Leader: Jon Dombrowski, 425-2380

Thursday, July 7, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**BANC Sanctuary
ANNUAL JOHN BURROUGHS APPRECIATION DAY**

Hosts: Julie Clayton, 249-9489 &
Joanne Altre, 377-8549

Saturday, July 16, 10:00 AM

**Macedon Erie Canal Park
BUTTERFLY TRAIL**

Leaders: Jennifer Markham, 678-4005 &
Joanne Altre, 377-8549

Friday, July 22, 6:00 PM

**Potluck Dinner at BANC Sanctuary
SECRET LIFE OF FLOWERS**

Hosts: Carol Klinger, 377-6072 &
Jane Stock, 425-7293 &
Janel Egli & Lura Lelley

Tuesday, August 9, 9:00 AM

**Montezuma Area
MONTEZUMA WETLANDS COMPLEX**

Leaders: Shirley Shaw, 385-3907 &
Lucretia Grosshans, 671-1310

Friday, August 19, 6:00 PM

**Potluck at BANC Sanctuary
AN ALTERED LANDSCAPE**

Hosts: Jon & Sandy Dombrowski, 425-2380 &
Ginny Wilterdink, 385-3531

Tuesday, August 30, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

**OPEN HOUSE at BANC Sanctuary
SHARING BOOKS ABOUT NATURE**

Hosts: Shirley Shaw, 385-3907 &
Marigrace Piazza, 383-8462

Saturday, September 10, 9:00 AM

**Zurich Bog, Arcadia, NY
FUNGI AND PLANTS OF ZURICH BOG WOODS**

Leaders: Paul Brach, 342-5629 &
Dave Wolf, 482-2644