

The Tanager

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow BANC Members,

It is with great pride that I write to you today. We had many wonderful hard-working volunteers help with the Spring Clean-Up in April! Thank you all. As Kahil Gibran wrote in The Prophet, "Work is love made visible." It is so very true. The love you all feel for nature and our Sanctuary is very evident in your hard work and team effort!

Our Annual Banquet was quite the learning experience and there was a lot of fun and camaraderie shared by all who attended. We learned much about the outdoor architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, and I'd like to thank Mary Gordon and her fine crew for such a successful event!

I would also like to thank Janet Miles for helping lead the hike to High Acres Wildlife Refuge on a joint field trip with the Rochester Birding Association and Steve Daniel for guiding an energetic group throughout Rush Oak Openings.

I remind you to visit our website at www.bancny.com to note our upcoming events or view photos that have been posted by our webmaster, Paul Dudley. The recent photos have been taken by photography experts, Richard Ashworth and Robert Hinkelman. We have several other wonderful photographers in the club and I welcome you to post any new photos you may have taken at the sanctuary (or on field trips) by sending them to Paul to post under "What's New at the Sanctuary?" at banc@bancny.org.

I must tell you that one of our members whom we tragically lost in 2009 is being appropriately remembered with a wetlands preserve to be called the Christine Sevilla Wetlands Preserve. The wetlands (23 acres) are located in Caledonia and Christine's family has made a generous donation to the Genesee Land Trust in her memory. Christine was a tireless activist and talented artist who cared deeply about the environment. The fund will be used for the development of an interpretive kiosk and a boardwalk at the former Caledonia Wetlands Preserve, renamed the Christine Sevilla Wetlands Preserve in 2010. Naturalist and BANC member, Steve Daniel, who has been instrumental in this endeavor to preserve Christine's memory, will be leading a walk to explore these wetlands on August 5 at 10 AM. The preserve includes a wet meadow with uncommon plants and limestone at the surface, a diverse swamp forest, a marsh, and a shaded woodland stream. We will have more details about the walk in a member e-mail.

I have met some very inspirational people while belonging to BANC. Some have gone to their final rewards, some are with us continuing to learn and teach each other the lessons of science and nature, and I am anticipating meeting our new members and members who are yet to join!

I consider it a blessing to belong to such a fine organization. We have many interesting and interested individuals who are like-minded in that we love and value the natural world and work to enjoy and preserve it!

Enjoy the summer! See you at the hikes, open houses and pot lucks!

Sincerely,

Julie Clayton

MEET A MEMBER – JULIE CLAYTON



Musician. Activist. Volunteer. Educator. Singer. That's Julie Clayton, our current President – another of the amazingly versatile people that make BANC such a great organization.

Born in Geneva into an Italian-Polish family, Julie was a tomboy in her youth and very much into sports: baseball, football, tennis and basketball. In college at Brockport she studied speech, music and drama, and was headed for a career in elementary education. She had summer jobs in recreation in Geneva and later at Rotary Sunshine Camp in Irondequoit and then Rush. After college, she spent a year in the VISTA program, focusing on developing outdoor recreational opportunities in rural Nebraska – an activity well suited to her interests at the time, and an introduction to social activism. She later served on the Metro Justice board and The Golden Link "Sounding" Board, and sponsored Amerasians through the Catholic Family Center.

Back in Geneva, Julie taught pre-school for a year but then moved to Rochester. Initially she worked as a secretary in the absence of educational openings, but later she taught in Catholic elementary schools and subsequently in the Rochester City School District from 1986 to 2010. She had several assignments including teaching jail inmates (for fifteen years) and refugees from many countries. Now retired, she still does substitute teaching.

Julie and husband, Dean, met in 1984 and have been married for twenty-seven years. They have

one daughter, Sarah, who has just completed study at Fredonia to become a teacher!

Julie is an accomplished musician. She sang in the soprano section of the Eastman Rochester Chorus for eight years, and has followed her father in playing the fiddle (that's his violin she's holding in the picture.) She plays the piano and played the mandolin and bass (and sang) in a bluegrass band in the late seventies. She presently plays bass for a local group called No Drama Mamas.

Julie feels deeply that we need to act to preserve the natural world around us. Her particular interests are birds and trees, although she is really a nature generalist. She was first introduced to BANC by Dean, who was a new member back in 1993. Julie established her own membership and she is now in her second term as President, having previously held the office in 2008-2009. In her inimitable, gracious and good-humored style she prods the BANC Council and committees into action and undertakes a wide range of tasks personally. It is a pleasure to work under her leadership, which benefits all our members.

Richard Ashworth

New Bench at Sanctuary

A beautiful new bench arrived in early April and was installed on the porch. The bench is in honor of long-time and well-loved member, **Stephen Weber**. Many donations were received by the club in Steve's memory and his wish was to have an additional bench for members to enjoy. The bench is on the porch so that you may sit and watch the butterflies and hummingbirds flitting around the colorful flowers of the Margaret Weber Memorial Butterfly Garden. You can also enjoy the birds flying around the front yard and visiting our feeder! Many thanks to all of you who donated to the cause and especially to Steve Maley, John Gordon, Paul Brach and Bruce Cady for assembling and installing the bench!

Julie Clayton

Mother Nature cooperated on Saturday, April 14, while many helpful BANC members pitched in to get all sorts of necessary chores done to the clubhouse, lawn, parking lot and trails, mowers, etc. A heartfelt thanks to everyone, and thanks, too for all the goodies we shared afterwards. Now our lovely sanctuary is ready to be enjoyed, so, see you there!



Remembering Lois

As a girl, Lois Jenkins developed a lifelong love of nature. She joined BANC in 1967 to share this love and participated in field trips, meetings, and the Allegany Pilgrimage. Over her 45 years as a member she served as president twice, once as co-president with her husband Jerry, and headed several committees such as field trips, refreshments, and the fall picnic which she and Jerry ran for many years. As head of the education committee, she organized classes so we could learn to identify trees, wildflowers and butterflies. Her concern about many conservation issues prompted her to write letters and speak out at public meetings for protecting the environment and our parks.

In recent years Lois was BANC's official historian and assembled many photo albums of BANC events. She loved reading the hand-written minutes from the early years of our club and was transcribing them onto the computer so that they would be preserved and easy to access in the future. Lois and Jerry edited "Slab Hollow Farm", a booklet on the history of our Railroad Mills sanctuary, and had it reprinted with a new drawing of the farmhouse on the cover. She was very involved in planning the events of BANC's 90th anniversary in 2003 and was making plans for the celebration of our 100th anniversary next year.

Lois shared her love of nature not only at BANC, but at Helmer Nature Center where she volunteered for many years teaching both children and adults about nature and making nature crafts and helped with all their festivals. She walked in local parks to study and enjoy nature with the women of the Weekday Outdoor Walkers and was a leader in Campfire Girls, organizing their day camp in Webster Park and leading a canoe trip to the Adirondacks.

Lois loved hiking, camping, canoeing and downhill skiing and met Jerry at the YMCA's Outing Club which she joined as a young schoolteacher. Her fascination with local history led her to become one of the founders of the Irondequoit Historical Society in 1963, serve as a docent at Irondequoit's Pioneer House and Blacksmith Shop, and chair a committee to hire a town historian. Other interests included folk dancing, gardening, enjoying classical and folk music, reading, writing letters to friends and relatives, sewing, knitting, quilting, and crafts of all kinds. Lois did beautiful calligraphy, origami, basketry, and creative projects using dried flowers, pinecones, golden rod galls, acorns and other natural materials. She never watched TV without making something at the same time.

Lois loved to cook and bake and brought delicious soups, casseroles and desserts to share at our potlucks and clean-up days. She often experimented with cooking wild foods she gathered, like elderberries in jams and pies, cornelian cherries for a sauce, and fiddleheads in quiche. She had boundless energy and would host parties for friends and neighbors whenever there was something to celebrate. Lois enriched the lives of everyone who crossed her path. Our sincere condolences to her husband Jerry, and children Becky, Jeff and Peter.

Carol Hinkelman

NYSYBC Young Achievers - A Bright Future Ahead!

NYSOA's New York State Young Birders Club is coming up on its fourth anniversary this year. Two of our original Youth Members – Hope Batcheller and Erich Lehner – recently "aged out" (at the ripe old age of 20) and became Supporting Adult Members. Four others are also in college already, and another will be starting this fall. That will leave only one of the original 8 Charter Members who will not yet be in college.

That's life! The kids grow up and leave the nest! But empty nest syndrome will *not* be setting in at NYSYBC, because there are still 29 Youth Members, and half of them are under 15.

Benjamin Van Doren, age 18 – Recently Benjamin took 5th place (winning \$30,000) in Intel's prestigious national Science Talent Search for the project he presented at the 2011 NYSOA annual meeting. Benjamin investigated "a poorly understood behavior of nocturnal migratory birds, called *morning flight*, which has potential implications for the growing wind power industry." Check out <http://www.societyforscience.org/STS> and watch the video – it will make you feel better about the world! Last summer Benjamin volunteered time with Project Puffin, studying nesting seabirds – including Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, and Leach's Storm-Petrels – off the coast of Maine. Benjamin is first in his class of 500 at White Plains High School.

If you agree that it's important to encourage youngsters to become lifelong birders and conservationists, please consider becoming a Supporting Adult member and seize the opportunity to see our young birders in action on a field trip!

Condensed from article by *Carena Pooth*, NYSYBC Adult Chair

Julie Clayton

Exporting Our Oil

In our global economy today, the U.S. has many rivals in our thirst for energy. China, India and many other developing countries are using more and more energy for their industries, homes, and increasing numbers of motor vehicles. They hope to attain our high standard of living which is very energy-intensive.

Despite the glowing ads on TV and in magazines about our vast supplies of natural gas and oil that will make us self sufficient, energy companies want to make a large profit so they will sell to the highest bidder. They want to drill in as many places as they can in the U.S., not to free us from dependence on foreign countries for our energy, but to make as much money as they can.

Right now there is a boom in natural gas production using hydrofracking technology, but this glut of natural gas has driven prices to record lows in this country, while there is a huge market globally for that gas at higher prices. It can be sent through pipelines, liquefied and shipped abroad from LNG facilities at the same ports that were previously used to import natural gas for U.S. markets. Foreign companies are also buying up many of our energy companies and gas drilling rights in the U.S. and they won't care if hydrofracking causes pollution of our air and water and the destruction of our roads and bridges from heavy truck traffic.

You may have read recently that for the first time in our history, the U.S. is exporting more oil than it is importing. Oil companies are proposing more drilling on land and offshore despite the devastating effects we saw from the Deepwater Horizon spill which is still affecting wildlife. Environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitat in Alaska and off its coast could be severely impacted by drilling and spills from wells and pipelines so that the world's wealthiest industry can continue to make record profits while receiving \$24 billion a year in taxpayer subsidies.

Part of the Keystone XL pipeline from Oklahoma to Texas has now been approved so that dirty Canadian tar sands oil can reach Gulf coast refineries and export facilities. Meanwhile, Canadian oil giant Enbridge wants to reverse the flow of two existing New England oil pipelines that were used to import oil to the U.S., to bring tar sands oil from Canada through New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine to the coast where it can be shipped abroad on super tankers. These pipelines would endanger a number of drinking water sources, rivers and wild lands of New England. Tar sands oil pipelines are more susceptible to spills than other oil pipelines because the thick tar sands oil is sent

under greater pressure, and a spill of this type of dirty, heavy, corrosive oil takes longer to clean up. More than a year after another Enbridge pipeline spilled a million gallons of tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River, small businesses are suffering, property values are down, and miles of river remain closed.

Energy production is big business and producers are only interested in profits, not job production or helping us become energy independent, so take those TV ads with a grain of salt. Do we want to ruin our environment and our quality of life just so they can make more money?

For more information see www.nrdc.org, www.sierraclub.org, www.earthjustice.org, www.oceana.org, www.foe.org, and www.pewtrusts.org.

Carol Hinkelman

Robert G McKinney Remembrance and Dedication

On Sunday, May 6, the **Braddock Bay Bird Observatory** was dedicated to long-time Braddock Bay Bird Bander, Bob McKinney. The day was perfect for the occasion – bright and sunny! Matt Belanger kicked off the occasion with greetings and a message from the Braddock Bay Board of Directors. Guests were welcomed by Betsy Brooks and there were memories shared of Bob. They unveiled the plaque honoring Bob and the many guests mingled and shared fond memories of Bob. Bob McKinney had banded 122,597 birds in over 61 years! Bob was the expert! Bob gave banding demonstrations at the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage each June for over 25 years. Children and adults alike delighted at seeing Bob band birds and referred to Bob as the “The Bird Man”. In many of his banding exploits, Bob was assisted by his wife, Chita, “with whom I have traveled so very much and with whom we developed a wonderful faith in God who made it all possible.”

Many members of BANC were in attendance to honor Bob who had been a member of Burroughs Audubon since his youth.

Julie Clayton

Lesser Known Wildflowers

The canopy has closed. Another spring has passed. The fleeting ephemeral hepatica, bloodroot, marsh marigolds, trillium, jack in the pulpit, adder tongues and their cousins have flowered, traded their nectar for pollination, gone to seed, and folded up their tents for another year. The forest floor has cooled; action has moved to the roadside.

Mostly offshore imports such as the daisy, queen Ann's lace, bird's foot trefoil, and chicory line the side of the road while native black eyed Susan, butterfly weed, evening primrose, and echinacea grace the fields.

Each summer I look for a few of the less common wildflowers, some native, some not, and check them off my mental list.



Have you seen blue vervain where the ground stays damp? Its Latin name is *Verbena hastata*. The stems are square, two to three feet tall with tiny violet flowers arranged on

spikes. Native both here and Europe, folklore says the Iroquois put smashed these flowers in water to encourage obnoxious guests to go home. Blue vervain blooms all summer.



How about the smallest iris of them all, the Blue-Eyed Grass *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*? With long narrow leaves and a bright star shaped blue petals this small native plant

grows in small clumps and is always a delight to find. Native Americans used the root for tea to treat stomach ailments and intestinal disorders. June and July are the best months to find it.

Slow the car as you pass a field and try to spy what looks like a dandelion on steroids and you'll find goatsbeard, *Tragopogon pratensis*. One common name is meadow salsify but my favorite is Johnny-go-to-bed-at-noon since the flowers close at midday to escape the heat. After pollination the plant produces a globe of seeds similar to dandelion but much bigger. I have seen them eight inches in diameter and am always impressed. A few years ago I brought one home to photograph and now I never have to travel far to see them in bloom. Some people eat the root raw when young and cooked when they've matured.

And lastly, looking like a coarse sunflower is the nonnative elecampagne, *Inula helenium*, also known as horseheal or scabwort by animal owners

because it was once used to heal lung and skin problems on cows, sheep and horses. People have candied the root from the time of the Middle Ages and used this sweet to help asthma symptoms. I often see it on Boughton Hill Road in Victor, on the edge of a farm field down the hill from Ganondagon.

Let me know your favorite lesser known wildflower. There are so many out there. Email me at czbenard@gmail.com.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TICKS

Ticks can be found any time of the year, but now that the weather is warm and we are all out hiking and gardening, they become a special concern. As you know some ticks carry Lyme's Disease. Dog/wood ticks are not carriers but deer ticks/blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) can be infected.

Due to their tiny size it is often difficult to find a tick on you unless you felt it bite. Once a tick bites they will hold tight and can't be brushed off. It will continue to feed until sated, usually up to 24 hours after attaching, then spit to release itself and that is when you become infected. The trick is to remove the tick before it does so itself. So if you have been out in the woods check your ENTIRE body when you get home and again before going to bed. They like to crawl to warm, dark places.

Removing a tick is tricky. YOU MUST NOT HURT THE TICK!!!! You want the tick to let go without spitting and you must get the whole thing, head and all. With a pair of tick tweezers or regular tweezers GENTLY get ahold of the tick at the juncture of its head and body and SLOWLY pull the tick straight out. Once removed put it in a jar with a wet cotton ball and get it checked by your doctor or public health professional. Clean the area of the bite and keep an eye on it.

If, in the next 3 days to several weeks after being bitten you develop a bulls eye rash or red spot and begin feeling achy, headachy, generally flu-like symptoms get to a doctor. Only 30% of infected bites have the bulls-eye rash.

Treatment, if you get it right away, is simply a course of antibiotics. If you wait to get treatment you will have serious and painful health problems and the treatment will be prolonged.

Avoiding tick bites means first paying attention to where you are. If deer ticks have been found in the area, take precautions. Wear a hat, a long sleeve shirt tucked into your pants and long pants tucked into your socks. Wear light colored clothing. Stay in the middle of the trail away from greenery. Spray your clothing with insect repellent not just your skin. Above all, make sure to check every inch of your body when you get home. If you can, take your clothes off outside to stop ticks from coming into the house on your clothing. The best defense is to not allow a tick to get onto your skin and bite.

Marcia Kramer

The Tanager

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TO:

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, June 12, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Sherwood Fields
WILD FLOWERS AND BIRDS
Leaders: Carol and David Southby

Wednesday, June 20, 6:00 PM
Potluck Supper at BANC Sanctuary
OLD-TIME AND EARLY COUNTRY MUSIC
Hostesses: Joan Frenzel and Ruth McNamara

Saturday, July 7, 9:30 AM
Thousand Acre Swamp
BUTTERFLIES OF THOUSAND ACRE SWAMP
Leader: Shirley Shaw

Wednesday, July 11, 6:00 PM
Potluck Dinner at BANC Sanctuary
“ MY FAVORITE THINGS”
Hosts: Marilyn and George Schindler

Wednesday, July 18, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
OPEN HOUSE
HOSTS: Steve Maley and Mary Ann Fox

Wednesday, August 8, 10:00 AM
Durand Eastman Park
THE DURAND EASTMAN ARBORETUM
Leader: Ginny Wilterdink

Friday, August 10, 6:00 PM
Potluck Supper at BANC Sanctuary
“WANDERINGS”
Hosts: Sandra and Jon Dombrowski

Wednesday, August 22, 10: AM – 2:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
OPEN HOUSE
Hostesses: Loretta Pace and Ginny Wilterdink

Saturday, September 15, 3:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
ANNUAL PICNIC AND EVENING PROGRAM
Chairmen: Mary Ann Fox and Jutta Dudley