

The Tanager

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Burroughs Audubon Nature Club

c/o John Shaw

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President's Column

By Marigrace Piazza

On May 6 we held an Open House at the Sanctuary. Despite a few glitches in the original program listed for this date, 25 people showed up ready to enjoy a hike and to see what was blooming around the trails. It was a picture perfect spring day. The trillium and twinleaf were blooming and a wren was chirping at the feeder. So

far, this probably sounds familiar to many of you who have enjoyed a gorgeous spring day visiting the Sanctuary over the years.

If I give you some more information, the Open House starts to get more interesting. Of the 25 people in attendance, about half were members and half were visitors. Of the 25 attendees, 10 were children. The visitors came because they had either seen it advertised in the paper (thank you, Becky Olson) or they saw the Open House poster in front of the Sanctuary on Railroad Mills Road (thank you, Richard Ashworth).

Most of the BANC members showed up fifteen minutes before the event was supposed to start. They were wearing sturdy boots and binoculars and were looking forward to the advertised hike. Due to the last minute change in the program for May 6, Frank Crombe volunteered on short notice to lead the hike. Within a few seconds he had the group laughing.

As the group started down the Burroughs Trail, a father and son showed up. The boy was around 11 years old and was especially interested in photographing birds. This made sense since he had an expensive looking camera around his neck. Shirley

Shaw took him under her wing (no pun intended!) and led him down the trail towards the creek. When they came back later, Shirley reported that the young man took an excellent photo of a Solitary Sandpiper that was found on the banks of the creek.

One family came with six children in tow. The family lives in Victor and the parents had driven by the Sanctuary many times on their motorcycles. They said that they have always admired our natural property in the middle of all the suburban development. It was a thrill for them to walk our trails and spread out on our 30 acres. They plan on becoming members soon!

Another family arrived consisting of three generations. Granddad said that he had spotted our Open House sign and had been curious about our Sanctuary over the years since he often cycles up Railroad Mills Road. Besides being impressed by his biking skills, I was thrilled that he brought his children and his three-year-old granddaughter to visit.

There was one person who joined Frank's hike who was not a BANC member but a BANC neighbor. He lives on Probst Road and has been researching the

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(President's column continued from page 1)

history of local environmental groups. He was very curious about the history of our club and, with very little persuasion from Julie Clayton, became a paying member of BANC before he left.

Rachel Hutchins and her two children attended the event. As some of you may know, Rachel is the chapter leader of the Navigator group that we are sponsoring. Her children seem more at home at the Sanctuary every time I see them. Rachel lamented the fact that this time of year her Navigator families are very busy with other scheduled events, especially Little League. She was, however, thrilled to be able to provide her chapter access to all the programs that we have available through BANC.

The event ended like many BANC events over the past 105 years have ended. The guests and members enjoyed refreshments together on the porch. For me, it was a sign of the future health of the



Frank Crombe leading Open House hike

club. Although we came from different backgrounds, we all had one thing in common: we needed the connection with nature in order to refresh and rejuvenate us. Perhaps some of the Open House visitors will never come back. Perhaps some will join BANC and become faithful volunteers. Either way, the lure of a beautiful spring day at the Sanctuary will keep us coming back!

Program Committee Seeks Members

By Rachel Hutchins

The Program Committee will be starting its work on the 2019 program guide this month. Do you have expertise in an area that you would like to share? Have you visited a unique location that you could present to others? Do you have ideas for programs or know local experts who may want to be involved? If you would like to host, plan, brainstorm or assist with next year's events, please contact Rachel Hutchins, rwhutchins@rochester.rr.com, from the Program Committee. Thanks!

Field Trip to Kent Park Arboretum, Webster, June 26

By Janet Miles

The Webster Arboretum is part of Kent Park in Webster. It is a lovely area with a variety of plantings, including conifers, formal gardens and roses. There is a broad expanse of lawn, a large pond and a small creek. We will enjoy easy walking through the area.

Kent Park is located at 1700 Schlegel Road. From Rt. 104 go north on Salt Road to Schlegel Road, turn right and go about one mile to the park. The parking lot is on the left.

Spring Clean-Up

By Julie Clayton

It was a chilly April day with gray skies, but fifteen hardy souls came out to the Sanctuary to help get the building and grounds into shape for our spring, summer and fall programs. Outside, members raked leaves and picked up branches and sticks that severe winds had blown around during the stormy month of March. On the trails Dean Clayton, Paul Brach, and his wonderful grandson, Jonathon, helped the club by removing many invasive and pesky privet plants. Jutta Dudley directed the indoor crew, who worked on the kitchen, bathrooms, windows and all the floors. Carol Hinkelman and Joanne Altre provided the workers with hot, delicious soups that were enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Dean, Paul, Jonathon, Carol, Joanne, Jutta, Joanne Putnam, Becky Jenkins,

Jerry Jenkins, Carol Klinger, Ginny Wilterdink, Barb Gibson, Harold Stock, Jane Stock and Julie Clayton for donating their time, food and energy to get the Sanctuary ready for the warmer months! It was work, but they also had fun enjoying the food and each other!

We recently had the clubhouse inspected by an outside firm. There are several maintenance projects on the structure that we will need to address. We are looking for more people to help us out; we will have a special workday. If you are interested in helping, please contact Dean Clayton at dclayton@ureach.com or Marigrace Piazza at mari-grace.piazza@gmail.com. Thank you all!

New Members

We welcome new members to Burroughs. Sara Thornton and Daniel Rinn joined at the open house on May 6.

Sarah and Daniel work at the University of Rochester. Sarah is the library's Student Programming and Social Media Manager and Daniel is completing a dissertation on the history of American environmental thought and activism. They enjoy cycling, hiking, snowshoeing and being outdoors generally.



Harold Stock, Jutta Dudley, Jane Stock, Joanne Altre, and Ginny Wilterdink enjoying refreshments on cleanup day



Photo from Harris Whalen Park Walk, April 21

By Al Robertson

Tanager Editor Retires

By Carol Hinkelman

Burroughs Audubon has been a very lively and active club for over 100 years because so many of its members have been willing to volunteer their time and talent to do the many jobs necessary to make our meetings and extensive schedule of events happen and to maintain our nature sanctuary and clubhouse for us to enjoy. One of our long-time members, Jerry Jenkins, has just retired as editor of the *Tanager* after producing four issues a year for 11 years. As big a job as that was, it was not the only contribution that he has made to BANC.

Jerry joined BANC in 1975 and has worn many hats in the club since then. He was treasurer of the club for 15 years, keeping the club's books, overseeing our investments and attending council meetings. Jerry is a long-time member of the Building and Grounds Committee, serving as chairman for many of those years. He helped to build our boardwalks and ramp, install and maintain our security system, keep our equipment running, and was very involved when the addition to the clubhouse was designed and built in the late 1990's.

Jerry worked on our activities booklet when it was being professionally printed. When the cost of printing became too high, Jerry and Lois began making the booklet themselves, getting the pages copied, cutting and collating the pages and stapling them together. In addition to editing the *Tanager*, Jerry also used his computer skills to produce many of our banquet programs.

Jerry and Lois were always active BANC members, faithfully attending meetings, field trips and the Allegany Pilgrimage with their family. He served on the Pilgrimage Committee for several years, and they were very involved with running our annual picnic and cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs. In 2005 and 2006 Jerry and Lois had the distinction of being our only co-presidents in the history of BANC. Our sincere thanks to Jerry for all he has done to help BANC thrive for 43 years.

NYSOA Annual Meeting

By Shirley Shaw

You will absolutely not want to miss the New York State Ornithological Association's annual conference, October 5-7, 2018, at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road, in Henrietta. Burroughs and the Rochester Birding Association are the meeting's co-sponsors.

It's a great opportunity to meet birders from across the state—forming and renewing friendships and learning about the many clubs in our state that are devoted to nature study and conservation. There will be many field trips: Friday afternoon plus Saturday and Sunday mornings. Friday evening's activities are workshops on Snowy Owls and eBird, and a buffet dinner. Saturday features an afternoon paper session, where you can hear about the latest research in ornithology, and a second buffet dinner followed by the keynote address by Greg Miller, a birding tour guide, whose "Big Year" of birding was featured in a book and subsequent movie.

To learn more about the meeting and for registration forms, go to the BANC web site, www.bancny.org. If you'd like to register on-line, <https://rochesterbirding.com/nysoa-reg/>

Registration to attend is \$50 through August 15 and \$60 thereafter through September 15. The buffet dinners cost \$35 each. For information, call Shirley Shaw, 585-385-3907.



Fawn in Sanctuary

By Laurie Dirckx

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club



Presents

NATURE NIGHT

Wednesday June 27th 6:00 – 8:30 PM



**Location: 301 Railroad Mills Road, Victor, NY
BANC's 32-acre preserve near Powder Mills Park**

FAMILY EVENT: come learn about birds, rocks, butterflies, fossils, minerals, mushrooms, trees, plants and much more from local experts

- *see Victor-Farmington Library nature books*
- *participate in a guided nature walk*
- *try your hand at a nature scavenger hunt*
- *learn how you can enjoy nature this summer*



visit <http://www.bancny.org/> for details

Annual Banquet

By Julie Clayton

On Wednesday, April 18, over forty members and guests gathered at Glendoveers Party House on Old Browncroft Road to celebrate BANC at our Annual Banquet. The tables were decorated beautifully with lovely and bright flowers. We enjoyed a great buffet and each other's company. (The flowers were later distributed to people who weren't getting out or were facing a challenge.)

President Marigrace Piazza spoke about her past as president of her French Club and her thoughts about serving as BANC's president.

Guest Anna Sears pulled the winning ticket out of the basket for the Ruddy Ducks print that Federal Duck Stamp winner Jennifer Miller had donated to the club. The proud winner of the beautifully framed picture was board member Ellen Prill. She was not present at the banquet, but happily picked up the picture as soon as she returned to Rochester. Our club raised \$310 dollars which was split between the Iroquois and Montezuma National Wildlife Refuges. The donation was significant; our thanks go out to all who participated in the raffle.

Alan Singer was our guest speaker who presented about the Art, Life and Times of his father, Arthur Singer. Arthur had illustrated more than 20 books, including *Birds of the World*, as well as the classic bird guides: *Birds of Europe*, *The Hamlyn Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe*, and *Birds of North America*. Singer entered the Army in 1942 and joined Company C of the 603rd Camouflage Engineers, also known as the Ghost Army. In the 1980's the U.S. Postal Service issued the State Birds & Flowers postage stamps. Arthur painted state birds while his son, Alan, had painted the flowers for those stamps. It was a challenging and amazing father-son project! We were so fortunate to have Alan Singer present for us.

A big THANK YOU to everyone on the Banquet Committee who contributed his or her special talents to make this a successful evening – Julie

Clayton, John Shaw, Chita McKinney, Ginny Wilterdink, Mary Gordon, Sandra Dombrowski, Helene Case, Janet Miles, Betty Stewart, Anne Mancuso, Dean Clayton, Carol Southby, Jerry Jenkins, Richard Ashworth and Shirley Shaw.



Banquet photos

By Richard Ashworth

Be Part of the Solution

By Carol Hinkelman

If we needed a reminder that climate change is already happening, we got it in May with the announcement that we have had 400 straight months of global temperatures above the 20th century average. In addition, the carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere is now at 410 parts per million, well above the 350 parts per million thought to be the highest carbon dioxide level we can have without causing climate change.

We know we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow down or eliminate climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels and switching to renewable energy sources. Some ways to do that include purchasing vehicles that are more fuel-efficient or buying hybrid or plug-in vehicles, replacing your home furnace with one that is more efficient, turning the thermostat down manually at night and when you are going out, or installing a programmable thermostat that will do it automatically.

Solar electric systems have become much cheaper, and you can now lease your solar panels and equipment as an alternative to buying them. There are tax credits and other financial incentives for installing a solar system. If you rent rather than own your home, or your house is not a good candidate for solar panels, you may be able to purchase your electricity from a community solar project. Another option is to purchase green power, electricity produced by wind or solar from your current energy supplier.

Cutting our electricity usage means that less power will need to be produced. Conservation of electricity can be accomplished in many ways such as turning off lights, computers and other electronics when they aren't being used; replacing traditional light bulbs with compact fluorescent or LED bulbs; using a ceiling fan instead of the air condi-



tioning; purchasing the more efficient Energy Star approved appliances; and washing only full loads of laundry or dishes.

Governor Cuomo has set an energy goal of producing 50% of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2030 while reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 40%. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is tasked with achieving these goals. NYSERDA offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

NYSERDA has set up a Clean Energy Fund to help residents and businesses to become more energy efficient and increase the use of renewable energy. NYSERDA can help you get a free home energy audit to identify areas where your home is losing heat and wasting energy, develop a plan to make your home more energy efficient, and arrange low cost financing for those energy saving home improvements. Your house will most likely feel more comfortable after the work

is finished and your utility bill will go down. The money in the Clean Energy Fund comes from the System Benefits charged on your monthly utility bill. You are paying into this fund, so you should get some benefit from it.

NYSERDA has a website with a wealth of energy saving information for New York residents. See <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov> for lots of energy saving tips and if you are considering installing a solar energy system, it can help you through the process of deciding if that will work for your house and give you information on some possible installers. Be sure to consult the website to take advantage of this opportunity to save money on your energy bill and at the same time help save the planet from the consequences of climate change.

Meet A Member – Martha Zettel

By Richard Ashworth

There are many BANC members who are very knowledgeable about flowers or trees, birds or butterflies. However, when it comes to amphibians or particularly bats, who you gonna call? Martha Zettel!



Photo by Richard Ashworth

Martha was born and grew up in Tonawanda, where her mother still lives. After studying Veterinary Technology at SUNY Delhi, she transferred to SUNY Geneseo, where she received both BS and MS degrees in Biology. While there, she was happy to continue her love of the outdoors by taking part in field and laboratory studies looking at magnetite in the brains of Bobolinks and its influence on the use of magnetic fields during seasonal migration. Martha describes birds as her ‘first love’, but her career was to take her in a different direction.

After graduating she joined the University of Rochester, Department of Neuroscience, in the lab headed by Professor Bill O’Neill. Soon she was working with Bill on auditory studies in bats. They later married and have now been together for 28 years. According to researchgate.net, Martha’s research work includes co-authorship of 28 publications and 1,465 citations.

Martha’s interests broadened to include reptiles and amphibians, but she still speaks most passionately about bats. With state and DEC permits, she has cared for many bats at their Rush home – both local species and two fruit bats referred to her by the Seneca Park Zoo. She has conducted bat surveys in Australia, Africa, Jamaica and Costa Rica, led many local bat walks and given innumerable talks to educate people about bats – to BANC, RBA, GLT, SUNY Brockport and many other organizations. She and Bill are currently participating in a couple of projects, one with the Seneca Park Zoo and DEC, to determine the effect of white nose syndrome on our local species. Her talks often cover amphibians too, and she enjoys introducing people to the Spotted Salamanders in her yard during their short breeding time each year.

Over a long period Martha has also spent much time volunteering at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory and their RIT satellite station, where she studied as an intern with Betsy Brooks and John Waud, and with the Genesee Land Trust, participating in events and leading walks. In recognition of her valuable presentations and leading of walks for BANC, she was made an Honorary Member; she and Bill later became regular members.

Martha is preparing to retire from U of R after 37 years at the end of June. She hopes to do more traveling, home renovation and ‘relaxing’. An important part of her ‘relaxation’ involves the tending and conservation of a 115-acre wetland tract down the road from their Rush home, a tract which she and Bill rescued from residential development. Their most recent project there was installing about thirty nesting boxes, which are now fully occupied by Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. We’re sure that she will also continue to participate in local nature organizations and activities and remain the local expert on bats and amphibians.

**POWDER MILLS PARK, BANC SANCTUARY
(Joint RBA/BANC Field Trip Held on May 19)**

By Richard Ashworth

The weather forecast called for showers. The good news – we only had one. The bad news – it lasted from 7:30 AM to 10:45 AM. We were also competing for attention with the royal wedding: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle were exchanging vows just as eight of us met at the Fish Hatchery. In spite of all this, we had a good morning.

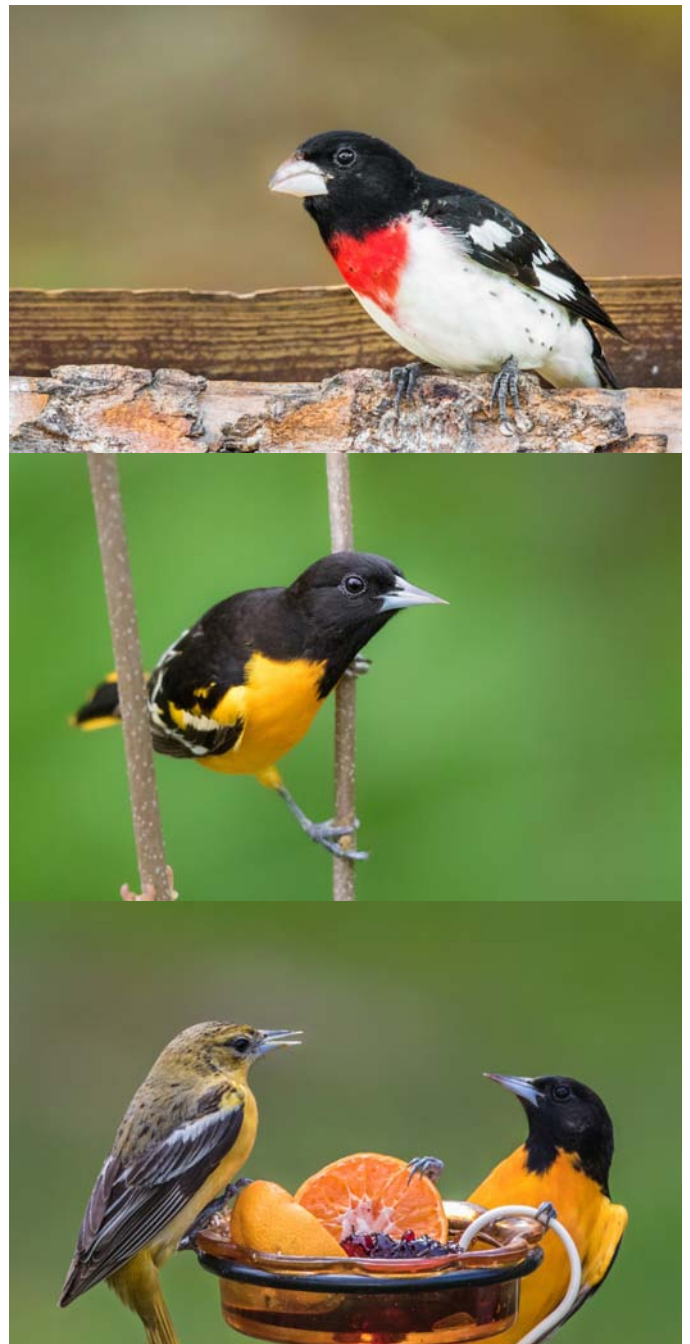
Around the Fish Hatchery it was pretty quiet, with no warblers to be seen or heard (who could blame them?) other than a distant Tennessee song, so we said farewell to a rather bedraggled Great Blue Heron and headed off to the ‘Daffodil’ trail, where we soon hit a hotspot in the willows at the edge of the wetland. Bay-breasted, Black-and-White, Yellow and Black-throated Green Warblers, American Redstart, and Scarlet Tanager all made an appearance, albeit as partial ‘silhouette birds’.

At the swamp further down the trail we picked up Downy, Hairy, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Northern Flicker, all within a few minutes; and good views of a Swainson’s Thrush completed our return to the cars. A brief stop halfway down the park added Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, and Red-tailed Hawk.

As the rain finally eased off, we drove over to the BANC Sanctuary on Railroad Mills Road. Here we were pleased to see Indigo Bunting, nesting Eastern Bluebirds, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and a Yellow-throated Vireo. However, the consensus ‘bird of the day’ was a beautiful male Canada Warbler foraging in the creekside undergrowth and posing nicely on an exposed log by the water. A little further upstream we watched a deer assisting an almost newborn calf to cross the creek.

At the road, before we returned to the clubhouse, we heard a Mourning Warbler by the creek and saw a Pileated Woodpecker to complete our

sweep of the woodpeckers, other than Red-headed. The latter part of the morning had been enhanced by the ubiquitous background chorus of orioles, catbirds and Great Crested Flycatchers. We finally paused on the clubhouse porch to watch the birds at the feeder and to tally the morning’s list – 52 species. I would like to thank all our participants, whose sharper eyes and younger ears made for an enjoyable, if damp, outing.



Photos by Laurie Dirks

The Tanager

Burroughs Audubon
Nature Club
c/o John Shaw
374 Cromwell Dr.
Rochester, NY 14610

TO:

**If you haven't renewed
your membership,
please do it now.**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, June 26, 10:00 AM

**Field Trip to Kent Park Arboretum, Webster
JUNE FLOWERS AND TREES**

Kent Park is located at 1700 Schlegel Road between Salt and Basket Roads.

Leader: Janet Miles, 787-0507

Wednesday, June 27, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

**Open House at BANC Sanctuary
FAMILY NATURE NIGHT**

Hosts: Marigrace Piazza, 314-8462, Jutta Dudley, 385-2368, Bill O'Neill and Martha Zettel, 533-2333.

Monday, July 9, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

**Open House at BANC Sanctuary
MEET A LLAMA**

Hosts: Ruth Morrill, 217-2292, and Linda Smith, 924-3871.

Wednesday, July 11, 10:00 AM

**Field Trip to Black Creek Park
BUTTERFLIES AND SUMMER WILDFLOWERS**

Leaders: Carol and David Southby, 383-8168.

Friday, July 20, 6:00PM

**Potluck at BANC Sanctuary
ALL ABOUT BLUEBIRDS AND MORE**

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

Saturday, August 4, 8:30 - 11:00 AM

**Open House at BANC Sanctuary
PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND NATURE GAMES**

Hosts: Marigrace Piazza, 314-8462, Sabrina Commisso, 385-9573, and Susan Robertson, 427-2535.

Saturday, August 11, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

**Open House at BANC Sanctuary
MARILYN SCHINDLER PHOTO EXHIBIT**

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

Friday, August 17, 6:00 PM

**Potluck at BANC Sanctuary
FOLK MUSIC WITH PAT CAREY**

Hosts: Janet Miles, 787-0507, and Ellen Prill, 721-4103.

Saturday, August 25, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

**Field Trip at BANC Sanctuary
BUG HUNT**

Martha Zettel & Bill O'Neill, 533-2333, and Carol & David Southby, 383-8168

Sunday, September 16, 2:00 PM

**Oatka Creek Park
FINDING FALL FUNGI**

Leader: Dave Wolf, 482-2644