

The Tanager



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Burroughs Audubon Nature Club

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President's Message

by Marigrace Piazza

After the unexpected resignation of Julie Clayton last month as BANC Vice-President, I was next in line to step in for her until the end of this year. We will miss Julie at the helm and appreciate all that she has done to lead our organization this year and in the past. She holds the title of serving the most terms as BANC President, three full terms (6 years) during 2008 to 2017, with a couple of breaks in between. We will continue to see her smiling face at BANC events, and she is looking forward to continuing to serve us in other important capacities.

I recently read over a column that I had written for this newsletter when I was President in 2019. I was pleased to see that it featured two programs that were coming up that summer that we will be bringing back to BANC in 2023. One is Family Nature Night on June 22, and the other is the Plein Air Painters Pot Luck on July 26. We have a variety of events planned for the next several months, and we will wind down the summer season with our annual September picnic on September 16. We are fortunate to have Lorna Wright, Acting Executive Director of the Genesee Land Trust, as our guest speaker that night.

In this edition of The Tanager, Shirley Shaw will update us on the progress of the New York State Trail grant. This is a very exciting time for us, and all the years of detailed, painstaking paperwork by Shirley and the committee is finally starting to seem worth it. The landscape architects have commissioned a survey on our property, and the work designs are being created. The construction work should start next

(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue

President's Report	1
Meet A Member — Derek Pulhamus	3
Climate Action in Monroe County	4
New Members	5
Trails Grant Report	5
Coming Events	6
Membership Form	9
Family Nature Night	10
Field Trip to Casey Park	11
What is New in the Gardens	12
NYSOA Conference	13
Story of a River	14
A Tour of Highland Park	15
Backyard Bluebirds	17
"Power Hours" at the Sanctuary	19
Ice Cream Social	20

* Pages from 10 and above are in the digital edition

(President's Message - Continued from page 1)

summer. Unfortunately, that means that this summer some of our boardwalks are in disrepair until they can be rebuilt as part of the grant work. Keep a look-out for some Trail Closed signs near the Balsam Fir Trail boardwalk and on the Woodland Trail near the step-down boardwalk where it nears the Creekside Trail. Enjoy our sanctuary but be a little extra careful and “pardon our dust.”

We had another successful Habitat Restoration Day on April 23. If you missed it, don't fear! Jane McConnochie, our Habitat Restoration committee chairperson, is organizing a series of hour-long “Power Hour” events this summer for members who can help us maintain the health of the sanctuary's wildlife habitat. Tentatively set for the second Sunday and fourth Friday of each month starting in June, it's an opportunity to get a little exercise and fresh air while meeting new people who share your love of nature. We'll be removing invasives, collecting native seeds, building deer fences, etc. If you would like to participate in this important work, please contact Jane at BANCrsvp@gmail.com.

The Nominating Committee will be busy in the next few months contacting members who may be interested in serving on the Council. Kathy Henrie, Richard Ashworth, and Lieve Bain may be calling you to see if you would be interested in serving. Please consider it. We need your new ideas and input as we make decisions on how to carry out the BANC mission. Contact us at BANCrsvp@gmail.com if you are interested.

The committee chairs will also be calling folks to enlist new helpers. The committee most in need of helpers is the Sanctuary Building and Grounds Committee. Can you volunteer a few times a year to help maintain our clubhouse and grounds? Or, are you willing to serve as a liaison to coordinate volunteers and organize projects? Do you have any suggestions for someone who would enjoy this work? Let us know.

On a final note I want to share with you some thoughts I had after attending the Woodcock walk on March 30. Although this event has been planned and led by Shirley Shaw and Chita McKinney for the past three years, this was the first time that I attended. There were about 20 of us who gathered in a parking lot at the Gosnell Big Woods in Webster. We followed Shirley as we walked along the edge of the woods until she stopped and told us this was the place to wait and sit quietly. We opened up our chairs and sat patiently and expectantly in hopes of seeing the famous aerial courtship display of the American Woodcock. We listened carefully for the “peent” sound of the male. As we waited, the sun set across the open field on a cold but clear night in March. Some stars came out, and it got colder and darker. After a period of time, Shirley said it was time to go, and we all closed up our chairs and walked back along the edge of the Big Woods in the dark to our cars. Are you wondering if we saw the display or if we heard the peenting? Yes, sort of, maybe, for a split second. Was I disappointed? No.

I admit that I am a generalist when it comes to all things nature and not a serious birder. I felt a kinship to this group of people who came together in eager anticipation to witness one of nature's wonders on a cold March night. I am grateful for all the people of BANC who make these transformative experiences possible.



Photo by Marigrace Piazza

Meet A Member — Derek Pulhamus

By Richard Ashworth

Our subject this time is a relatively new member of BANC: Derek Pulhamus joined the club in 2022, and brings his science background to bear in his particular interests in birds and gardening.

Born in Rochester, Derek grew up in Ogden with his sister Kim and brother Dan and attended Spencerport High School. He then embarked on an engineering career after attaining a BA in History, a BS in Optics, and an MS in Optics – all from the University of Rochester.

After ten years as an optical engineer supporting manufacturing at Melles Griot (part of IDEX Corporation), Derek joined L3Harris Technologies, where his work as an Optical Systems Engineer is focused on satellite telescope development.

Derek doesn't claim any great interest in nature as a child, although he did go camping with the Boy Scouts and at one point took a course in botanical illustration. Rather, it was the COVID lockdown, which prompted his curiosity about the birdlife around his urban home in Rochester, near the airport, where he also cultivated a small garden in the absence of deer or rabbit issues.

His growing interest in the birds led to use of eBird in 2021 and, browsing for local eBird hotspots, he came upon the BANC sanctuary. Derek joined BANC and is enjoying birding on the property, while also assisting the Habitat Restoration Committee and invasive plant removal.



Photo by Richard Ashworth

In August 2022, Derek and his wife of nine years, Sarah, moved to a house on Railroad Mills Road, midway between the BANC sanctuary and Powder Mills Park, together with their Corgi and five rabbits. Their grounds include some wooded hillside and a small creek; Derek has started clearing and replanting several areas, and appreciates BANC and its members as an excellent resource for gardening and habitat restoration expertise.



Photos by Fred Haynes and Paul Brach

Climate Action in Monroe County

By Carol Hinkelman

Climate change is already causing serious threats to human life on earth with sea level rise, floods, fires, more heat waves, and stronger hurricanes and tornados. We have lost a lot of time when we could have been dealing with this crisis, so now we have no time to waste. All levels of our government are working on plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Locally, the City of Rochester has made a climate action plan and Monroe County is currently in the process of developing its plan.

A climate action plan is a comprehensive, strategic effort to address and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere and the related environmental and climatic impacts associated with rising GHGs. Monroe County began in 2020 to work on Phase 1 of its plan which focused on identifying greenhouse gas emissions from County-owned facilities and infrastructure and County-run operations. The Phase 1 strategic action plan reduces GHG’s from things that are under direct Monroe County control, and it was adopted in September 2022. This was an important first step in planning for a sustainable and resilient County.

In Phase 2 they are now undertaking a community-wide GHG inventory including residential, commercial, industrial, municipal and all other energy dependent activities that occur within the County. Together, the Phase 1 and Phase 2 climate action plans will create a comprehensive roadmap to reduce our region’s contribution to climate change and provide a more sustainable future. Phase 2 is scheduled to be finished by the end of this year. The plan will then be presented to the County Legislature for adoption.

Some of the areas they will be looking at in Phase 2 include:

- Buildings and housing
- Transportation
- Energy use and consumption
- Land and Water Resources
- Partnerships, Education and Economy
- Waste and Recycling

Season	Baseline (°F)	Scenario	2020-2039	2040-2059	2060-2079	2080-2099
Annual	48.7	High	+3.1	+5.4	+8.1	+10.7
		Low	+3	+4.3	+5.4	+6
Fall	51.5	High	+3.7	+5.8	+8.5	+10.9
		Low	+3.4	+4.8	+5.7	+6.3
Spring	46.2	High	+2.2	+4.6	+7.1	+9.7
		Low	+2.4	+3.7	+4.7	+5.5
Summer	69.2	High	+3.4	+5.7	+8.7	+11.4
		Low	+3.1	+4.5	+5.7	+6.1
Winter	27.4	High	+3.1	+5.4	+8.2	+10.7
		Low	+2.9	+4.3	+5.5	+6.2

Projected Change in Average Temperature (°F)

From Monroe County Climate Action Plan Report

To see the full report on the Phase 1 plan and learn more about Phase 2, see the plan website: <https://www.monroecountyclimateaction.com>. There was a Phase 2 public kickoff meeting on March 15 via Zoom and those sessions were recorded and are available on the website. If you sign up to be on the

(Continued on page 5)

(Climate Action Plan - Continued from page 4)

plan mailing list, you will get information about public events and other opportunities to give your input. The website also has information on New York State and federal climate action plans under Resources.

There is a Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee which plays a key role in the planning process. They have already helped to guide the development of the Phase 1 CAP and serve as spokespeople for the project. BANC member Loretta Morrell has been attending these CAP committee meetings and reporting back to the Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists so that its members (including BANC) are informed about what is happening there and can have input into the plan.

The CAP Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

Go to the committee’s webpage: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/des-climate-committee> where you can view CAP Advisory Committee meeting notices, agendas and minutes, who is on the committee, and get more information on how you can attend their meetings and give your input or ask questions during the public comment part of the meeting. The committee’s Phase 1 meetings were recorded and can also be accessed from there.

It is important for all of us to take action to reduce our individual carbon footprints and we can also learn about and get involved in climate action in the County by sending in our comments and ideas on the plan’s website and by participating in their public meetings and events. You can help protect the planet from the worst effects of climate change for our children and grandchildren.

Time to renew your membership

If you haven’t already done so, you need to renew your membership now, either by mail or online. See the form on page 9, or go to <http://bancny.org/membership.html>.

TRAILS GRANT REPORT

Shirley Shaw

In the March edition of the *Tanager*, I reported that BANC was reviewing the contract from our landscape architect, the firm SWBR. The contract has been signed, and we are now in what is known as the Preliminary Design Phase of our project. SWBR commissioned a survey by Costich Engineering to determine the slopes and dimensions of areas where construction will take place. The survey has been completed, and we will receive Preliminary Design plans soon for the Executive Council’s review and input. Those plans along with environmental review reports will have to be approved by the NY State before we can have final construction plans drawn. Therefore, it is unlikely construction will start until 2024.

In the meantime, we are living with the deteriorated condition of some of our boardwalks. We have decided that the “Step” boardwalk that links the Woodland Trail to Creekside Trail is no longer safe, nor is the short boardwalk on lovely Balsam Fir Trail. Therefore, both of those areas have been temporarily closed.

As you read in the President’s Report, “Pardon our dust.” The Sanctuary is a beautiful place to walk and appreciate nature, so please don’t let the “dust” deter you from taking advantage of our property.

New Members

The following new members have joined. We welcome them to BANC:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Sally Thurston | Pittsford |
| George Thurston | Pittsford |
| Alison Grube | Macedon |
| Colleen Holzman | Honeoye Falls |

Coming Events

The following events are planned for the next three months. Please refer to our website, bancny.org, for any changes or additions.

Thursday, June 22, 2023, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Family Nature Night Open House
BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

After a break of three years, BANC is happy to announce the return of the popular Family Nature Night. Families with children of all ages are invited to join the fun and need not be members to participate. During the Family Night, BANC members will be on hand with displays demonstrating their particular interests.

The trails in the Sanctuary will be available for exploring. A scavenger hunt is planned as well as guided walks. There will be displays and interactive play related to all aspects of natural science. During the evening nature observation and learning will be celebrated as well as the beauty of our special preserve on a June evening. Come to enjoy, or to share your expertise. Light refreshments will be served.
Contact Person: Marigrace Piazza 314-8462.

Friday, July 14, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Fantastic Ferns of Wolf Gull
Naples, New York

Bruce Gilman, retired Finger Lakes Community College naturalist, will lead us on a walk to discover the plants and topography of Wolf Gull. At the end of the Ice Age, Wolf Gull formed as a north-south oriented melt water channel about 150 ft above Glacial Lake Naples, a proglacial lake in the Canandaigua Valley just to the east. The water from the receding ice margin roared through the channel, fell over a 30-foot waterfall, and continued flowing south into an embayment of the glacial lake. Today, Wolf Gull is a ravine resplendent with luxuriant growth of mosses, liverworts and ferns totaling over 30 species! These grow in a muck filled depression, once the plunge

pool beneath the former waterfall. The floor of the ravine is forested and has become narrower over time with accumulating talus. Springs seep through the talus contributing to the moist, shaded, and cooler [microclimate](#).

What to expect: The hike is relatively level and about one mile in length. Expect muddy sections and be prepared for biting insects. Where to park: Park along the west side of Garlinghouse Road at the curve, just south of the intersection with Lanning Road.

Registration is required by July 11. The trip is limited to 15 people. Registrants will get a map with instructions. To register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4caca828a5fe3-ferns>.

Contact Person: Jutta Dudley. 585-385-2368

Saturday, July 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Canandaigua Botanical Society walk
BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

The Canandaigua Botanical Society is nearing its 150th anniversary of advancing knowledge and enjoyment of plants found in the Finger Lakes Region. On Saturday, July 22 they will meet at the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club, adjacent to Irondequoit Creek, to enjoy a walk at our 30-acre nature sanctuary. Discover the flora and fauna of midsummer and connect with friends. You may find yourself joining both organizations sharing similar interests and a wide variety of programs.

Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the walk and before heading out for the afternoon.

(Continued on page 7)

(Coming Events Continued from page 6)

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Plein Air Painting and Potluck

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Our beautiful nature preserve will be the inspiration for a visiting group of Plein Air painters to our Sanctuary. Plein Air painting is defined as the art of painting outdoors and was developed chiefly in France in the mid-19th century. Come at 4:00 PM to watch the painters in action as they set up their easels around the property. The artists will provide instruction and inform us of their craft during this time. At 6:00 PM we will gather for a potluck dinner.

Bring your favorite dish to pass (enough for 8 to 12 people), your own dinnerware and a drink. Please try to use local ingredients as a favor to the environment. Registration is required. To register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4caca828a5fe3-plein>.



Plein Air Painting at the Sanctuary

Photo by Marigrace Piazza

Saturday, August 12, 2023 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Miniature World of Mosses

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Join naturalists Carol and David Southby as we explore our sanctuary to look for mosses, learn the basics about their structures, and identify some of the common ones that are right at our feet.

Mosses are evergreen, so we can enjoy them year-round. They build soil to help other plants get started, and with over 450 different species in New York State, there is a lot more to mosses than you might expect.

Following an introduction to moss basics at the clubhouse, we will take a short easy walk looking at mosses along the way. We will set up a microscope at the clubhouse for those interested in an even closer look at these lovely little plants.

Rain or shine. Bring a hand lens or magnifier if you have one.

Leaders Carol and David Southby: (585) 383-8168

Tuesday, August 22, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Garnet-rich Sands of Northeastern North America

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Optional Brown Bag Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Fred Haynes, retired geologist and active sand collector, will share his interest in garnet-rich sands with us. Sand collectors (arenophiles) love heavy mineral sands, and garnet is one of the more common minerals found in heavy mineral sands. New England and the Great Lakes region are full of rocks containing garnet and their erosion leads to garnet-rich sands in many locations. Fred will discuss the occurrence of numerous garnet-sand locations in the northeast USA, including those found along Lake Ontario right here in Monroe County. This talk was presented last September at the International Sand Collectors Society SandFest convention in Coos Bay, Oregon. A few words and slides from the field trips and workshops accompanying that event will be included. Oregon's Pacific coastline is a sand collector's paradise.

(Continued on page 8)

(Coming Events - Continued from page 7)

Saturday, September 16, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

BANC Annual Picnic

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Please join us for our annual picnic! Bring a dish to pass (enough for 8-12 people) and try to use local ingredients. Also, please bring your own dinnerware and a drink.

Dinner will be followed by a presentation about Climate Change by Lorna Wright, The Director of the Genesee Land Trust. Lorna will share with us the impacts that we are seeing. She will use examples from Genesee Land Trust's land protection and land management work to discuss ways we can mitigate and adapt to these challenges, continuing to provide habitat for wildlife, farms for food and connections for people. You do not want to miss this presentation!

Lorna Wright came to Rochester to attend the University of Rochester, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Biology in 1999. She has worked across various non-profit sectors before volunteering with the Genesee Land Trust and loving it. She then decided to pursue an advanced degree to turn conservation into a career. She earned a Masters of Environmental Management and Masters of Forestry at Duke University before returning back to the upstate NY region and the beautiful snow. Lorna worked for the Central and Western NY Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, based on Tug Hill for 3.5 years. When the opportunity to work for Genesee Land Trust opened up, she jumped at the chance to join the small, but impactful team. Come and meet Lorna!

Registration is required at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-picnic>.

Friday - Sunday, September 22-24, 2023

Birders' Conference and NYSOA Annual Meeting
Sleepy Hollow Conference Center
Tarrytown, Westchester County (40 miles north of New York City)

BANC is one of the original members of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA). This year's NYSOA conference includes field trips to birding hot spots, workshops and research papers about topics of interest to birders, and a banquet and keynote address by a major figure in the world of birding, David Allen Sibley, field guide author. This event is a great way to increase your knowledge of birds and meet people from across New York. Registration to attend is now open. Costs increase after July 1, so you can save money by registering early. For details and registration, go to www.nybirders.org You do not have to be a member of NYSOA to attend.



Photos by Fred Haynes and Paul Brach

BURROUGHS AUDUBON NATURE CLUB (BANC) 2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. If you join after October 1, 2023, your membership continues through the year 2024.

Please send your check, payable to BANC, along with this form, to:

BANC
c/o John Shaw, Treasurer
374 Cromwell Drive
Rochester, NY 14610

Or, to pay online by credit card, use the form at bancny.org/membership.html.

Name(s) _____

Children's Ages (optional) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Date _____

How did you learn of us? _____ Birth Month (Optional) _____

Check one: New Member _____ Renewal _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	DUES	AMOUNT PAID
Individual	\$25	\$
Couple	\$35	\$
Family, including children under 18	\$40	\$
Supporting Membership	\$75	\$
Life Membership	\$500	\$
Add \$10.00 for Tanager hardcopy mailed	\$10	\$
Extra Donation Appreciated	\$	\$
		Total \$

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club



Presents

NATURE NIGHT

Thursday June 22nd 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, pond life, rocks, insects, fossils, minerals, trees, plants and much more from local experts

- *Victor-Farmington Community Library will lead a nature children's story time at 6:30 PM*
- *participate in a guided nature walk and scavenger hunt*
- *create nature crafts and engage in interactive play*
- *learn to enjoy nature this summer as a Citizen Scientist*
- *enjoy refreshments and live music*



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

Field Trip to Casey Park

By Shirley Shaw

Casey Park? Where is it? Never heard of it. What's there?

These were the initial responses when a field trip to focus on geology and botany was first suggested to the BANC Program Committee. Well, if nothing else, we need to expand our horizons, and we knew what good leaders Fred Haynes and Paul Brach were, so onto the schedule the trip went.

On a beautiful but chilly morning April 27 a crowd of BANCers learned all about the iron mining that took place in Wayne County, beginning in the 1800's and not ending until 1948. With manual labor, and later with the invention of the steam engine, several linear pits were dug over the decades; the last and deepest quarry is one mile long and is now filled with 60 feet of water.

On one side of this man-made lake is a flat path where a railroad track used to be. The path is lined with interesting plants, including the largest number of blooming trout lilies most of us had ever seen. We returned on the north side of the lake via a trail that runs along a narrow ridge that is actually part of the old mine dump. Because of the rocks and roots underfoot, walking on the ridge required careful concentration. Although there were fewer flowers, the ridge provided vantage points to see additional man-made ridges and overgrown pits from the decades of mining. Two unusual plants found on this trail were Canada buffaloberry shrubs and the carline thistle, which is naturalized from Europe and found in only a few New York counties.

Thanks to Fred for his interesting geology lesson about iron ore in this area, and to both Fred and Paul for providing us with identification and information about the various plants along our walk. Casey Park is now on our radar, and if you weren't able to be with us April 27, add it to your places for a great nature walk.



Photo by Fred Haynes



Photo by Fred Haynes



Photo by Kathy Sheridan-Henrie

What's New in the Gardens?

By Carol and David Southby

If you have been to our sanctuary in Victor this year, you may have noticed a large bare area at the edge of the woods near the butterfly garden in front of the clubhouse. This was prepared last fall at the cleanup day. First, we set down a thick layer of cardboard. Next, volunteers gathered up leaves from the lawn and parking lot, hauled them on tarps, then spread them out on top of the cardboard. Finally, they stomped them down into a thick layer. The idea is to smother out the existing vegetation as much as possible, to prepare the area for planting later this year.

Why do we need this new area? We have several reasons. One is that in preparation ahead of the boardwalk reconstruction work scheduled for 2024, we will need to rescue some plants that might otherwise be damaged during construction, and we need a place

to grow these until they can be replanted, once construction is complete. Secondly, as part of the ongoing habitat restoration project involving removal of invasive plants such as privet, we need somewhere to grow new native plants to replace them. We will raise some plants from cuttings or seed and grow them until they are large enough to plant elsewhere in the sanctuary. We will

also establish some plants to provide us with an easy place to collect seed from each year, to scatter in different parts of the sanctuary. Finally, we will be able to use this area to grow some different butterfly plants that would spread too rapidly if we planted them in the main butterfly gardens.

Apart from the new section, we have been making changes in the types of plants we grow in the gardens, gradually adding more locally native plants, namely North American plants that grow naturally in Ontario, Monroe, and nearby counties. As these perennial native plants

become established, we are gradually reducing the number of annual flowers we plant each year. We still plan to use a few annuals, because these give the longest possible season of flowers that provide nectar for butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.

This change in the plant mix is gradually reducing the

amount of maintenance needed each year for planting. We let plants grow closer together to help shade out weeds, and this allows us to spend less time and money on mulch. We have made some other changes



Leaf Covered Bed

Photo by Dave Southby

(Continued on page 13)

(What's New in the Gardens? Continued from page 12)

to the maintenance, based on recent information about how to support our native bees. For some years now, we have not cut down old vegetation in fall, instead we leave it to provide cover for insects, and seeds for the birds. Now, when we cut down stems in spring, we leave them about 12 to 18 inches high. Many of our solitary native bees use these stems to make their little nests inside. If you look carefully in spring, you might observe some of these tiny bees checking out the tips of hollow stems. We also think that these stiff dry stems have the added benefit of helping to protect tender new growth of perennials from browsing deer. It may look as if the gardens are not tended in the way we used to expect of gardens, but this is a different way of growing not just colorful summer flowers, but plants that support all sorts of tiny wildlife throughout the seasons.

NYSOA Conference

Friday - Sunday, September 22-24, 2023
 Birders' Conference and NYSOA Annual Meeting
 Sleepy Hollow Conference Center
 Tarrytown, Westchester County (40 miles north of
 New York City)

BANC is one of the original members of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA). This year's NYSOA conference includes field trips to birding hot spots, workshops and research papers about topics of interest to birders, and a banquet and keynote address by a major figure in the world of birding, David Allen Sibley, field guide author. This event is a great way to increase your knowledge of birds and meet people from across New York. Registration to attend is now open. Costs increase after July 1, so you can save money by registering early. For details and registration, go to www.nybirders.org. You do not have to be a member of NYSOA to attend.

Evening Grosbeaks

Photos by Dave Southby



The Story of a River

By Julie Clayton

On Friday, April 14th, BANC members and guests were treated to a tour of the mighty Hudson River by photographers and story-tellers, Denise Hakert-Stoner and Scott Stoner. I, for one, loved the fascinating history and amazing photos to which we were treated that evening!

The mighty Hudson has its origins in the high hills of the Adirondack Mountains just below the peak of Mt. Marcy at Lake Tear of the Clouds from which flows the Opalescent River. Thus begins its 315-mile journey Southward toward the New York City Harbor!

I have always been fascinated with The Hudson River since I was a child frequently traveling to New York with my family in our 1950 green Chevrolet and crossing the lo-o-o-o-ng Tappan Zee Bridge, a bridge of over three miles, — across a wide expanse of the Hudson that is between Tarrytown and Nyack.

(My mom was a native New Yorker so we would visit my grandparents often.) The Tappan Zee Bridge has been replaced by the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.

Denise and Scott began our tour aptly at the hills of the Adirondacks. Their photographs are prize-winning of the streams, waterfalls, and wildlife. We were shown a photo of the North Creek Train Station where Teddy

Roosevelt received the news that President McKinley had been shot in Buffalo. Thus began TR's frantic trip back to Western New York. We were shown a photo of the Adirondack Folk School in Lake Luzerne dedicated to teaching the arts, crafts, and cultural heritage of the Adirondack region. Our tour continued South and we saw pictures of the Corinth Dam and the Spear Falls Dam.

Next we were at the Saratoga National Historical Park which commemorates the turning point during

the American War for Independence. There were photos of the Anthony Kill, also called Tenandeho Creek, a stream in Saratoga County that flows east into the Hudson at Mechanicville. A beautiful photo of Cohoes Falls was also presented. Then we went to the Federal Dam and Lock in Troy.

Soon we were in the Albany area. That is where both sides of the river connect! The river flows North from New York City and South from the Adirondacks! That is why the Hudson is called “the river that flows both ways”. At the Port of

Albany, you can find Henry Hudson Park and the Half Moon! (There are sturgeon that grow up to 800 pounds and 60 years of age!)

Just South of the park you will find the town of Castleton, NY in Rensselaer County. Our tour continued and we found ourselves in Hudson, NY, where it is a great place to watch for bald eagles!

Keep going and you arrive

at Hastings-On-the-Hudson where you will find the Hudson River School of the Arts! Tours are free, but must be scheduled in advance! There are seven lighthouses which can be found between Hudson, NY and Manhattan!

We were shown photos of Hudson River Skywalk over the Rip Van Winkle Bridge! It is an amazing skywalk which is 5,040 feet long and towers 140 feet over the Hudson. The Hudson passes New-

(Continued on page 15)



(The Story of a River - Continued from page 14)

burgh where there is a fjord that was carved by glacier! Who would guess? The geological history is fascinating!

Beacon, NY, is where folk legend, Pete Seeger, set up home, and with his wooden sloop that he had constructed, The Clearwater, began the movement of awareness and the public's contribution to cleaning up water pollution! We passed the area and there is a wonderful museum called Storm King Museum there.

We were shown Bannerman Castle, which dates back to the American Revolution and served as a munitions warehouse. We saw the Indian Point Nuclear Plant, which shut down two years ago. We then saw the widest part of the Hudson at the Palisades where the Hudson is 3.5 miles across.

We learned that there is a long walking/bike path from the Palisades to the George Washington Bridge in Manhattan. The river widens to its mouth and ends at Manhattan and the Battery Park, which is at the South end of Manhattan Island.

The crowning point of the Hudson is, undoubtedly, Ellis Island and The Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island where our tour ended!

Our thanks to Denise Hackert-Stone and Scott Stone; we enjoyed the tour!

A Tour of Highland Park – Truly a Gem!

By Julie Clayton

On Tuesday, June 6, JoAnn Beck led a tour of the beautiful Highland Park for BANC to sixteen interested nature-lovers. JoAnn is a retired landscape architect, chair of the Rochester Olmsted Parks Alliance, and president of Highland Park Conservancy. We were so fortunate to have her lead this tour!

Joanne told us how George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry, nurserymen, endowed the Rochester community with 20 acres of land and trees which became Highland Park. That was in 1888, and that was the beginning of the public park system in Rochester!

Highland Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, considered to be the father of landscape architecture in the United States.

We began at the Lamberton Conservatory on Reservoir Ave. We walked behind it to where the land drops down to a basin. Large trees had been planted around the basin to make the area one of extreme peace and tranquility.

We walked up the hill to the small road to the north. The road took very soft turns, which were intentionally designed so by Olmstead.

We then took a path to higher ground. Joann said that there was never a thought to “keep off the grass” since walking on the grass is part of the park experience.

We walked up to the highest hill of the park to where the Children's Pavilion had stood on a glacial moraine deposited during the Ice Age! Olmsted planned for a wonderful three-story open-air pavilion. This pavilion would have panoramic views of the park and further areas, including the Bristol Hills to the south. This pavilion was built and existed from 1890 to 1963, at which point it had to be demolished.

The good news is that the pavilion will be rebuilt and hopefully will be finished by 2025! This is a huge endeavor and involves many public and private sup-



Photo by Fred Haynes and Paul Brach

(Continued on page 16)

(A Tour of Highland Park - Continued from page 15)

porters. Visitors to Highland Park will once again have the opportunity to have panoramic views of the park and surrounding areas!

We continued on our tour and walked down to the very lovely, brilliantly colorful rhododendron bushes which were in full bloom! What a perfect day for our visit!

JoAnn had discussed the Reservoir that is so important to Rochester residents and how the water is piped and flows by gravity from Hemlock Lake, located about 39 miles south of Rochester.

The group walked by the numerous and varied lilac bushes. There are about 1200 shrubs representing more than 500 varieties!

We walked by the magnolias, horse chestnuts, and various buckeye trees, and the lovely and peaceful Poet's Garden, which was established by The Rochester Garden Club in 1916 to honor William Shakespeare on the 300th anniversary of his death.

We ended across the street from the Lamberton Conservatory, and Joann gracefully fielded questions from the eager and impressed group. We are grateful to JoAnn for this delightful tour.



JoAnn Beck describing some of the unusual trees at Highland Park.

Photo by Julie Clayton



JoAnn Beck discussing the children's pavilion.

Photo by Julie Clayton



Highland Park Tour

Photo by Chita McKinney

Backyard Bluebirds

By Diane Henderson

The question is whether Eastern Bluebirds are such successful breeders in our area that they are now nesting in more varied locations, or are they so limited in finding nesting locations that they are forced to nest in untraditional places or wherever they can find a place remotely suitable.

Last spring, around the middle of May, we observed a male Eastern Bluebird visit our backyard. Our typical Henrietta suburban lot has never been the right choice for bluebirds, but our 6 birdboxes, placed around the yard among our flower beds, have fledged many House Wrens as well as Black-capped Chickadees. Because we have a House Sparrow problem my husband, Chuck, placed metal covers over each nest box entry hole to accommodate the small birds and keep the sparrows out!

In the 47 years of living here we have seen a bluebird or two come through in early spring, check out a couple of boxes and quickly move on, but this bluebird kept returning to a broken-down “decorative” bird house that was destined for the trash. A red squirrel had chewed open a large entry, the staples holding it together were popping out and, if that was not enough, it sat atop a wooden stand that had seen better days. Surprisingly, the House Sparrows didn’t even have an interest in it. The male bluebird was now joined by a female and they began to build a nest in it. Because the stand was so in-secure I had Chuck tie the box to our fence for fear a slight wind would take the entire thing down.

The bluebirds finished the nest and took turns observing it carefully from the electric line that ran from the telephone pole to our house. This was a perfect observation post and when the female was on the nest the male would chase down everything from a chipmunk to a robin who dared to land on the fence next to his box. At one point Chuck peered into the box and saw three little eggs and a couple of weeks later three little chicks. We watched as the parents brought food to the box and carry out fecal sacs. Then on July 5th we saw one of the chicks sitting in

the entry hole and later that day a second one joined him. Darn, I didn’t get my camera out in time for the two together, they were so cute! The next morning parents and fledglings were all gone. A few days later a neighbor up the street reported that my bluebirds were at her birdbath having a grand time. We sure miss seeing them every day, but we have since purchased a real bluebird house and plan to install it properly in the same location. We will monitor it and strive to keep the sparrows out. Wish us luck that they show up again this spring.



Eastern Bluebird chick looking out of house

Photo by Diane Henderson



Male Eastern Bluebird

Photo by Diane Henderson



On Wednesday, April 12, 2023, after providing an informative presentation on local amphibians— did you know that the Eastern red-spotted newt produces the same toxin as puffer fish or that if frogs hop through a lawn treated with the herbicide Roundup, 68% die after just a day?— Professor John Bateman of Finger Lakes Community College led a group of about 20 intrepid BANC members and friends on a walk to listen to the evening chorus at the sanctuary— Spring Peepers, Green Frogs, and a lone Bullfrog all had something important to say that evening!

Photo by Richard Ashworth



Female Eastern Bluebird

Photo by Diane Henderson

Habitat Restoration “Power Hours” at the Sanctuary

By Jane McConnochie

Second Sundays at 4:00 p.m. and Fourth Fridays at 10:00 a.m. of Every Month

The BANC sanctuary wildlife needs your help! Invasive insects and vegetation have put the health of the sanctuary’s rare and beautiful ecosystem at risk. But you can help!

Come pull privet, grab garlic mustard, strike-out swallow-wort, fence-out deer, nurture native plants, collect native seeds, or do other things that need doing to keep the sanctuary hale and hearty.

What’s it in for you?

Skip the gym — walk, squat, lift, pull, or push for as many sets and reps as needed to get your endorphins flowing!

Skip the bar — get to know other volunteers, organically!

Skip the on-line adult-ed classes — learn from knowledgeable members of the Habitat Restoration Committee and each other about all things flora and fauna!

Skip the statins — time in nature reduces blood pressure (okay don’t skip your meds; listen to your doctor)!

*Power Hour participation is eligible for service-learning credits. Text or E-mail Jane M for details: 734-330-6066 or BANCrsvp@gmail.com.

Mark your calendar with the full schedule:

Sunday, June 11 at 4 p.m.

Friday, June 23 at 10 a.m.

Sunday, July 9 at 4 p.m.

Friday, July 28 at 10 a.m.

Sunday, August 13 at 4 p.m.

Friday, August 25 at 10 a.m.

Sunday, September 10 at 4 p.m.

Friday, September 22 at 10 a.m.

Sunday, October 8 at 4 p.m.

Friday, October 27 at 10 a.m.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

By Shirley Shaw

May 25 was unusually cool for late in the month, but that did not stop the almost 20 people who headed to the Sanctuary that evening for a delicious ice cream sundae. By the time they arrived, the sun had been shining in our windows for a while, and the club house’s interior was quite comfortable.

As we ate, Julie Clayton entertained us by singing with her beautiful voice, and later Carol Hinkelman led a group on a walk. Those sundae calories just evaporated in that lovely natural setting!

Thanks to Julie, Carol, Lucretia Grosshans, John Shaw, Jutta Dudley — the official helpers for this event — and to the attendees who lent a hand with the clean-up.



Julie Clayton entertaining us with song at the Ice Cream Social

Photo by John Shaw



Photos by Fred Haynes and Paul Brach

NEEDED: MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Do you just love nature and the beautiful four seasons we experience here in Rochester, New York? Are you creative and enjoy people, as well?

Perhaps you might be interested in attracting more members to the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club!

Please call Julie Clayton at 585-704-5588.



A Grebe Gets a Meal. Fresh Frog Legs!

Photos by Dominic Sherony

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Program details are on pages 6-8. Some programs require registration. See details.

Thursday, June 22, 2023, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Family Nature Night Open House

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Friday, July 14, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Fantastic Ferns of Wolf Gull

Naples, New York

Saturday, July 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Canandaigua Botanical Society walk

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Plein Air Painting and Potluck

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Saturday, August 12, 2023, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Miniature World of Mosses

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Tuesday, August 22, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Garnet-rich Sands of Northeastern North America

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Saturday, September 16, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

BANC Annual Picnic

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Friday - Sunday, September 22-24, 2023

Birders' Conference and NYSOA Annual Meeting

Sleepy Hollow Conference Center

Tarrytown, Westchester County (40 miles north of New York City)