

BANC's 100th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 29th

Schedule of Activities

3:00 The Celebration begins!

- *Enjoy delicious punch and appetizers.
- *Walk the trails with Jon Dombrowski.
- *Learn about butterflies at our butterfly garden with Carol Southby.
- *Discover wild edible plants with Karen Wolf.
- *Examine rocks and minerals with Paul Dudley.
- *Help check Irondequoit Creek for aquatic life with Bill Hallahan.
- *Kids – make crafts with Jennifer Markham.
- *Try your luck at the 50-50 raffle.



4:00 Renowned naturalist/artist **John James Audubon** will mingle and interact with guests.

4:30 A **Scottish bagpiper** will, in BANC tradition, help us celebrate.

5:00 Yummy **Pot Luck Dinner** followed by special **100th Anniversary Cake**

7:00 Special program by **John James Audubon** (aka Mark Carra, nature educator)

John James Audubon was not only one of the greatest wildlife artists of all time, elevating illustration to the level of true artistry, he was a charismatic outgoing man whose magnetic personality drew in most people he met. His lifelong obsession with birds began at a very young age and he was encouraged by his father, stepmother, and his devoted wife Lucy. We will submerge ourselves in the life and colorful eccentricities of all that made Audubon such an admirable and beloved icon in the hearts and minds of everyone.

**Bring a favorite dish to share and your place settings.
Chairs and card tables would be helpful.
We will have a large tent in case of inclement weather.**

Please RSVP to Carol Hinkelman by e-mail at carolh@rochester.rr.com or call her at 663-2981 by June 24. This is not required, but would be greatly appreciated.



1927



1988



100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By Shirley Shaw

SUMMER TIME, and the Celebrating is Easy. . .If you're a Burroughs member, that is.

In this our One Hundredth Anniversary year, there are lots of opportunities to join with fellow members to create memories that will last a lifetime. The summer's highlight will be held at the Sanctuary on Saturday, June 29, when BANC's official 100th Anniversary Party will take place. What a treat is in store for us:

- ❖ Beginning at 3:00 p.m. the Sanctuary opens with guided walks, a craft table for children, a water watch event, and a variety of nature activities and exhibits.
- ❖ Punch and appetizers will be served on the porch.
- ❖ 50-50 raffle.
- ❖ Actor and naturalist Mark Carra, in the role of John James Audubon, will stroll the grounds in character starting at 4:00 p.m., giving us the chance to chat and interact with the most famous naturalist artist of all time.
- ❖ At 4:30 a bagpiper will help us celebrate as our club did when the sanctuary was dedicated in 1927.
- ❖ A pot luck dinner will be held at five o'clock.
- ❖ There will be a special anniversary cake for dessert.
- ❖ After dinner, Audubon (aka Mark Carra) will entertain us with an informative presentation.

Mark Carra has been a wildlife educator, naturalist, and animal handler for 18 years, and has entertained and educated over 200,000 amazed listeners. He demonstrates an incredible passion for wildlife and nature and has an amazing ability to share that passion with others. Mark has spoken for Animal Planet/Discovery Network and National Geographic in various cities around the eastern U.S. and has worked with Steve Irwin, "The Crocodile Hunter". He currently works as a naturalist for Buffalo Audubon at their Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. Members who attended the 2012 Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage, can tell you how Mark, in the character of Charles Darwin, held the audience of children through seniors, enthralled with his performance.

You don't want to miss any BANC events, but especially this one. Come early to fully participate in this once-in-a-lifetime celebration. Bring your camera, a folding chair, your table settings, a favorite dish to pass, and most of all your spirit of friendship and love of nature. Extra tables will be needed, so if you have a card table or other folding table, please have it with you. Savor the insects buzzing about our garden, the gorgeous trees and wildflowers along the trail, the birds at the feeder and in the wetland, and the comforting sounds of summer. Enjoy good food and good friends, and learn while you're doing it! Don't miss it!

RSVP's would be appreciated. E-mail Carol Hinkelman, carolh@rochester.rr.com, or call her at 663-2981 by June 24.

The Tanager

Published Quarterly by the
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club
c/o John E. Gordon
126 Ayrault Rd. Fairport, NY 14450
www.bancny.org



Volume 43, Number 2

June 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

The Annual Banquet in April was delightful! Many thanks to co-chairs, Mary Gordon and Sandy Dombrowski, and all the committee for their fine work! The tanager cookies are especially memorable! Steve Daniel's well-researched program really gave us some insight into the dedication and mettle of our founding members! Thank you, Steven!

I feel that our 100th Anniversary year has gotten off to a great start! We have more to come! The June 12th Open House with Wild Wings should be educational and fun. We will have a guided hike on the trails and will provide light refreshments. Come and bring your friends! On Tuesday, June 18th, Paul Brach will lead a trip to Zurich Bog. Zurich Bog consists of various vegetative zones.

On Saturday, June 29th, BANC will celebrate our 100 years with honored guest, John James Audubon, aka Mark Carra from Beaver Meadows Audubon Center. If you've ever met Mark, you know that you will be entranced by his characterization of Mr. Audubon. Our own BANC members will be sharing their knowledge of minerals, rocks, wildflowers, butterflies, stream life and birds on the trails! We will have a Scottish bagpiper playing some tunes that will resonate about our Sanctuary to help us in our celebration. Don't forget about the punch and appetizers and a special 100th Anniversary cake! Please bring your special dish to share for the Pot Luck! See you there!

On July 20, we will have an Open House celebrating John Burroughs. John Burroughs (1837 – 1921) was a very revered and famous nature writer of his time. Reading his books was how our organization had its inception in 1913! We will have the opportunity to read his writings and exchange thoughts about them! As Wikipedia puts it, "John Burroughs earned his place in the Ecology Hall of Fame with a million and a half copies of his twenty-three volumes of essays extolling nature and encouraging people to explore the natural world." That certainly is the goal of BANC!

We have other activities lined up to help you explore the natural world. Please refer to your yellow activities book or look on our website, www.bancny.org, for details.

Don't forget to bring your cameras to our events to present photos at our November members' meeting – Experience Night. Our theme will be Reminiscences. We will recap the 100 years of BANC and also the last eleven months of our events!

I'm sure you'll agree that through the enthusiasm and love of nature of our members, it is quite hopeful that Burroughs Audubon Nature Club will thrive for another hundred years!

Julie Clayton



John Burroughs with children

Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

On the front lawn at the Sanctuary is the distinctive straight trunk of a Tuliptree, also known as Yellow-poplar and Tulip Poplar, although it isn't a poplar. It is, in fact, closely related to the magnolias. It has rough, silver grey bark and the twigs have flat buds that resemble a duck's bill. These open to reveal distinctive four pointed leaves that resemble the shape of tulips. The bright gold fall color these give can be spectacular. In the spring large orange and pink, tulip shaped flowers bloom, often high up on the tree, and later in the year the pollinated flowers develop into seed cones. These look like candles on the branches as winter starts when they gradually fall apart to spread the winged seeds.

Bees visit the flowers for pollen and nectar to make honey. Hummingbirds visit for nectar and birds and small mammals eat the seeds. It is one of the trees that Tiger Swallowtail butterflies use on which to lay eggs. The larvae eat the leaves and pupate on the trees. When you see Tiger Swallowtails gliding through the canopy they are probably males looking to see if any females are newly emerged from chrysalises on the twigs.

To the pioneers it was a vital timber tree with which to build canoes, cabins and much more, like storage boxes as its wood does not contaminate food. Because of its utility the trees were exported to Europe as early as the 17th century and today it is still an important timber source. For us it is a great shade tree.

David Southby

"The Gulf"

On a gorgeous, sunny May 2nd, a group of about 15 members were delighted by a tour of the "The Gulf" outside of Mumford, NY. Steve Daniel led us through this part of the Onondaga Escarpment and revealed interesting geological features of this limestone outcrop, as well as beautiful spring flowers. But before we even reached "The Gulf" we stopped several times on the side of Scottsville-Mumford Rd. trying to catch the last few blooms of white trout lilies, which had formed huge patches on the hills. After the last stop, we were eager to get started hiking and get muddy.

This is my first hike with Steve and I've learned that a good breakfast must be had and you better be in good shape. Most of us scrambled behind him trying to keep up while he traveled through the forest, excited to show us the next feature. One of the first spring blooms we found was the pink

Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*). As we hiked on, we discovered flowers and ferns on the ground, in crevices on large sedimentary boulders and along the Oatka Creek banks. Steve pointed out the differences between Giant and Blue Cohosh, found Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) just past bloom, Goldenseal (*Hydrastis Canadensis*) flowering, Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricate*), and both yellow and white violets. We also found Bladder Ferns (*Cystopteris*) and the unusual Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrypus virginianus*). And Trillium!!! White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) were abundant and we even found the "freak" trillium, which is more green than white.

Do you know who we have to thank for spreading of many spring flowers? Ants!! Yes, these little insects that we curse when found indoors, actually help make our forests so beautiful. Steve explained that they are attracted to the oil around the seeds of many ephemeral plants, they extract the seeds, carry it back to their nest and eat part of it. They discard the rest, which germinates into a new plant.

At this point we were getting tired and hungry so we stopped for lunch in the shade of the black walnut trees by the creek. We caught the call of the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, watched a PeWee flittering among the shrubs, and enjoyed watching the mayflies swarm around....thankfully not in our sandwiches. But alas, the break was short and Steve convinced us to get going. We crossed the creek, crawled along the bank and... more flowers! The native Red Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*) was abundant, and Steve pointed out Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*), Dutchman's Britches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) in bloom, Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Yellow Trout Lilly (*Erythronium americanum*) and Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*). Unfortunately, I had to leave the group at this point, but those who climbed on with Steve continued to enjoy new discoveries and views along The Gulf. Not a trip to be missed the next time!

Sabrina Commisso

A Big Thank You!

To all those who helped with the cleaning (washing windows, vacuuming, cleaning & restocking the refrigerator etc.) in the Sanctuary on April 13 in preparation for our 100th Anniversary Celebration Activities.

Ginny Wilterdink



Conservation History

Since 1988, Carol Hinkelman, as Conservation Chairman, has reported to us at our Indoor Meetings and has written articles for the *Tanager*. Her reports over the last 15 years (now 25 years) have alerted us to local, state, and national issues such as the threat to Seneca Park by expanding the zoo, the energy crisis in the US, the proposed levees along Irondequoit Creek to "protect" Panorama Plaza from flooding, logging in Allegany State Park, drilling for oil in Alaska, Pinnacle Hill, and much, much more.

It was interesting to read the minutes of meetings in the early days of the Club and learn of issues that caused Club action back then. In 1932, voters of NYS were to be asked to amend the Constitution in relation to the use of the forest preserve for recreational purposes. The Club went on record as wholeheartedly opposed and made it its duty to see that neighbors voted "NO"! Notices were sent to all the newspapers. Mrs. Alexander Jack, personally, went to see all the editors of every newspaper in the city and there were many very good articles published to defeat the amendment. Amelia Heydweiller, Club secretary, wrote – "The strength of true lovers of the wild did defeat this amendment".

Evidently, there had been previous concern about the Lotus beds in Sodus Bay because, as Amelia Heydweiller reported in February 1933, she had again requested Assemblyman Richard Saunders to introduce a bill to the state legislature to protect the flowers. This he did with Bill #951. On April 4th, word came from Senator Slater that he was 100% for the Lotus Bill. Then on April 14th, the Secretary read a telegram from Assemblyman Saunders that the Bill had passed the Senate and was going to the governor for signing. Club members were requested to write to him and it must have paid off because on April 26th, Governor Lehman signed the bill placing the Lotus on the list of protected plants in NYS. On Experience Night, November 24, 1933, Mrs. Pierce reported that the previous summer she had visited Sodus Bay where she saw two acres of the lotus flowers in bloom. You can imagine the concern when word was received that the projected construction of a pier was threatening the lotus beds. Amelia telephoned Sen. Slater. When she visited the area, she was told that no permit had been given by the Conservation Commission and that the flowers were safe and as beautiful as ever. On Sunday August 11, 1935, 40 Club members had a field trip to Chimney Bluffs but first they went to Lotus Lodge at the head of Sodus Bay. They remained there for nearly an hour viewing the magnificent flowers from every angle. There was great satisfaction in knowing that through their efforts, the beautiful lotus blossoms had been saved and placed on the state's list of protected plants. Area maps are still marked with "Lotus Lily Beds" at the southern end of Sodus Bay. Has anyone seen them? Perhaps, we should schedule a summer canoe trip to check on them.

There were other concerns – the doomed Sugar Pines in Yosemite, the traffic of feathers, the shooting of

wildfowl over baited waters, the use of obnoxious steel traps, the condition of oil-polluted waters, etc. – but the one issue that caught my eye was the protection of birds of prey. (I couldn't help but remember the years of birdwatching Laurie and Neil Moon did to prove that our own Braddocks Bay area was the hot spot for watching the Spring migration of birds of prey.)

Rosalie Edge, whose name may be familiar to many of you, was chairman of the Emergency Conservation Committee that she had started to spread the word about the plight of North American wildlife and wildlands. Our Club felt that the Committee had merit and voted to support it with a donation of \$5.00. (Don't laugh at that little amount – our dues in 1934 were only \$1.00 so \$5.00 was a fair amount of money.) While at a meeting of the Hawk and Owl Society in NYC in 1933, Rosalie Edge heard an appeal made by Richard Pough, a young amateur ornithologist from Philadelphia. Pough, along with his brother and a friend, had discovered a grisly hawk shooting site on what later became Hawk Mt. The men gathered the dead birds, lined them up row upon row, and photographed them. His photos were instrumental in the campaign to halt the slaughter of birds of prey. Rosalie Edge, using the Emergency Conservation Committee, spread the word and began raising money to purchase the Mountain. (No small feat during the depression years!). She founded Hawk Mt. In September 1934 – the first sanctuary in the world to protect birds of prey – and engaged a young New England ornithologist, Maurice Broun, who with his wife, Irma, was the first caretaker of Hawk Mt. for 32 years. BANC supported the Hawk and Owl Society with \$5.00 contributions and bought a copy of *Hawks of North America* by Dr. John May. Richard Pough, who became a National Audubon Society Staff Member in charge of Persecuted Species, spoke at our Club's meeting in April 1940 on the subject, "Is There Any Harmful Wildlife?" Maurice Broun spoke to the Club twice – on February 18, 1947 when he told us of "Hawk Mt. Highlights" and again on April 22, 1949. Club members Sandy and Allan Klonick were longtime friends of the Brouns as was Joe Taylor who was president of Hawk Mt. for many years. Many BANCers feel a kinship with Hawk Mt. because of the early involvement of our Club in its conservation. Club sponsored trips to the Mt. were held in 1956, '71, and '88. Is it time to schedule a trip there again?

Mrs. Horace Pierce, Carol's predecessor, by 58 years, presented a paper entitled *Conservation* at the January 11, 1935, meeting. At the end of her talk, she told the group that the US government had purchased 4,000 acres in Pennsylvania, the last remnant of virgin forest in eastern US, and that Hawk Mt. had been leased with option to buy. She ended with a wistful plea that "someone might take the pleasure in preserving Pinnacle Hill for an Inviolable Sanctuary; to keep it for its intrinsic beauty, its geological interest, its fine old trees, its outlook over the city to the north and its long-range vista to the south. It is a natural treasure for lovers of the beautiful in Nature.



A GIANT EXPERIMENT



Research on DNA and genetics in the past few decades has enabled scientists to transfer genes from one plant or animal to another to create new varieties that never existed before. The first genetically modified plant was created in 1983 and in 1994, the first GM food to be approved for sale in the U.S. was a tomato designed to delay ripening after picking. Many other GM food crops soon followed. To date, more than 25 GM crops have been approved to be grown commercially in the U.S. and roughly 85% of corn, 91% of soybeans, and 95% of sugar beets produced in the U.S. today are GM varieties.

This major change in our food supply happened very quickly, largely out of the awareness of the public and with very little testing for safety to our health and the environment. The companies responsible for these crops claim that the foods are safe and their nutrition is the same as non-GM varieties, yet they also say the plants are different enough that they can be patented and their seeds are sold for much higher prices than the conventional versions of these crops. As these companies gain control of the seed market, they have withdrawn the seeds of many of the previous plant varieties from the market making it difficult for farmers to get non-GM seed.

Farmers who grow patented varieties have to sign a contract which forbids them to save seeds from these crops to plant the next time. Each year they have to buy new seed which is very expensive. Other farmers trying to grow organic crops have found that pollen drift from the GM crops pollinates their plants. Pollen can travel great distances on the wind and contaminate the crops of farmers growing non-GM varieties. Monsanto has sued farmers that had Monsanto patented plants growing in their fields, but hadn't bought Monsanto's seeds, even though the farmers didn't want the GM plants. The Supreme Court in May sided with Monsanto in the case of a farmer who grew Monsanto's GM soybeans without buying the seeds from Monsanto.

There is a lot of controversy surrounding GM crops. While GM foods are promoted as safe and

nutritious, little testing has been done except by their producers. Biotech companies have used patent claims and intellectual property protection laws to restrict access of independent researchers to GM crops for research purposes, but what little independent research that has been done has shown harmful effects in animal feeding trials. Research has not been done on humans. Are these foods really just as nutritious? Will moving genes from one organism to another cause allergies in unsuspecting consumers? Will eating GM foods cause cancer over a long period of time? The FDA, our leading agency on food safety, requires no mandatory testing for environmental or human safety of these crops whatsoever and officials of FDA, EPA, and USDA, many of whom are former lobbyists or employees of GM industries, have allowed and even promoted, GM crops.

China and India, as well as most European countries, require GM foods to be labeled so that consumers know they are GM foods and have a choice when shopping, but in the U.S., the producers of these foods have fought labeling and regulation. Last year, Monsanto spent huge sums to defeat California's Proposition 37 which would have required labeling of GM foods. Now Monsanto is trying to put language into the federal farm bill Congress is debating that prevents states from requiring labeling of GM products. Farmers cannot export these GM crops because other countries don't want them.

It is difficult to keep GM foods out of your diet when you don't know which ones they are and when corn syrup and canola and soybean oils from GM plants are in almost all of our processed food. GM corn and soy are also fed to the cows, pigs and poultry that we eat and that produce the eggs, milk and dairy products we consume. Salmon that is genetically engineered to grow faster and larger is about to be approved for sale here. If that farmed GM salmon gets loose and breeds with wild salmon, it could eliminate the wild salmon species.

Legislation has been introduced in the NY Assembly and Senate that will require labeling of GM foods here. Ask your state legislators to support bill A.3525 in the NYS Assembly and bill S.03835 in the NYS Senate. American families should not be made guinea pigs in a huge genetic experiment.

Carol Hinkelman

MEET A MEMBER – SHIRLEY SHAW



Shirley Shaw is one of the premier 'go-to' volunteers in the Rochester nature scene. Whether it's a social event, a field trip, a conference or an administrative task, and irrespective of the organization, you can bet that Shirley's there, lending her skills and her welcoming smile to the effort.

Shirley was born and raised in North Carolina. She remembers her mother maintaining a bird feeder and recalls seeing Red-headed Woodpeckers there among several memorable species. This experience, coupled with nature study in the Brownie/Girl Scout movement, instilled a love of and interest in nature at an early age and she was active in Mecklenburg Audubon Society.

Shirley graduated from UNC at Greensboro and then in 1975 she and her husband John moved to Rochester, where John expected to be working for five years; they're still here! Shirley obtained her Master's degree in Education from Nazareth College and started working at MCC, teaching English as a Second Language and Transitional Studies. Later she moved to the Educational Opportunity Center (part of SUNY Brockport), from where she retired as Director of Academic Affairs about 1½ years ago. She says she misses the students but not the work. Her interest in birds was kindled by the visit of an Indigo Bunting to her backyard, which prompted her to buy a field guide. After arriving in Rochester, she was introduced to the local birding community by Dick O'Hara, a neighbor, and joined the fledgling Rochester Birding Association. Shirley has served as President, Secretary and Board Member of RBA, as well as Vice-President and Secretary of the Butterfly Club, and has also served on the Nominating Committees of both organizations. She has also been very active for many years in the Thousand Acre Swamp Preservation Committee.

In 2006 a friend bid on a BANC membership in the WXXI Auction and gave the membership to Shirley as a gift. (Shirley says she can't understand why she came so late to the club.) Inevitably, she has since

been active in various BANC activities and many of you will remember her most recently as a welcoming hostess at the Annual Banquet. Shirley is currently serving on the BANC Executive Council as Recording Secretary.

With more leisure time available since her retirement, Shirley enjoys attending concerts and Dryden Theater movies. She is looking forward to visiting her daughter Katie, who will be studying in Geneva, Switzerland next year.

Richard Ashworth

2013 World Series of Birding – Help Ensure a Bright Future for Birds & Birders

NYSOA's New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) helps to ensure that passionate, committed conservationists will follow in our footsteps long after our own birding days have faded into the past.

Once again this year, NYSYBC had two teams competing in the Youth Division of the World Series of Birding on May 11 – the *Razorbills* (high school) and the *Vagrants* (middle school). Since NYSYBC's first *Razorbills* team took flight in 2009, participation in the WSB has been the club's primary fundraising activity each year. WSB donations have helped NYSYBC youngsters attend camps and other educational programs related to birds and conservation each year since then.

NYSYBC has grown from 8 in 2008 to 37 today (not including our 4 alumni members who are now over 20). With the help of generous sponsors over the last 3 years, we have awarded a total of about \$7000 to 11 young birders. This year we hope to award scholarships to help some more young birders turn their current passion into a lifelong pursuit.

Please consider helping us keep the NYSYBC scholarship program strong. Please send your check to Carena Pooth, NYSOA/NYSYBC Adult Chair, at the address below. Your check should be made out to NYSOA with "NYSYBC WSB - RTWBC" in the memo line. If you prefer, you may make your donation online with a credit card. To do this, go to www.nysyoungbirders.org and click on **DONATE** in the banner menu at the top of the page. The kids are very excited about the 2013 World Series of Birding! Thank you so much for your support!

Carena Pooth
22 Brothers Rd.
Poughquag, NY 12570
carena@prodigy.net

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

Wednesday, June 12, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
OPEN HOUSE WITH WILD WINGS
Hosts: Joanne Altre & Julie Clayton

Tuesday, June 18, 8:30 AM
Zurich Bog Preserve
EXPLORING ZURICH BOG
Leader: Paul Brach

Saturday, June 29, 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
100th YEAR CELEBRATION AND POTLUCK DINNER
JOHN JAMES AUDUBON LIVE!
For info, call Julie Clayton

Saturday, July 13, 9:30 AM
Whiting Road Preserve, Webster
BUTTERFLIES, BIRDS, AND SUMMER FLOWERS
Leader: Norma Platt

Saturday, July 20, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
OPEN HOUSE - "JOHN BURROUGHS DAY"
Hosts: Janet Miles & Ginny Wilterdink

Friday, July 26, 6:00 PM
Potluck dinner at BANC Sanctuary
FUN WITH DYES
Hosts: Carol Klinger & Jane Stock

Sunday, August 11, 2:00 PM
Montezuma National Wildlife refuge
SHOREBIRDS AND OTHER MIGRANTS
Leader: Janet Miles

Thursday, August 15, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
OPEN HOUSE
Host: Steve Maley

Friday, August 23, 6:00 PM
Pot Luck Dinner at BANC Sanctuary
SOUNDS OF A SUMMER NIGHT
Hosts: TBD

Tuesday, September 17, 9:00 AM
Letchworth State Park
FALL WANDERINGS IN LETCHWORTH
Leaders: David & Carol Southby