

# The Tanager



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

<http://www.bancny.org>

**Volume 45, Number 2**

**June 2015**

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Isn't BANC's Sanctuary the best? Don't you love sitting on the porch on warm evenings, watching insects hovering over the garden. The trails through our wetlands and along the creek provide us with a beautiful setting for nature study. All over the grounds, bird life is abundant. In fact, the next time you visit the Sanctuary, take a look at the sweet bird bath near the base of our club house ramp. Marigrace Piazza selected this bird bath, which is a memorial to Carl and JoAnn Lind, purchased with part of a very generous donation from their daughters.

Summer is the season when BANC has a calendar full of activities to keep us connected to each other and nature. There will be an assortment of events to look for butterflies, dragonflies, moths, mushrooms, and trees. 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](http://www.bancny.org) for details.

Summer and dining al fresco go hand-in-hand, and Burroughs does it better than any group I know. Upcoming potlucks are July 10 and August 28. Thanks to Chris Benard we are having Come for Coffee open houses on a monthly basis—July 16, August 20, and September 17. Baked treats, coffee, and tea are served, and attendees can linger on our porch or meander along our trail system.

In celebrating BANC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, we inaugurated John Burroughs Appreciation Day. Attendees brown-bag their lunches and then share their thoughts about excerpts from Burroughs' writings that are provided. BANC's library is fortunate to have a complete set of these writings, but in addition, thanks to Marigrace Piazza, we 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. This year's John Burroughs Appreciation Day open house is July 29.

All of these activities give us opportunities for "Kodak moments." Please take lots of photographs this summer and be prepared to exhibit your best ones at our picnic on September 26. Chris Benard will be organizing our first annual photography exhibit.

Thanks to all our members who volunteer their time to make our activities memorable. I don't have enough room in this column to name all of you, so here's a sampling: Julie and Dean Clayton, Frank Crombe, Steven Daniel, Kathy Henrie, Carol and Dave Southby, and Jane and Harold Stock helped make the 2015 Allegany Nature Pilgrimage so special. Ginny Wilterdink assembled a group of volunteers to promote BANC at the ADK Expo. Dean Clayton keeps our grounds mowed and in good condition, and recently Tom Klonick volunteered to help with the mowing too. Carol Hinkelman is chairing a committee that will begin the task of removing invasive species from our property—and many, many members have volunteered to help with that effort. Clubhouse event hosts, field trip leaders, and committee chairpeople assure that our activities are well organized and fun. Council members oversee the business of the club. However, there's always a need for more helpers, so please volunteer to help us out by sharing your talents and skills with us.

*Shirley Shaw*

## Spring Clean-up

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, our Sanctuary was bustling with many folks helping clean – raking outdoors and cleaning up inside! Many loyal members turned out on this lovely sunny day to work together and help get the Sanctuary in shape for our programs to follow! We also were happy to see lots of local young people from the Pittsford Schools Community Service Club and from the Key Club of Victor High School. Twenty-four young neighbors joined us to lend a helping hand (forty-eight to be exact!) These kids were amazing – courteous and extremely helpful! Our thanks to these wonderful junior and senior high school students! After working, we all gathered in the Sanctuary building to have soup, beverages and other goodies. We held a raffle for our young helpers and Carrie Stewart from Victor High School won a family membership. Congratulations and welcome to Carrie and family! Many thanks go to Joanne Altre and Carolyn Ragan who coordinated this successful event.



Carrie Stewart

*Julie Clayton*

### IN MEMORIAM

On March 22, 2015 **George Schindler**, husband of Marilyn, passed away. George spent his career as an engineer at Kodak and was a long time BANC member. He will be remembered for his love of his family and his wealth of knowledge of many subjects. He was especially interested in astronomy. George worked on the local Moonwatch team during the time of Sputnik and he took his family to see many of the rocket launches in the early NASA space program.

## Mendon Ponds in Late May

Golden flowers all in bloom,  
Black-and-white dragonflies bask and zoom.  
Ravens croak, flycatchers sneeze,  
Waxwings sing their zee-zee-zee's.

A sunfish sentry floats alone  
Above his circle nest of stones.  
Nearby neighbors do the same  
In the shallows by a kame.

White and yellow lilies with red-green pads  
Line the channel near these dads.  
Around the cattails, blackbirds call  
And cottonwood fluff begins to fall.

Would the devil really bathe  
Beside a pure white arum spathe?  
Among big leaves that smell like skunk,  
And startling green frog shouts of "Gunk!"

It's not Old Scratch that gave us fright,  
But itchy bugs that like to bite.  
We dashed past cinnamon frond and frog  
To squelch into the sphagnum bog.

The cranberry flowers were tiny pink stars,  
The sundews looked like they came from Mars.  
The pitcher-plant flowers were just buds on tall stalks-  
-then we left, because it was hard to walk.

At home, beneath the lens and light  
Pond water animals did excite.  
'Heads' is suddenly replaced by 'tails'  
When a chironomid flails.

A tiny, rigid snail shell was a foil  
For a flexible rotifer exploring its coil.  
The rotifer would alternately squash and extend,  
Repeatedly gliding in and out of the bend.

We fear the ticks that carry Lyme  
But a trip to Mendon is such a good time.  
I feel like going back there soon-  
I wonder what we'd see in June?

*Jennifer Markham*

### Winter Deer Feeding

A friend and I were talking last week about how cold the past winter was and how sorry we felt for the “poor deer that had to be out there.” We both confessed to feeding them on occasion. A third friend who hunts and spends time in the outdoors said she has read in more than one place that feeding deer in winter was not a good idea. I went online to scope it out and was quite surprised. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has a strong opinion. According to them:

When it comes to the winter feeding of deer, the adage might be: “if you care, let them fend for themselves”. Despite a sincere concern for wild deer, many people will do more harm than good and may be killing deer with kindness.

In winter, the microorganisms within the deer stomach are different from the microorganisms in spring, summer, and fall. This change allows deer to digest a diet of woody browse during winter months and turn the high-fiber diet into proteins through intricate physiological processes. Offering food items other than woody browse during this period requires different microorganisms in the stomach to complete digestion, thus potentially starving a deer by feeding it or causing other feeding illnesses. Just because deer will eat a food provided by humans in winter, it does not mean that it is good for them.

Many deer have starved to death with stomachs packed full of hay.

Deer increase food intake during September and October, increasing fat accumulation by as much as 20–30%. During the winter, they reduce food intake (regardless of availability), relying on fat reserves for as much as 40% of daily nutritional needs.

Deer conserve energy during winter months to slow fat loss, and select specific winter habitat that enhance energy conservation. That’s why you’ll see them sitting under trees during the day.

Three main factors impact winter survival: winter severity, body condition going into winter as determined by availability of high quality foods in the summer and fall, and adequate softwood cover in the winter.

Although it’s hard to watch the deer in the frigid weather, especially when they’re eating my azalea buds, it’s a small comfort to know those buds are right kind of food they need.

*Chris Benard*

### Share Photos At Annual Picnic September 26th

Summer is such a great time to take pictures. We invite you to share your favorites at our Annual Picnic on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

A walk along the road or through the sanctuary or even a glance at the birdfeeder through the window yield amazing discoveries and photo ops.

Plus the evolution of phones and I pads into cameras has made documenting these moments so easy.

At the picnic we will feature three categories: wildlife, landscape and people. Please identify the picture and the location where you took it..

Make your prints of your photos in 4x6 5x7, or 8x10 sizes. Bring them to the picnic. We will place them in plastic page savers and hang them on a line for all to see. You may take them home the same evening.

We will even award a people’s choice winner in each category. Send your photos with a friend, if you are unable to attend.

*Chris Benard*

### IN MEMORIAM

Active BANC member, **Loretta Pace**, passed away on May 16, leaving numerous family and friends. She worked for over 50 years at Lincoln Rochester and managed the Chase International Department. Loretta was a lover of nature, hiking, birding, boating, traveling and viewing lighthouses and had enjoyed a hot air balloon ride. She supported many community organizations as well as BANC.

In the 1990’s, **Bob Coupal** was a fixture at the BANC sanctuary where he spent many hours mowing the lawn and trails. Living close to the sanctuary, he frequently spent his time in retirement helping the Building and Grounds Committee build boardwalks, repair the lawnmower, and keep the trails in shape. He also built a rowboat in his basement. Bob was an electrical engineer who spent his career a General Railway Signal and at Taylor Instrument and its successors both in Rochester and several other states. He recently passed away in Clifton Springs where he had been living lately.



## Invasive Species Project at the Sanctuary

The BANC Sanctuary has had major changes in its vegetation over the years. When the land was purchased for farming in the early 1800's, the original forest was cleared and replaced with an orchard, kitchen garden, and some grain crops. When BANC purchased the former Woolston farm in 1927, club members began to plant wildflowers, garden plants, shrubs and trees, often just extra plants from their yards, but some were purchased for specific areas.

Over the years, abundant deer have eaten many of the desirable plants leaving invasive species, many of them alien, to proliferate and take over the sanctuary. Alien plants, free from their natural enemies, reproduce quickly and displace native plants. They reduce the diversity of plant species as well as that of the insects and the rest of the food chain that depend on those plants. Native animal and plant species have evolved together to form intricate relationships that are beneficial to each of them. These relationships are disrupted when alien plants invade.

In 1993, a committee was convened to develop a management plan for the sanctuary flora. They surveyed the plants for 3 years, and were very concerned about the high concentrations of some aggressive non-native species. In October of 1996, an area along the Creekside Trail near Hackberry Hollow was cleared of invasive shrubs with heavy equipment. Over 40 new shrubs, some purchased and others donated, were planted, some in the cleared area and others on the front bank and in the swamp. Many of them did not survive the very dry summer and a heavy infestation of viburnum beetles the following year, but there was some success with Bladdernut, Speckled Alder, Spicebush, Buttonbush and Fragrant Sumac.

Since then, some invasives have become even more prevalent in the sanctuary. In 2013 Paul Brach began removing thousands of Privets. Last summer the new Invasive Species Committee walked the trails to document the current state of the vegetation and decided to focus for 2014 on removing invasives that were not yet widespread at BANC, such as Oriental Bittersweet, Barberry, and Japanese Knotweed. We also began to develop lists of invasives to remove, plants to be protected, new plants to be planted, and a watch/alert list of potential problem plants to be removed immediately if found.

The main focus for 2015 will be on the area bounded by Audubon Lane and Irondequoit Creek from the clubhouse to Keller's Knoll. Volunteers will be removing invasives such as Privet, Barberry, Tartarian Honeysuckle, and Oriental Bittersweet that have come in since 1996. We will plant some donated plants appropriate to a floodplain. Red Osier Dogwood and native shrubby willow shoots will be planted along the stream bank to stabilize it and try to reduce erosion. A donation from Martha Zettel of Northern Prickly Ash plants, the caterpillar food for the giant Swallowtail butterfly, will be planted near the trail leading from the clubhouse.

The large shrubs in the sanctuary are predominantly invasive species. However we have found many native shrubs such as Spicebush, Highbush Cranberry, Arrowwood Viburnum, Bladdernut, and Alternate leaved Dogwood seedlings. Unfortunately they are being eaten by deer before they get large enough to be noticeable. We want to protect as many of them as we can with mesh cages so they can grow up into thickets for the birds. Protecting these desirable native shrubs will save us from having to buy a lot of plants and they will grow better than plants that have been transplanted. We will also try to grow some of our own shrubs and trees from seedlings that come up in our yards and we continue to experiment with what plants will grow under our many Black Walnut trees. Black Walnuts produce a toxin which prevents many plants from growing near them.

We could use additional volunteers on this project to help make plant enclosures out of rolls of wire mesh, move them to the locations where they are needed, cut shrubs with a handsaw, haul away cut brush, plant willow and dogwood shoots, etc. To volunteer, contact Carol Hinkelman by email [carolh@rochester.rr.com](mailto:carolh@rochester.rr.com) or by phone at 663-2981.

*Carol Hinkelman*



Oriental Bittersweet



## MEET A MEMBER —

### BECKY OLSON

I'm constantly impressed and fascinated by the interesting lives and backgrounds of BANC members, and Becky Olson certainly belongs in this company.

Although Becky was born in Dallas, most of her childhood from the age of three to eighteen was spent in the Philippines, where her parents were missionaries. Both her parents came from large families and Becky remembers her main contact with her relatives being through exchange of 16mm home films. (Her own four children are also widely scattered, but communication is easier nowadays.) She grew up speaking several local dialects and can still understand some words from Philippine dialects when she overhears them in places like Wegmans.

Becky attended the College of Wooster, Ohio, where she majored in history and had a minor in education. She started out as a first- and second-grade teacher in Michigan but later moved to Palmyra and worked at Sodus. She completed her library degree at Geneseo and spent the rest of her career as a school librarian, seeing great changes in the role of the school library with the introduction of computer technology into schools. She moved to Pittsford in 2001.

Becky has always had a love of the outdoors, which was nurtured by her father, who grew up near the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. She particularly enjoys paddling, hiking, biking, and snowshoeing. She has been active for some years in a small women's hiking group of the Adirondack Mountain Club and enjoys pursuing her interest in birds, butterflies and wildflowers, and her love of field guides – a diversity of nature fields that well matches the character of BANC.

In retirement Becky has combined her interest in nature with traveling and exploring natural areas with her friend, Joe, and their dogs. They sometimes take their bikes and trailers for the dogs, so they too can enjoy the outdoors in a different way. Becky is working on a blog called "dogsgobiking" to share information about this type of experience. During the

Winter, they share bike trails in Florida and Becky has thoughts of biking in every state of the Union (she has fourteen on her list so far.)

Becky's interest in natural history led her to attend a course taught by Steven Daniel at MCC and this was followed by participation in a project on habitat destruction along the Erie Canal. She joined BANC and soon was putting her experience to work as the BANC librarian. She has since also been helping with publicity and managing the BANC Facebook page (check it out!). She says she particularly appreciates the willingness of BANC members to share their extensive knowledge and expertise ... and pictures for Facebook!

*Richard Ashworth*

## A MORNING IN THE PARK

Mendon Ponds Park · Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>

Six of us gathered at 8:00 AM for our annual, mainly birding, visit to this prime local gem of a location. This year we focused on trails to the southeast of Quaker Pond, including a few that were new to some participants. We were lucky with the weather and enjoyed a very pleasant morning's walk.

We started out with a nice introduction to the local grassland species before moving on to areas of brush, wetland and woodland. Highlights included three Indigo Buntings, very good close views of two Blue-winged Warblers and a singing Orchard Oriole. We just missed seeing the Common Ravens, although we did hear them, and also heard a Black-billed Cuckoo.

At the end of the morning we had recorded 36 species, in spite of not finding the expected Eastern Bluebirds.

*Richard Ashworth*





## EARLY SPRING FLOWERS

On a cold and wet Spring day in April, 7 intrepid members of BANC met at Harris Whalen Park in Penfield to look for early wild flowers, under the expert guidance of Joanne Altre, assisted by Paul Brach. They found many different species in bloom or about to bloom. They spotted Trout Lily, Spring Beauty, Toothwort, Squirrel Corn, red and white Trillium, violets, leeks, May Apple, Blood Root, Wild Ginger, Coltsfoot, Bellwort and Elderberry. Paul told us that red Trillium is called Stinking Benjamin because of its unpleasant smell. His secretary once brought a bouquet to work. The office had to be fumigated the next day. Paul mentioned that the roots of blood root were used for dye by Native Americans and early settlers. He also explained that we have both Northern Spring Beauty and Carolina Spring Beauty in this area and that they can be identified by their different leaves. We are just on the border of a more southern zone, extending into Pennsylvania.

In spite of the weather, we all felt that it was a morning well spent, observing the early signs of Spring.



Spring Beauty



Red Trillium

*Betty Stewart*

### The 2015 Allegany Nature Pilgrimage a Success!

This year's Allegany Nature Pilgrimage at Allegany State Park was a weekend to remember! The nature weekend was held on May 29, 30 and 31; participants and organizers were grateful for the sunny, pleasant weather of Friday and Saturday.

The morning bird-banding was done this year by Linda Ordiway and the participants found her to be a real treat! She is great with the birds and is witty, as well! Many birds were caught in the nets on Saturday morning and participants got to see the songbirds up close and personal. One young girl told me that when she was little an older man had put a bird on her head and then it flew away! She told me sadly that he had died. That man was our own Bob McKinney who will be remembered by many at the Pilgrimage for a long time, just as he is missed here in Rochester. Linda knew Bob, as well, and is doing a fabulous job!! On Sunday morning, the weather was a bit colder and windier; conditions were not as good for the birds to fly into the nets. Yet, the ones Linda was able to band were seen and appreciated by the bird-lovers of the Pilgrimage.

The workshops were many and varied. They included Attracting Pollinators by Carolyn Ruth, Exotic Animals with Mark Carra, Inner Nature Yoga with Katie Chriest, Drawing the Geometric Nature of Flowers with Mary Lyn Nutting and Lasagna Gardening, with David Winner. There were Nature Games (for kids of all ages) with Laura Dustin, Butterflies with Carol and David Southby and the History of Red House with Harold Stock. Many opportunities were available for avid bird watchers and hikers. The Blacksnake Mountain Trail was trekked with leader, Steven Daniel. The Great Downhill bird hike was led by Frank Gardner. Frank Crombe shared his knowledge of Old Growth Forests on a field trip. This is only a portion of what was offered. There were also programs about tree identification, conservation, air plants, salamanders, beavers, moths, purple martins, wild herbs, birds of prey, wild edibles, mushrooms, fairy houses and toad abodes, ferns, animal signs, dragonflies and damselflies, and vernal pools.

Pilgrimage-goers had their choice of a chicken barbeque or vegetarian dinner on Saturday afternoon and everyone relaxed or sang along with folk performer, Nan Hoffman.

The evening program for Friday was a game entitled, "Who's the Biggest Bird Brain? Quizzes and Factsoids of the Bird World. The Master of Ceremonies was Michele Rundquist-Franz, the President of Presque Isle Audubon Society. Saturday evening's Big Tent presentation was "The Far Side of Nature Part 2" by Wayne Gall. Both evenings were different and fun for the participants!

Following the evening programs, the Owl Prowl was led by Chuck Rosenburg. I went on the Friday evening "prowl". Chuck really sounds like a Screech Owl and also a Barred Owl. His call of the Barred Owl brought one into trees branches high above us, but we sure had a good look at the fellow! The owl soon began to have a quarrel with his mate; owls are a lot like people! Naturalists, Steven Daniel and Wayne Gall, drew in "Bugs by Nightlight" and discussed the ways of the night insects with many interested folks and addressed their questions and concerns!

*Julie Clayton*







Folksinger Cathy McGrath entertaining at our first potluck dinner of the season on May 15



Dean Clayton relaxing at "A MORNING IN THE PARK" walk



Janet Miles and Jutta Dudley enjoy lunch with one of the Victor Key Club members who helped with BANC's Clean Up



Victor Key Club members raking leaves at BANC's Spring Clean Up



Baltimore Woods field trip May 6, 2015  
Nancy Rice, Becky Olson, Shirley Shaw, Carol Hinkelman, Cindy Coupal & David Southby

*Photo by Carol Southby*

# 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 24, 4:00 – 8:00 PM**

**BANC Sancturday**

**HOME NATURE PROJECTS AND OPEN HOUSE**

Hosts: Shirley Shaw, 385-3907, Chris Benard, 924-4979  
and Karen Wolf, 670-9709

**Friday, July 10, 6:00 PM**

**Potluck Dinner at BANC Sanctuary**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BRADDOCK BAY**

Hosts: Carol Klinger, 377-6072 and Jane Stock, 425-7293

**Thursday, July 16, 9:30 – 11:30 AM**

**BANC Sanctuary**

**COME FOR COFFEE OPEN HOUSE**

Host: Chris Benard, 924-4979

**Tuesday, July 21, 9:00 AM**

**Hemlock Canadice state Forest**

**EXPLORING THE HEMLOCK CANADICE FOREST AREA**

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

**Wednesday, July 29, 11:00 – 2:30 PM**

**BANC Sanctuary**

**ANNUAL JOHN BURROUGHS APPRECIATION DAY**

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

**Saturday, August 8, 10:00 – 12:00 Noon**

**BANC Sanctuary**

**LEARNING ABOUT DRAGONFLIES**

Leader: Bob Cooper, 315-538-8571

**Thursday, August 13, 6:30 – 9:30 PM**

**BANC Sanctuary**

**MOTH NIGHT OPEN HOUSE**

Leaders: Carol and David Southby, 383-8168  
and Shirley Shaw, 385-3907

**Thursday August 20, 9:30 – 11:30 AM**

**BANC Sanctuary**

**COME FOR COFFEE OPEN HOUSE**

Host: Chris Benard, 924-4979

**Friday, August 28 6:00 PM**

**Potluck at BANC Sanctuary**

**AMAZING PLANTS AND THEIR TRAVELS**

Hosts: Jutta Dudley, 385-2368 and  
Suzanne Wheatcraft, 738-4207

**Saturday, September 12, 10:00 AM**

**Webster Park**

**FUNGI IN WEBSTER PARK**

Leader: Dave Wolf, 482-2640