

The Tanager



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summertime and the living is easy. Fish are jumping, wildflowers are blooming, butterflies are nectaring, birds are breeding, gardens are growing, and BANC has a full list of activities to keep us connected to each other and nature. You don't want to miss any of them, so consult your Handbook of Information and Activities or our web site at www.bancny.org for details.

On Saturday, June 21, under the fine organizational skills of Trustee Chris Benard, BANC will hold a book sale and open house. This is an opportunity not simply to fundraise: it's a chance for the community to become acquainted with our organization, the club house, and its wonderful sanctuary as people browse through the books we offer, make purchases, and ask questions. Many hands make light work at an event like this one, so please contact Chris at 585-924-4979 or czbenard@gmail.com and volunteer to help out with sorting or selling.

Summer and picnics go hand-in-hand, and Burroughs does dining al fresco better than any group I know. We're having potlucks on June 26, July 18, and August 8, plus there will be two open houses—on July 30 and August 20—where you can have your own meal while enjoying your time at the Sanctuary.

The programs for the potlucks and open houses are varied: Nancy Rosenberg will tell us about BANC's own Renaissance man, Munro Will, on June 26. Many of you remember Munro. I treasure memories of tours to waterfalls that he led. He was a delightful naturalist. Our own Roger Cass and his musical group Over and Under will entertain us with some traditional American music after dinner on July 18. For those of you who loved Martha Zettel and Bill O'Neill's great presentation last year on night sounds, you'll be fascinated on August 8 when Martha talks to us about the lives of bats and then takes us on a walk through the Sanctuary where her bat detecting equipment will help us listen to bats as they catch their evening meal.

Last year in celebrating BANC's 100th anniversary, we inaugurated John Burroughs Appreciation Day. Attendees brown-bagged their lunches and then shared their thoughts about excerpts from Burroughs' writings that were provided. BANC's library is fortunate to have a complete set of these writings, but in addition, thanks to Marigrace Piazza, this year we will also have available a fascinating account of the relationship between President Theodore Roosevelt and John Burroughs and how that relationship benefits our country to this day. Your booklet has an incorrect date listed, so note that the correct day is August 20.

Besides our events at the Sanctuary, Burroughs is co-sponsoring a field trip to Canadice Lake Road on July 22, where we'll join members of the Rochester Butterfly Club looking for butterflies, birds, and wildflowers. In addition to this BANC field trip, there are many field trips throughout the summer months: Rochester Birding Association, Rochester Butterfly Club, Thousand Acre Swamp along with other properties of The Nature Conservancy, and Genesee Land Trust provide multiple opportunities for learning and observation. You usually do not have to be a member of these organizations to attend the field trips, so research web sites and brochures to learn what is being offered. They're all great organizations and two have BANC members as their presidents: Lynn Bergmeyer at Rochester Birding Association and Carol Southby at the Rochester Butterfly Club.



I know many of you will be traveling this summer. I wish you safe journeys and pleasant experiences. I'll be around since I took my vacation in April, when I went to Geneva, Switzerland. This photo shows the view from the United Nations building in Geneva, looking out over a peaceful lake and beyond to snow-capped mountains. Isn't our natural world the best? I know you'll take time to savor it.

Shirley Shaw

BUTTERFLIES AS BOTANISTS

At our members meeting held on March 14, member and naturalist, Steven Daniel, gave an intriguing and colorful presentation about our favorite insect -- the butterfly! He presented to a full house of fifty-five eager listeners who were not disappointed.

Steve showed some marvelous photos of butterflies and caterpillars. He showed Mourning Cloaks, often the first butterfly seen in March, which lays eggs on willow. We also saw pictures of Monarchs, Queens, and Soldiers, which all lay their eggs on milkweed.

Some butterflies feeding on certain plants help them produce defensive compounds that may make them distasteful to birds. Thomas Eisner from Cornell has studied the defensive chemistry of butterflies and other insects.

Steve discussed mimicry in butterflies. He showed the Viceroy, which look like Monarchs, and may mimic it (and vice versa). Viceroy and many butterflies feed on willow, which contains salicylic acid (compound in aspirin) and become distasteful to predators. He showed the Pipevine Swallowtail that becomes distasteful by



Viceroy

feeding on Pipevine, and several 'look-alikes', like the Spicebush Swallowtail, that are not distasteful but presumably gain some protection by looking like the bad-tasting one. The Giant Swallowtail feeds on citrus family plants. He showed a fascinating video he took of a Giant Swallowtail larva hatching out of its egg.

We saw Spicebush Swallowtail and Palamedes Swallowtail caterpillars that both look amazingly alike -- and like snakes with large fake eyespots!



Tiger Swallowtail

Steve showed Zebra Swallowtail eggs on Pawpaw plants and explained about the female Clodius Parnassian and the "chastity belt" the male glues on the female after mating!

We saw whites and sulphurs. Cabbage Whites eat cabbages and Brussels sprouts. West Virginia White caterpillars eat Toothwort. Sometimes they feed on garlic mustard, an invasive plant that is related to toothwort, and they don't successfully develop when they do. It is a species that is declining. We saw Clouded Sulphur larva feed on pea plants, like ordinary clover.

Steve showed us the blues, coppers and hairstreaks. Blues often feed on lupines.

There are many stunning green Juniper Hairstreaks in Sampson State Park, laying eggs on the Juniper Trees (often in May). The Harvester butterfly produces a carnivorous caterpillar that eats aphids that are often found on alder.



America Copper

We saw many examples in the brush-footed family, including Viceroy, the Red-spotted Purple, and White Admiral. The White Admiral feeds on the willow family.

Baltimore butterflies and larvae feed on Turtlehead and English Plantain.

2011 was the year of the Buckeye in the Northeast.

The Hackberry tree is the favorite of the many special butterflies -- Hackberry Emperor, Tawny Emperor, and American Snout.

The fritillaries -- Great Spangled, Atlantis, Aphrodite, and Meadow in our area, all lay eggs near violets.

The American Lady uses Pussy Toes.

Steve showed the Eastern Comma and the Gray Comma (which likes gooseberries).

Steve also discussed grasses and sedges, and the butterflies that use them. The Yucca Giant Skipper is found only on Yucca.

DNA is now being used to understand the relationships between butterflies. Sometimes what we thought was one species turns out to be as many as ten! In Northwest Costa Rica, a common butterfly is the Two-barred Flasher; the adults all look alike, but the caterpillars all look different and feed on different host plants.

Poison ivy berries are important food for birds, as well as certain moths. Steve showed the Leaf Miner Moth.

At the end of the presentation, Steve fielded some questions.

It was quite evident that the audience really appreciated Steve's amazing presentation!

Julie Clayton

CLEAN-UP DAY

Our Club House, after the cleaning crew worked their magic on April 12th, was glowing. Please gaze out



the windows, not a spot to interfere with the view. Some of the hard workers were, Ruth Morrill, Jutta Dudley, Janet Miles, and Barbara Lobb. There are others who are aware of the care that the building needs and we thank them too.

Ginny Wilterdink

The Earth as Vernal Pool

On a warming afternoon around the beginning of March last spring, I heard the first calls from a population of wood frogs that collect in a series of vernal pools on the northwest side of my property. Their ducklike quacking, along with the appearance of mourning cloak butterflies, and the spearing heads of skunk cabbage in the local swamps, is a reliable indication of the advent of true spring. But the last few years have been uncertain. Dry spells have become more common, even in spring, and for whatever reason the pools have been drying out earlier than usual, threatening the year's crop of frogs. Last spring was the worst of these years.

The season started well enough: the snows melted, the ice went out of the pools, and the wood frogs arrived on schedule and began calling. By April, I could see the little clouds of jellied eggs floating freely or attached to submerged twigs and branches. But around mid-April, the rains ceased and we entered into a dry spell, coupled with some strange unseasonably high temperatures. The pond edges began to shrink. The heat and drought continued into May, and soon enough it looked like the pools would dry out even before the eggs hatched.

I'm not sure of the legality, or even the wisdom, of what followed, but I set out on a campaign to rescue at least a segment of the population. I have three different ornamental pools in my garden, two of them heavily vegetated and deep enough to maintain cool waters. So little by little I began collecting eggs from the vernal pools and moving them to my own pools. I had help in this from a willing five year old, and three or four times a week we would carry a net and buckets to the vernal pools, scoop up a mass of eggs, and carry them back to the garden.

Our rescue operation continued all through May. And all the while, the heat and the drought wore on, and the pools diminished day by day, foot by foot, leaving a surround of wet vegetation.

Nonetheless, at some point during that month some of the eggs hatched; I could see the little tadpoles in the deeper water. The boy and I would wait and watch for wriggling ripples in the still waters and then scoop them out with the nets and carry the tadpoles back to the garden pools.

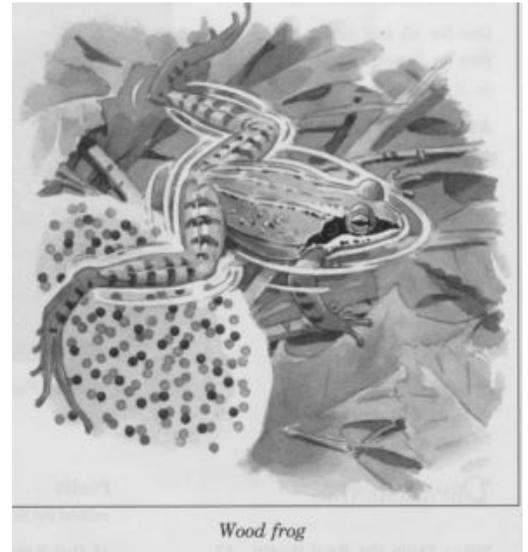
As the vernal pools dried, this rescue operation began to take on a bit of desperate maneuver. By early June, with still no significant rain, the center of the pools was no more than a mud puddle teeming with wriggling tadpoles. And beyond these last refuges, in the drying leaves, we could find multitudes of those unfortunates that did not survive. We began going out every morning, bringing in more and more survivors. Finally, as far as we could tell, there were no more struggling tadpoles in the now-dried-out pools.

Meanwhile the ones we had rescued thrived. Slowly over the month of June and early July the tadpoles grew legs. We checked their progress by netting them to watch the growth of their legs and the slow shrinking of their tails. Happily, as the season progressed, there seemed to be fewer and fewer in the pools—presumably a good sign. They were making their way out into the wide world.

Then, late in the summer, along with the usual adults that seem to appear at the end of the growing season each year, I began spotting tiny wood frogs, more than usual.

I see a metaphor in all this. Without our intervention that season's crop of local frogs would not have thrived, thereby decreasing, however slightly, the number of wood frogs in the world. The adults that originally laid the eggs will probably return to their native ponds this year, and the year after. But in an increasingly warming planet, and with the associated vagaries of bizarre weather, who knows how long that population would last? So our efforts, for the time being, were justified.

But in a sense, the world is a vernal pool. The climate is warming, habitats are disappearing worldwide, populations of wild things are shrinking, and there are no god-like giants roaming the earth to scoop us up and carry us off to a better more sustainable planet.



MEET-A-MEMBER JANET MILES

BANC is largely populated by professionals with a wide range of nature interests and a willingness to devote time and energy to its mission and continuing vitality. Janet Miles is one of those people, to whom all members owe a debt of gratitude.

Janet was born and raised in Rochester, the youngest of three siblings, and attended West High and SUNY Brockport. Her first introductions to nature were as a young child: her father was a keen gardener and took the family on vacations in the Adirondacks. She also took nature courses in college, while training as a teacher.

Shortly after leaving college Janet followed her sister to Texas (Corpus Christi). She now regrets that she was not an active birder at this point!

Janet's career was in elementary teaching. Although 4th and 5th grades were her favorites, she taught every grade from 1st through 6th in Texas, Long Island, Greece (NY) and the City of Rochester before entering her very active retirement.

Janet is very well travelled. She recalls her first long distance trip as a 'Grand Tour' to Europe with a professor from Brockport. Since then she has travelled extensively with VENT and Lakeshore Nature Tours, Elderhostels and Smithsonian, visiting Manitoba, Australia and many places in between by train, ship, riverboat and airplane. Many of these trips have been focused on birding, but Janet's interests also include wildflowers and mammals. She would particularly like to revisit Churchill for the bears.

Early in her time as a birder, Janet joined GOS and BANC, although she was not really active in BANC until she rejoined in 1993. Since then she has led field trips as well as participating as a member. She remembers well, trips west of Rochester with Steven Daniel and to the Dansville preserve with Paul Brach (Fringed Gentians!).

BANC life relies largely on its committees and Janet is an active helper in several of them: currently the Banquet, Field Trips and Sanctuary Building Housekeeping Committees. You see that Janet contributes greatly to the enjoyment of the club by other members like you and me.

Richard Ashworth

FIELD TRIP TO HIGH ACRES

When the BANC Field Trip Committee planned the March 29 walk at the High Acres Nature Area, we envisioned early spring: spring peepers deafening us, bird song everywhere, and shoots of vegetation providing green all around. Who would have thought a late March visit would have found the ponds half frozen, the green provided only by the mosses covering old logs, and the evening's forecast for major snow? Luckily the weather, while chilly and damp, did not include morning precipitation, and six stalwart BANC women (Joanne Altre, Mary Gordon, Kathy Henrie, Carol Hinkelman, Shirley Shaw, and Ginny Wilterdink) accompanied Bruce Cady, the lone BANC male in attendance and our leader, on an invigorating and interesting two mile walk.

Bruce, who spends innumerable hours volunteering at HANA, explained the management of the area. Federal law requires mitigation when wetlands are taken for other purposes, such as the Waste Management landfill, and Bruce explained various projects—with their pitfalls and successes—that the company has undertaken to provide our community with this natural area.

Needless to say, the "numerous" birds promised in BANC's booklet's description of the walk, were not-so-numerous after all. It was much too cold for spring peepers to be calling, and the vegetation was not emerging.

The thrill of the day turned out to be Snow Geese. Hundreds, probably thousands of them, flew over us in wave after wave, during our walk. Canada Geese were around as well, but they were far fewer than the Snow Geese. We also observed three swans in the distant sky, and one Great Blue Heron was seen as well.

Since the ponds were half frozen, ducks were not numerous. We found quite a few Mallards, a pair of Hooded Mergansers, seven Pintails, and three Ring-necked Ducks. Red-winged Blackbirds were all about, and there were a few Robins. Bluebirds delighted us, and a Song Sparrow serenaded as we concluded our walk.

Everyone enjoyed the morning out, and our thanks go to Bruce Cady for being a knowledgeable guide.

Shirley Shaw

BRADDOCK BAY RESTORATION

Braddock Bay is a favorite place for BANC members and other environmentalists largely because it is a place to spot many birds on their migration path twice a year. It is composed of wetlands that are habitat for many types of birds and aquatic life.

However, problems have developed in the bay. Cattails have come to dominate the wetlands, establishing a monoculture. They have displaced desirable, native plants such as marsh grasses which northern pike, an important predator that keeps other fish populations in check, use for spawning. At Buck Pond, which is on the east end of the Braddock Bay complex, crews from several organizations are digging holes in mats of cattails to make it easier for pike to spawn.

Erosion has also become a problem. Storm waves have eroded about an acre per year of shoreline wetlands, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. The agency says that more than half of the bay's remaining coastal wetlands could be gone within fifty years.

To help restore the area, the Corps of Engineers plans to break up dense patches of cattails in Braddock Bay. The project may also include a breakwater at the bay's mouth which could slow down the erosion of its coastal wetlands.

Craig Forgette of the Corps of Engineers says the water level has been manipulated by hydropower dams in the St. Lawrence Seaway. Waves are crashing against the shore eroding the land, a problem that goes back to 1972, with Hurricane Agnes. The forces of the hurricane wiped out a naturally-formed sand barrier, and The Army Corps wishes to partially replicate the barrier beach. It proposes using a mound of large, irregularly-sized stones, to build a breakwater at the bay's mouth. It would not end erosion, but it would slow it down substantially.

The Corps of Engineers is focusing on re-establishing the black tern. The bird hasn't been nesting in the bay's wetlands since the late 1990's. Black tern is an edge-sensitive species requiring large contiguous wetland complexes; smaller separated wetlands are not suitable for nesting and breeding habitat. A single large wetland is better for black tern than several smaller wetlands of the same total acreage. If the wetlands can be restored to a state that is attractive to these birds, it will be attractive to important fish and other animal species, too.

The Corps estimates that the costs of the combined barrier and wetland enhancement work at nine million dollars. In March, Senator Chuck Schumer called on the EPA to fully fund the project. However, the Corps' plan will compete with other Great Lakes environmental projects for federal funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Also, Lake Ontario's water levels don't have natural high and low periods. That situation is desirable for shippers, boaters and those who live on the shore. The water level has been manipulated by hydropower dams in the St. Lawrence Seaway. The management plan for those levels was last altered in the 1950's. The consistent level is not good for marshes. For the past decade, the International Joint Commission has been developing plans to change the regulation of Lake Ontario's water levels.

There is a lot to learn about this important issue. Much information can be acquired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Buffalo District) website and the Braddock's Bay Initiative. Information for this article was also from the Rochester City Newspaper, March 26th issue.

Julie Clayton

Dayflower *Commelina communis*

A minor player in the summer wildflower lineup found in moist shady areas is the Asiatic dayflower. Flowers last just a day but continue blooming for most of the summer.



Dayflowers have two bright blue petals and a small white recessive one. According to H.W. Ricketts in his *Wildflowers of the United States*, the genus was named "by Linnaeus, with his usual humor, for three Dutch brothers named Commeljin, two of whom (the upper two petals) were botanists of some repute, while the third (the

insignificant lower petal), did nothing for science." According to Neltje Blanchan, "delightful Linnaeus ...dearly loved his little joke."

The blue blossoms often glisten in the sun, sometimes from dew but mainly because the petals contain a number of clear cells scattered among the many blue ones. These clear cells reflect light and sparkle to attract bees.

Plants creep along the ground sending out new roots where the leaves are attached at the nodes. In the right spot dayflowers form colonies (hence the name *communis* or community) so dense native plants cannot compete.

Reading comments on garden websites, the further south one lives, the bigger pest it may become. Here in upstate New York we may see it occasionally in a damp meadow or roadside.

Some believe the Asiatic dayflower was imported in the 19th century because of its intense blue petals. Others think it arrived here accidentally, its seeds already in soil surrounding more desirous plants.

The Asiatic dayflower has even another attribute.

Jim Meuninck in his *Herbal Odyssey* CD says "I eat the plant (flowers in summer and shoots in spring) in salads; leaves, flowers and shoots are delicious." John D. McCann at his website, survivalresources.com, writes "...we like to steam them for 10 minutes and eat them like spinach. Although we eat a lot of wild edibles this is one of our favorite steamed."

I enjoy websites where food hunters share their knowledge of wild edibles but I still wouldn't try anything till I watched an expert prepare and eat it himself. I hope you'll do likewise. Enjoy the summer. It seems to never last long enough to do everything we want.

Chris Benard

DUES NOTICE

At the end of April, a little more than 50% of the club membership had paid their dues for 2014. That means, of course, that a little less than 50% of the club membership has not. ***If you have forgotten to send your dues in, please do so right away.*** Our enjoyable programming and much-loved Sanctuary and club house come to us at a cost, and none of us want to pay the price that reduced income would mean.

Wired Watersheds

by *Jennifer Markham*

(Very loosely to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*)

To get to know your watershed,
You don't have to get wet,
There are places to explore
On the internet.

On EPA's **Surf Your Watershed**¹

Hydrologic units are unique
04140101

Contains Irondequoit Creek.

If you want to use a map
To trace the water's flow
Upstream or downstream, either way,
Streamer's² the place to go.

If citizen science is your thing
Then **FieldScope**³ is the place
To enter or search water quality data
For watersheds of the Great Lakes.

If listening for frogs and toads
Is what makes your day,
You can share what you have heard
at **FrogWatch USA**⁴.

A watershed map of New York State
Plus water quality
Is detailed online for all to read
Thanks to **DEC**⁵.

Surf, surf, surf online
And see what you can see
But best of all's a streamside walk
At BANC sanctuary.

¹ <http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

²

<http://nationalmap.gov/streamer/webApp/welcome.html>

³ <http://greatlakes.fieldscope.org/>

⁴ <http://frogwatch.fieldscope.org/>

⁵ <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/60135.html>

Congratulations to the following BANC members
for working on another successful Allegany
Pilgrimage:

Dean Clayton	Kathy Henrie
Julie Clayton	Jennifer Markham
Frank Crombe	Harold Stock
Steven Daniel	Jane Stock

Children's Art Corner

Art work in honor of World Turtle Day

From the The Barn Owl Birding and Nature Center



By Isaac age 5



By Lindsay age 9



By Teague age 7



By Sarah age 9



By Ben age 10

The Barn Owl Birding and Nature Center is owned by BANC member and trustee Sarah Conley. It is located near the Penfield Four Corners in Penfield.

2014 Annual BANC Banquet at Glendoveers, April 23, 2014



Gay Mills, Executive Director of the Genesee Land Trust, gave an informative talk about GLT's preserves, including a bit of the organization's history. BANC visited one of these preserves, Ganargua Meadows, on a field trip led by Carol and David Southby on May 1. On Tuesday, September 9, at 10:00 a.m., we will visit Gosnell Big Woods and Field, with a walk led by Norma Platt. See your booklet or go to: www.bancny.org for details.



Members serving themselves



The Banquet in progress

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Keeping the trails and grounds of our wonderful Sanctuary in good condition is the responsibility of our Building and Grounds Committee headed by Dean Clayton. This group is doing a fine job, but their work load has increased, especially for three reasons:

1. To attempt to minimize the number of ticks along our trails, regular trimming has become increasingly important.
2. Due to the erosion along the creek trail, some rerouting of this trail has become necessary.
3. Alien privet needs to be removed as much as possible from our grounds.

BANC needs to expand the number of people who volunteer to help with trail maintenance. Please contact Dean Clayton at 585-249-9489 if you can assist us.

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 7, 8:00 AM
Mendon Ponds Park
A MORNING IN THE PARK
Leader: Richard Ashworth 381- 2189

Saturday, June 21, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
BOOK SALE AND OPEN HOUSE
Hosts: Julie Clayton & Shirley Shaw
249-9489 385-3907

Thursday, June 26, 6:00 PM
Potluck at BANC Sanctuary
BURROUGHS AUDUBON RENAISSANCE MAN
Hosts: Sandra & Jon Dombrowski 425-2380

Friday, July 18, 6:00 PM
Potluck dinner at BANC Sanctuary
MUSICAL GROUP – OVER AND UNDER
Hosts: Carol Klinger & Jane Stock
377-6072 425-7293

Tuesday, July 22, 9:00 AM
Canadice Lake Road
MIDSUMMER'S BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS
Hosts: Shirley Shaw & Janet Miles
385-3907 787-0507

Wednesday, July 30, 4:00 – 8:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
OPEN HOUSE
Host: Steve Maley 659-2719

Friday, August 8, 6:00 PM
Potluck Dinner at BANC Sanctuary
THE LIVES OF BATS
Hosts: Jutta Dudley & Mary Ann Fox
385-2368 385-6867

Wednesday, August 20, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
**OPEN HOUSE & 2ND ANNUAL JOHN BURROUGHS
APPRECIATION DAY**
Hosts: Joanne Altre & Mary Gordon
377-8549 586-3524

Tuesday, September 9, 10:00 AM
Gosnell Big Woods
A WALK IN THE GOSNELL BIG WOODS AND FIELD
Leader: Norma Platt 671-9639