

BANC ANNUAL BANQUET

Wednesday, April 22, 2015



Bryce Canyon National Park

“Beyond Ken Burns: Traveling to America’s 401 National Parks”

By Randi Minetor

Author of 15 books on America’s national parks

Books available for purchase

Cash Bar 6:00 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

Speaker 8:15 PM

GLENDOVEERS

2328 Old Browncroft Road, Rochester, NY 14625

Delicious buffet dinner, all inclusive at \$25 per person

Reservations deadline: April 15

Please indicate if you need a ride

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Make checks payable to BANC and mail form below to  
Art Trimble, 37 Song Bird Lane, Rochester, NY 14620

Number of dinners at \$25.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names of attendees (for nametags)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Tanager

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I'm honored to have been re-elected BANC president for 2015. Please contact me or any Council member whenever you have suggestions that will help BANC thrive. Volunteers are essential to keep our mission alive and our activities humming, so know how much we value even a couple of hours' help. There's always something you can do: providing refreshments; helping with Sanctuary cleaning and maintenance; working in the garden; contributing a poem, photo, or artwork to the *Tanager*; spreading the word to others that BANC is a great organization for them to join.

As you have been sending your dues in for 2015 (thank you if you have—please send them if you have forgotten), we've been gratified by how many of you have volunteered. By far the most interest was shown in the area of invasive species control. Carol Hinkelman is in charge of the committee that is overseeing our plan to remove as many invasives as possible. So if you'd like to help, but didn't check that item on the volunteer interest form, give Carol a call at 663-2981. Several people have been working over the years, especially to remove privet. Thanks to their hard work, we've made a start, and with the large number of people interested, we should be able to make good strides in removal this year.

Speaking of volunteering for BANC, our by-laws provide for a special category of membership, the category of "fellow." A fellow is designated by action of the Executive Council based on the person's outstanding, long, and valued service. Recently the Council decided that there is a person who deserves this honor--Nancy Rosenberg. Nancy joined Burroughs in 1948, and she has been a member longer than any other current member. She was given her membership as a science contest prize when she was a school girl, and she has maintained the membership ever since. She has served BANC in more ways than we have room to tell, including president. Nancy joins Jerry Jenkins and Jane Uhle, BANC's other two fellows.

BANC has many interesting records, including a scrap book and sets of minutes that document our history. These items are invaluable, and we need to ensure that they survive as long as possible. I am pleased to announce that Steven Daniel and Art Trimble have met with the Rochester Public Library and an agreement has been reached to see that these irreplaceable items are properly preserved.

Our 2015 banquet will be held April 22. Please see the flyer included with this issue of the *Tanager* to sign up. We are in for a real treat, as usual, both for food and the program. Author Randi Minetor, who has written 15 books on America's national parks, will be our speaker. You can relive your visit to some of our parks or whet your appetite for trips to ones you haven't yet seen. Randi will have books available for purchase at the banquet.

Finally, plans are being formulated to have an exhibit of our members' photographs at the annual picnic in September. While we're just beginning to plan, we anticipate something like a clothes line exhibit. More details will be published in subsequent *Tanagers*, so keep clicking away throughout the spring and summer. What could be better than having a special photograph from each and every BANC member on display for all to see!

Shirley Shaw

2015
International
Year of Soils



FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS). The IYS 2015 aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. The multiple roles of soils often go unnoticed. Soils don't have a voice, and few people speak out for them. Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva referred to soils as the nearly forgotten resource."

Soils constitute the foundation of vegetation and agriculture. We need it for food, feed, fiber, fuel and much more. Nearly 95% of all food comes from the soil, taking into consideration the animals we eat utilize plants for food.

Soils also host at least one quarter of the world's biodiversity. There are more living organisms in one tablespoon of quality soil than there are humans on the face of the earth.

Soils are key in the carbon cycle. They help us to mitigate and adapt to climate change. They play a role in water management and in improving resilience to floods and droughts.

It's estimated 1,000 years are required for about half an inch of new soil to be developed naturally. Unfortunately, one-third of our soils have already degraded. 4.9 acres of soil are sealed under expanding cities every minute worldwide. If the current trend continues, the global amount of arable and productive land per person in 2050 will be a quarter of what it was in 1960. The world will have over 9 billion people in 2050, 2 billion more than today. And food production will have to grow by 60 percent to feed a larger population that will also be eating better

If healthy soils are the foundations of agricultural development and healthy food production, soil preservation is essential for food security and our sustainable future.

To learn more about 2015 Year of the Soils, visit <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/iys-2015/en/>

Submitted by: Chris Benard

SPRING MAYFLIES

Mayflies live a year or so
Underneath the water's flow.
Two or three tails, maturing slow,
Springtime comes, and up they go.

Fill their wings, and let them dry.
Off the water they will fly.
Warm, dry weather helps them out,
Quicker fleeing from the trout.

Trout Lily blooming in the wood,
Midday fishing may be good.
Spring Blue Quills from waters rise,
Dancing in the April skies.



Forsythia opens all her flowers,
Red Quills fly 'til evening hours.
Once they've given up their all,
Fish can feed on spinnerfall.

When it's noon and Redbuds bloom,
Black Quill spinners may fall soon.
Next, when Lilacs open up,
on Big Sulphurs trout may sup.

Just before Dame's Rockets surge,
March Brown duns start to emerge
Tempting fish in currents fast,
Dry flies there can be blind-cast.

Green Drakes, Dark Green Drakes, Slate Drakes,
too,
Rise to Black Locust flower perfume.
If you want to catch their flight,
You may need to wait 'til night.

Cahills will come out to play
When it is no longer May.
Seek them when the Milkweed blooms.
Summertime will be here soon!

Jennifer Markham

For photos and more information, see:

Weamer, P. 2013. *Pocketguide to New York Hatches*. Stackpole Books, PA.

The Sweet Art of Making Maple Syrup



Jane Stock sampling syrup

At our members' meeting on Friday, February 13th, at St. John's Meadows, our guest speaker, Chris Schoff, told about his family operation that produces lots of maple syrup in the nearby town of Victor.

Mr. Schoff is a full-time teacher at Victor High School and also coaches the football

team. He is a family man with a wife and three sons and you may wonder how he has the time to work when spring arrives and produce from 200 – 350 gallons of syrup each year! If you had the good fortune to be at the presentation you would have observed that Chris is a man of boundless energy and enthusiasm!

His fascinating presentation began by sharing the idea that Native Americans most likely discovered the art of making maple syrup and he had wonderful pictures on his PowerPoint presentation to illustrate this. Until the 1980's, buckets had been used to collect the sap. Now, many producers are employing tubing to do so. (Also, sometimes vacuum units are used to speed up the process.) The tubes that pierce the trees are 5/16 inches in diameter. After the sap has stopped flowing, the trees need time to heal. 200 gallons of sap will yield only 1 gallon of syrup. He uses only "blowdowns" for the fuel used in his sugar shack to boil down the sap. He showed photos of his trees using the tubing method and photos of the containers of maple syrup. He also showed pictures of some maple candy and maple cream that his maple syrup "farm" produces.

Chris is a native of West Branch which is on the Tug Hill Plateau. He had learned to tap maple trees when he was only six. His grandfather who is presently 92 and very proud had taught Chris the tools of the trade and Chris has loved it ever since!

Chris brought several drilling tools to show us, including the very first one his grandfather had used with him many years ago. He also brought a quart of his wonderful maple syrup which he generously shared with members of the audience!

This was a presentation thoroughly enjoyed by all! Chris' sugar shack operation is located at 1064 Willis Hill Rd. in Victor. He will offer two "Maple Weekends" – March 21, 22 and March 28, 29. His website is: www.schoffsugarshack.com

Julie Clayton

Come for Coffee



Beginning Thursday, May 21, and continuing every third Thursday through September 17th, the clubhouse will be open and the coffee ready from 9:30 am to 11:30 for members to drop in, watch the birds and see what's blooming. Bring a friend and take a stroll. There may even be something sweet on hand.

LEADING VOICE IN CLIMATE CHANGE

COMING TO ROCHESTER

Dr. James Hansen, who is best known for his testimony on climate change to congressional committees in the 1980s that helped raise awareness about global warming, will be speaking at the Sierra Club's Environmental Forum.

April 21, 2015, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Reception immediately following

The Theater at Monroe Community College

Building 4

1000 East Henrietta Road

This event is free and open to the public

NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER

Sarah Conley has moved and has resigned from her position on the BANC Executive Council. Marigrace Piazza will be taking her place. We will miss Sarah (and her Penfield store the Barn Owl, which has closed), and we wish her a happy, prosperous future.



MEET A MEMBER JON DOMBROWSKI

Many nature lovers in our area have followed a progression of interests as their main focus: typically first birds, then butterflies and then dragonflies. Our featured member is one of them, although his start was a little different.

Jon Dombrowski grew up on a small inland lake in Michigan and loved the water. His father fished (as did Jon) and the family enjoyed camping and hiking, so Jon was exposed to nature from an early age. He recalls his first projects as catching turtles.

Jon attended the University of Michigan, where he graduated with a BS and MS in Industrial Engineering. He was lucky to fund his college education through a part-time engineering trainee job at General Motors.

Jon's career brought him to Rochester, where he joined the Industrial Engineering Division at Eastman Kodak Co. Here he met his wife Sandy and they were married in 1966. Jon and Sandy have two sons – Michael is a landscape designer and lives in the Catskills with his partner and her two daughters, and Peter is an ecologist in Pittsburgh with his wife and two sons.

After thirty years with Kodak, mainly focused on software development, Jon retired in 1995, although he worked for the company for a further two years on contract. Being a lifelong engineer, Jon set a retirement goal – to become an 'amateur naturalist' – and began in earnest with a variety of studies and active participation in the local area.

As with several other BANC members, Jon's local natural history education began with a RMSC course led by Ann Clarridge and Carolyn Cass, which stimulated his interest in both birds and butterflies. He joined the Rochester Butterfly Club but was first occupied by the Second NYS Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-2005). He also joined the Rochester

Birding Association, for which he has served on the Board and as Membership Chair. Jon has participated in the annual Christmas Bird Counts since he retired, and served as Coordinator for the Little Lakes count. He is a licensed bird bander and has worked on staff at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory for the past fifteen years.

Another of Jon's contributions has been his involvement in marsh monitoring of birds and amphibians at the White Brook Nature Area and Trolley Trail. More recently Jon has focused more on butterflies and lately on dragonflies. His latest passion is photographing dragonflies but moving beyond perched individuals to documenting their lifecycle activities.

Jon joined BANC in 1996 after attending an event at the sanctuary, introduced through his friendship with the Hinkelmans. He was immediately active in the club, serving on the Council and coordinating club programs and speakers. He also led some BANC field trips. After a hiatus during his Atlas work and thereafter, Jon is now more active again and is currently serving on the Executive Council and the Finance Committee.

Richard Ashworth



A geology program held at Thunder Rocks

The 57th The Allegany Nature Pilgrimage
May 29, 30, 31
Time to Register!
Go to www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com

Creekside Trail Closure

The council would like to remind members that a short section of the Creekside Trail has been closed because of safety and liability concerns. This section of the trail comes very near to the creek and the bank has been undercut in some of the curves. It has been rerouted, but there is still access to the creek and all of the benches. Nature is constantly changing the landscape along streams and can make very large changes in times of high water. Enjoy the beauty of the trail along the creek, but respect nature and don't put yourself in danger.



Planet Earth

Planet Earth has been in existence for more than 4.5 billion years and during that long period of time it has had tremendous changes in its geology and five mass extinctions of its species. One species has been on the earth for only a tiny fraction of that time, about 200,000 years, but has multiplied and spread to almost every corner of the earth regardless of climate or geographic barriers. It has been able to adapt and innovate, reproduce at an unprecedented rate, and overcome other species it encounters.

Despite the brief time that *Homo sapiens* have been on earth, they have had a huge impact on it, unlike any other species. Humans have altered the planet so much that their impact will be forever visible in the earth's geology. It has even been proposed that this epoch of earth's history be named the Anthropocene epoch because of man's overwhelming influence on it.

Human activity has transformed almost half of the land surface of the planet. Forests have been cut down, crops planted, buildings erected, land paved over, mines and quarries dug for fossil fuels and minerals. Most of the world's major rivers have been dammed or diverted, new lakes created, and wetlands filled in. Man has redistributed the earth's plants and animals from continent to continent, some intentionally and some by accident, and has changed the DNA of species with genetic engineering.

Humans have polluted much of earth's land and water. 275 million tons of plastic are produced each year and 8 million tons of it end up in the oceans. There it breaks down into small pieces, but never biodegrades, and a lot of it gets ingested by the ocean's creatures. The plastic particles can also absorb and concentrate toxic chemicals in the water, poisoning the fish, marine animals and seabirds that consume them.

Even the makeup of the earth's atmosphere has

been altered by our burning of fossil fuels and by deforestation. The atmosphere's carbon dioxide concentration has risen by 40% in 200 years and the concentration of methane, an even more potent greenhouse gas, has more than doubled. In addition to causing global climate change, some of the heat and carbon dioxide being produced is absorbed by the oceans making them warmer and more acidic, damaging its coral reefs. Holes in the ozone layer that protects us from the sun's rays were opening up and enlarging each year until we stopped using ozone-depleting chemicals.

Geologic change and the evolution of species normally happen at a very slow pace over millennia, but humans have made drastic changes to the planet in just the last 200 years. The earth's water cycle, ocean currents, and food chains, those processes that make the planet habitable, are being disrupted by human activities. We have caused the extinction of many formerly abundant species such as the passenger pigeon, and the great auk, and countless animal and plant species in tropical forests that were never even discovered and identified before they were destroyed.

We are the only species that can reason and act on our knowledge. Will we wake up to what we are doing to our planet and change course before we cause a sixth mass extinction of species, including and countless animal and plant species in tropical forests that were never even discovered and identified before they were destroyed.

We are the only species that can reason and act on our knowledge. Will we wake up to what we are doing to our planet and change course before we cause a sixth mass extinction of species, including our own?

For more information see *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert.

Carol Finkelman



Nancy Rosenberg, newly elected BANC Fellow with her certificate, and Jerry Jenkins, a current Fellow.

Photo by: Genevieve Ruhland.

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

Friday, March 27, 8:30 AM

Braddock Bay Park

BIRDS OF BRADDOCK BAY PARK

Leader: Jon Dombrowski, 425-2380

Saturday, April 11, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

BANC Sanctuary

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Leader: Joanne Altre, 377-8549

Host: Carolyn Ragan, 385-2065

Monday, April 20, 10:00 AM

Harris Whalen Park

EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Leader: Joanne Altre, 377-8549

Wednesday, April 22, 6:00 PM

Glendoveers (2328 Old Browncroft Road)

BANC Annual Banquet

BEYOND KEN BURNS:

TRAVELING TO AMERICA'S 401 NATIONAL PARKS

Co-chairs: Mary Gordon, 586-3524

Sandra Dombrowski, 425-2380

Wednesday, May 6, 9:00 AM

Baltimore Woods Nature Center

4007 Bishop Hill Road Marcellus, NY 13108

WILD FLOWERS OF BALTIMORE WOODS

Leaders: Carol and David Southby, 383-8168

Friday, May 15, 6:00 PM

Potluck Dinner at BANC Sanctuary

SINGING WITH CATHY McGRATH

Hosts: Sabrina Commisso, 385-9573

Linda Smith, 924-3871

Tuesday, May 19, 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

BANC Sanctuary

OPEN HOUSE

Hosts: Georgeanne Vyverberg, 455-2015

Becky Olson, 388-7779

Thursday, May 21, 9:30 – 11:00AM

BANC Sanctuary

COME FOR COFFEE OPEN HOUSE

Leader: Chris Benard, 924-4979

May 29-31

Allegany State Park

ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE

FOR INFO: Harold or Jane Stock, 425-7293

Saturday, June 6, 8:00 AM

Mendon Ponds Park

A MORNING IN THE PARK

Leader: Richard Ashworth, 381-2189