

The Tanager



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Shirley Shaw

How life has changed! My March column reflected my excitement at all the great activities and programs BANC had planned for 2020. Now all is uncertain. Beginning with our March 13 program, events have been cancelled, postponed, or will have to happen in a different way. Health and safety of participants is essential, and BANC leadership will be conservative in our decision making and planning. Please look for e-mails from us and check our website www.bancny.org for the latest information. At this point in time, all events through our picnic in September have been cancelled.

How lucky we are to have our wonderful Sanctuary! While parks and other outdoor areas are crowded, our nature preserve offers members the opportunity to be outside at a safe social distance, enjoying beautiful wildflowers, birds, and other creatures, with many fewer people around. A walk on our trails is a great way to get fresh air and exercise. Please remember to have your mask in case you encounter others, as well as maintain a safe distance.

If facilities are important to you, we have keys to our outside restroom, which members can order. If you'd like one, send your request to BANCrsvp@gmail.com. The current cost for the key and postage is \$4.00.

One thing that has not changed with the COVID-19 social distancing requirements is the need for maintenance and repairs to our property. Since we cannot have work parties, we are asking you to help us out by working individually on such projects as removing sticks and downed branches from our parking lot, trails, and lawn. We have some projects that require more than one person, so if you and members of your household can help us, please contact us for information and to volunteer at BANCrsvp@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Joe Hurley, Dean and Julie Clayton, Carol and David Southby, Marigrace Piazza, Ellen Prill, and Mary Moore for all they have done this spring.

The BANC Executive Council continues to meet monthly via video conference, and we use e-mail to communicate regularly. We have Girl and Boy Scouts lined up to do needed Gold Award and Eagle Scout projects for us, and our fingers are crossed that those projects can be completed this year. We look with hope to a time when BANC will resume our activities in some way, and we are planning for a more normal 2021. Marigrace Piazza will head the Program Committee for 2021, and the group will try to reschedule as many of the events we have cancelled as possible. To propose officers and trustees for 2021, Julie Clayton, Mary Gordon, and Linda Smith will serve as our Nominating Committee.

Until we can meet again in person, take good care, wear your mask, maintain social distance, and enjoy nature at our Sanctuary!

Thanks for the Donations

By Shirley Shaw

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who have donated to BANC in 2020. As of May 31, 2020, donations for the year totaled \$970.00!

Completed projects:

- Keypad lock to club house door
- Clean-up of logs and debris from tree removal
- Gutter repairs

Special needs to address in next quarter:

- Electrical repairs
- Stump grinding
- Additional (and unexpected) tree removal
- Boardwalk maintenance
- Purchase of wireless microphone

All donations—large and small—allow us to address ongoing maintenance, repairs, and improvements to our facilities. We appreciate your generosity!

\$

The report of our past president Marigrace Piazza in the December 2019 *Tanager* and my report in the March 2020 *Tanager* relate the challenges our club is facing and our strategies for dealing with them. At our May Executive Council meeting, Finance Trustee Jon Dombrowski presented a thorough financial analysis reviewing the years 2011-2019. To sum up, our expenses are rising, our income from dues is flat, our income from donations is declining, and our investment income was up in 2017 and 2018 but down in 2019.

Our audit report for the year 2019 states:

- ✓ We are in a good financial state now but face risk from current trends. Without action to either increase revenue or reduce expenditures, we can expect the financial state of the club to deteriorate.

- ✓ Our income is primarily from dues, investment returns, and donations. Each is contributing roughly 1/3 of our income.
- ✓ Expenses are trending up—especially maintenance of the club house and Sanctuary property.
- ✓ Dues are not keeping up even with a recent dues increase and a vigorous effort to recruit new members.
- ✓ Future large mandatory expenditures—roof replacement and mowing equipment—would reduce our endowment about 15%.

\$

New Members

The following new members have joined since the last issue:

Amy Judson	Brighton
Becki Compson	Pittsford
Evan O'Brien	Fishers
Kris Dreessen	Rochester
Karen Stanhope	Fairport

We hope they will be able to join us when we can have activities again.



Irondequit Creek in the Sanctuary

Photo by Lura Kelley

Invasive Species in the Sanctuary

Joe Hurley

I'm no biologist, but I know a bad-acting plant when I see it. And what I see at our BANC property are a lot of bad-acting plants, in the form of non-native invasive species. This is an unfortunate situation, especially considering how the combined efforts of Mother Nature and our many committed volunteers have produced an otherwise spectacular natural landscape at our 30-acre Sanctuary.

Non-native plants come to us from all over the world and become invasive when they express a competitive advantage over our native plants. They may leaf out earlier than native plants; they may produce many thousands of berries and seeds; they may be distasteful to deer that have evolved on a diet of native plants. The worst invaders display all three of these traits.

The problem with non-native invasive plants? Simply put, they reduce biodiversity. Beneficial insects that rely on native plants begin to decline, or disappear entirely, and suffering along with them are many of the bird species we wish to observe at BANC. For a comprehensive and enlightening explanation, I suggest you read Douglas Tallamy's "*Bringing Nature Home*."

The battle against invasives at BANC has begun. The Invasive Species Committee was re-formed last year and recruited several area high school students and other volunteers for our first "Habitat Restoration Day" last fall. How do we attack the problem? By pulling, digging, and cutting! BANC has recently obtained two new shrub "poppers" that can unearth many of the most-stubborn offending plants. If this sounds like fun to you, or even if it doesn't, we would love to have you come to the next party.

Our volunteers, using the expertise and experience of Carol and David Southby, have also been busy installing native shrubs and trees around the property. Many of these plants have been caged to protect them from deer predation, and the results have been spectacular.

What follows is a short list of our worst plant invaders. The good news is that we don't (yet) have a problem with certain species that are thriving nearby,

including Swallow-wort, Buckthorn, Tree-of-heaven, and Phragmites. (The not-so-good news is that many of the showiest flowers at BANC turn out to be both non-native and invasive, including Lily-of-the-Valley, Yellow Flag Iris, Forsythia, Forget-Me-Not, and Grape Hyacinth).

Privet—Much of our Sanctuary has been choked with this tall stiff-branched shrub that produces plentiful black berries, often used for hedges around homes. An aggressive cutting program begun last year has removed many of the mature privet plants around the clubhouse, but dense thickets remain elsewhere.

Honeysuckle—Another shrub, this one with plentiful orange or red berries, grows quickly but is easily pulled from the soil before it gets too large and requires the popper.

Multi-flora Rose—This thorny invader spreads rapidly, is difficult to pull, and along with Japanese Barberry (which we also have in limited quantities) provides protection to mice that can carry the bacteria for Lyme disease.

Oriental Bittersweet—This is a woody vine that will grow very large and can literally strangle the tree supporting it. Woodworkers often use bittersweet in making decorative rustic furniture.

Garlic Mustard—These innocent-looking biennial weeds have an outsized impact by sending out underground chemicals that destroy mycorrhizae and disrupt native trees that rely on mycorrhizae. It doesn't help that each plant produces hundreds if not thousands of individual seeds. Garlic Mustard is easily pulled in May and June when their four-petaled white flowers appear, but they must be bagged and removed.

Meet A Member – Joe Hurley

By Richard Ashworth

I first met Joe Hurley at the Victor Chamber of Commerce, unaware that he was a fellow member of BANC. In my discussions with members for these articles, it’s interesting how often a person familiar in one context (pulling privet at the sanctuary, for example) has a quite different and rich background. Joe Hurley is one of those people.

As I reviewed the notes from my conversation with Joe, I concluded that I could not improve upon his answers to my questions, so here is Joe’s profile in his own words:

Where were you born and where did you spend your childhood?

I’m from Scotia, near Schenectady.

What did your parents do, and what siblings did you have?

My father was a cost accountant at General Electric and my mother stayed home to raise me and my five brothers and sisters.

What and where was your education? What were your aspirations then?

I graduated from Williams College in 1978 with a degree in economics. Through the on-campus interview process I lined up a job with a Big 8 accounting firm and so I moved to New York City two weeks after graduation to start work.

What have been the important features of your career?

I never liked having a boss, so becoming a partner at The Bonadio Group in 1986 was certainly a welcome step for me. In 1998 I decided to write and self-publish a book about a brand-new investment program called the Section 529 college savings plan. I also started the website Savingforcollege.com to provide comparative information about these state-run programs. Apparently, I was the only CPA in the country with a burning interest in 529 plans and so I

became the de facto national expert. I decided to retire from my CPA firm, I hired some staff, and I ran my own small publishing and consulting business.

Ten years later, my wife and I moved to our home and 50 acres on Benson Road and soon thereafter I sold Savingforcollege.com. I had the crazy idea that I could start a new maple and honey farm, even though I had absolutely no experience with farming, sugaring, or keeping bees. (Our woodland property included a section of maple trees, and I had attended a six-week class run by the Ontario Finger Lakes Beekeepers Association.) The result was Kettle Ridge Farm. The farm now taps 2,000 trees for maple syrup, produces wildflower honey, offers on-farm events, and operates a pancake food truck from our 12-acre property on Log Cabin Road.



Joe Hurley

Photo by Richard Ashworth

What experiences have influenced you most?

I’ve always enjoyed being outdoors and I’ve always been entrepreneurial. So along with being happily married and raising a family, most things in my life have revolved around those two traits.

What is your family situation? What are your children (if any) doing?

I’ve been married to my wife Ginny for 37 years.

(Continued on page 5)

(Meet a Member, continued from page 4)

She's amazing: she's a retired oncology nurse who hikes more than three miles every day on our trails at home and just last year purchased a 3-year-old horse that she keeps in Bloomfield. We have two wonderful children: Megan is a registered nurse at the Wilmot Cancer Center, and Chris manages Kettle Ridge Farm. Chris and his wife Meghan have a one-year-old daughter named Delaney.

When did you first become interested in nature?

What prompted the interest?

Growing up, family vacations consisted of two-week cabin rentals every summer, and my bicycle gave me the freedom to go off and explore new surroundings. My most memorable grade-school project had to be the leaf mounting and identification exercise in the fourth grade. I loved it! I also got a lot out of my environmental science classes in college.

Were your parents/family active in the natural world?

Not really. They were kept busy with six kids, and my brothers and sisters and I all had our own interests.

What are your main areas of natural history interest today?

I'm fascinated by native plants and obsessed with a desire to control non-native invasives. When we moved to Victor I made it my mission to learn as much about the trees, wildflowers, and other plants on our 50-acre property as I could. I even enrolled at Finger Lakes Community College in the horticulture and conservation programs. I've also established an arboretum for native US trees.

Are there individuals who have inspired or furthered your interest and activities?

Certainly, my instructors at FLCC; they were great. I've also connected with some other individuals and groups (e.g. Genesee Land Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York Forest Owners Association) in the area that have a lot of experience and knowledge surrounding forests and plants.

How did you come to join BANC? Was there someone who introduced you to the club?

I had bicycled past the club a few years ago and was

simply curious. A nature club with a beautiful clubhouse? What's that all about? Located only two miles away from my home, it was an easy decision to sign up.

For you personally, what are the most important benefits of membership?

So far, the most important benefit for me has just been being part of an organization that promotes and preserves the natural environment. As I become more involved over time, I'm sure there will be many other benefits.

Do you actively participate in BANC events or meetings?

I'm starting to. I plan to get more involved in some of the educational and social events. Since starting up Kettle Ridge Farm I haven't had much time to commit to other activities, but my schedule should free up a bit as my son takes over the management of the farm.

What have you done or do you do for BANC?

I'm on the Invasive Species Committee and have spent many hours at the property over the past year pulling invasive plants. I also plan to help out with the trail mowing this summer.

How should the club change its programs or activities?

I think the club is doing a tremendous job with its educational programs and activities for both adults and children. I'm never short of new ideas and I look forward to proposing some of these ideas to the Executive Council in the ongoing effort to attract more members, improve the Sanctuary, and further the club's environmental mission. There are many other like-minded organizations in our area and I think we can also learn a lot from them.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to get to know Joe a little better. We are lucky to have members with a breadth of experience and skills who are thoughtful planners, but also translate their passion for nature into practical work. I'm sure we will benefit from Joe's participation more as we move forward, and I know you will enjoy chatting with him at the Sanctuary or BANC events.

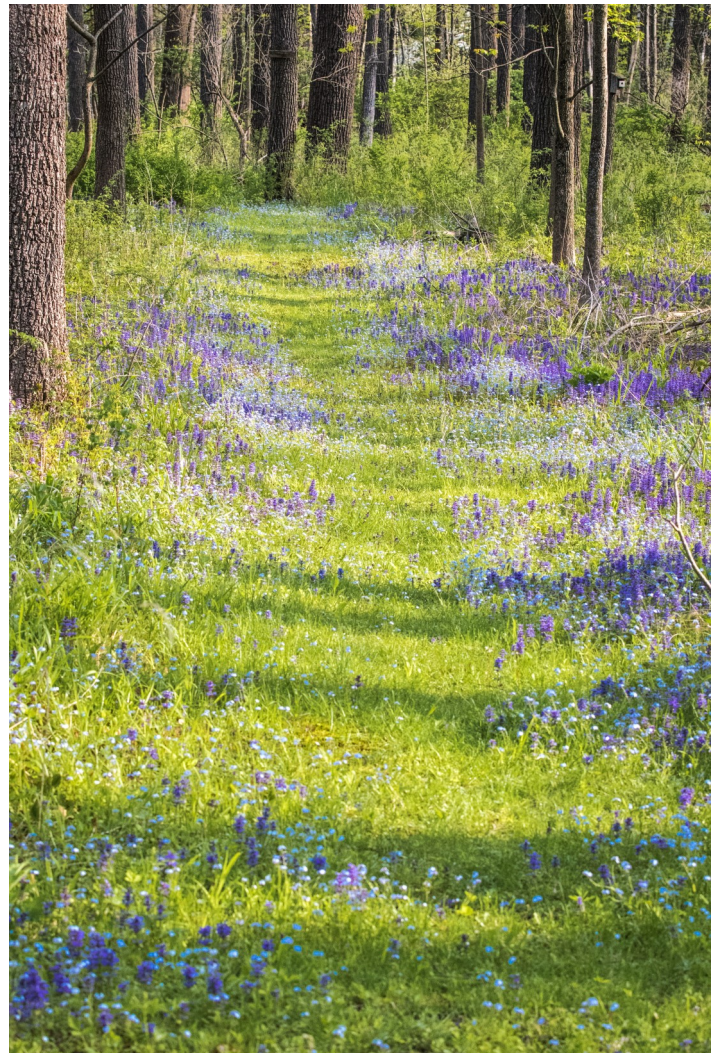
Some Lessons Learned

By Carol Hinkelman

In the last few months our world has been turned upside down and our lives have been totally changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have had to rethink our priorities and do what is necessary to protect our own health, the health of our family members and the rest of society. During this time of crisis we have learned many things; for instance, how unprepared our country was for a pandemic, the necessity of scientific research, the importance of a good health care system, how many essential workers there are, how valuable technology is in keeping us informed and connected, how quickly everything we take for granted can disappear, how a crisis can bring out the best in people, and on and on.

One thing many of us have realized while living with all these restrictions is how much we need to get outside and spend time in nature, taking walks in parks, preserves and open spaces. Frederick Olmsted, who designed many of our parks, recognized the positive effects of nature for rejuvenating people after a hard day of work. In all of his urban parks, Olmsted tried to immerse visitors in restorative and therapeutic natural landscapes — an experience he saw as the most profound and effective antidote to the stress and ailments of urban life. Today researchers are documenting the many health benefits associated with being outside. Spending time in parks and green spaces clearly benefits urban dwellers' psychological, emotional, and general well-being. It reduces stress, improves cognitive functioning and is associated with improved overall health.

While children and many more parents are at home now, families are often getting out to take a walk together and gain the benefits of being outdoors. We are lucky and grateful that we have so many parks and trails in our area where we can walk. For BANC members who joined the club because they love nature, getting outdoors to experience and enjoy nature is a high priority, especially right now. BANC is doing a very valuable thing by maintaining a sanctuary



One of the trails at the Sanctuary

(Continued on page 7)

Photo by Laurie Dirckx

(Some Lessons Learned - Continued from page 6)

that provides a place of refuge for people and for wildlife, a space where we can walk and enjoy nature ourselves and teach our children and grandchildren about nature. We are preserving more than 30 acres of land in the Irondequoit Creek watershed for them and for future generations.

Another thing that we have learned from COVID-19 is that if people truly believe there is a crisis and have good information and leadership, they will do what is necessary to meet the challenges they are faced with. People are willing to make sacrifices, follow guidelines and work together to solve a problem if they understand how crucial it is. We learned to be creative and act quickly during the current health crisis. Companies jumped in to make products that were needed even though they had never made them before. Scientists worked feverishly to study the virus, develop treatments for COVID and a vaccine to prevent it. Health care workers threw themselves into their work and didn't give up despite the frantic pace and long hours. Average citizens made masks, donated food and money, got groceries for neighbors and cheered on the frontline workers.

If we are able to conquer COVID-19, we can also overcome the most serious threat to our entire planet, climate change. The enormous problem of climate change and the short time frame of only a decade that we have left to deal with it, previously seemed overwhelming, but now that we have faced the COVID pandemic we can be more confident that we will be able to meet this existential challenge. If we use science to research solutions, communicate the seriousness of the climate change threat to everyone and have good leadership to implement the changes that will be necessary, we can solve it. We will have to do many things that we never thought we would do, but we have now proven that we can do that. We can beat climate change.

2020 Dues

If you haven't already renewed your membership, please send your dues check or renew by credit card online at <http://bancny.org/membership.html>.

\$20 - Individual membership

\$30 - Couples membership

\$35 - Family membership

Add \$5 for the Tanager hardcopy by mail.

Add \$4 for keys to the outside restroom.

To renew online, go to <http://bancny.org/membership.html>, fill out the online form, click "submit," and enter your credit card and information on the PayPal page which comes up.

If renewing by check, please send check and the form in this issue to:

BANC

c/o John Shaw

374 Cromwell Drive

Rochester, NY 14610

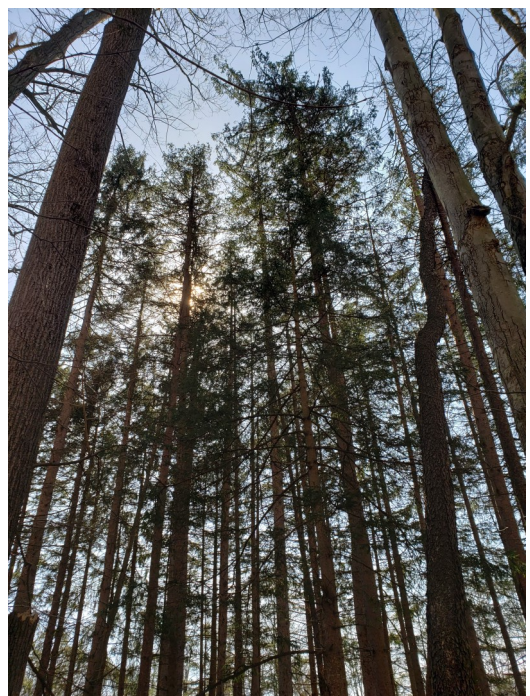


Winter Aconite at the Sanctuary

Photo by Marigrace Piazza

Trees in the Burroughs Sanctuary

Photos by Lura Kelley



Flowers in the Burroughs Sanctuary

Photos by Richard Ashworth



Snow Drops



Skunk Cabbage



Trout Lily

Trees Cut in Parking Lot

Some trees that were a danger to the parking lot were recently cut. The trees were then cut into lumber and removed from the parking lot.



Turning Logs Into Lumber

Photo by John Shaw



The Cleaned Up Parking Lot

Photo by Ellen Prill

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Photos by Richard Ashworth



Crocuses



Wake Robin Trillium



Bleeding Heart

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

All events through September 19 have been canceled due to COVID-19. Below are the remaining events. They are subject to cancellation, so check with the website, bancny.org.

Sunday, September 27, 2:00 PM

Webster Park

FALL FUNGI WALK

Sunday, October 4, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Open House at BANC Sanctuary

OCTOBER FUN DAY

Friday, October 9, 7:30 PM

Atonement Lutheran Church, 1900 Westfall Road

EXPERIENCE NIGHT

Saturday, October 17, 10:00 AM

Field Trip to Mount Hope Cemetery

FALL FOLIAGE AT MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

Sunday, October 25, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

BANC Sanctuary

CLEAN UP DAY AND HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Friday, November 13, 7:30 PM

Atonement Lutheran Church, 1900 Westfall Road

ANNUAL MEETING AND HARVEST-THEMED PROGRAM

APPLE TASTING AND THE SCIENCE OF SWEETNESS