



# BANC's Annual Banquet

When? Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

Where? At Glendoveer's 2328 Old Browncroft Rd.

What's happening?

6:00	Cash Bar and Hors d'oeuvres
7:00	Delicious Buffet Dinner
8:00	Remarks by President, Marigrace Piazza
8:10	Presentation by Alan Singer

**Presentation:** We will be treated to a fascinating program by Alan Singer, son of the great wildlife artist, Arthur Singer. Arthur was born into a family of artists in New York City and Alan will show us examples of his father's art while recounting stories from his life that highlight the times and culture in which he lived. Arthur was a child prodigy who had artwork published by the time he was a junior in high school. He served in World War II in a Camouflage Unit and used his artistic talent to help win the war. He painted wildlife; he sketched jazz musicians! Arthur painted birds for each of the 50 states for stamps of the United States Postal Service in 1982. There is much more to learn about Arthur Singer. Join us!

At the Banquet, we will also draw the winning ticket for the beautiful Ruddy Ducks print -- nicely framed!  
 Tickets are \$5 and the proceeds will be split between Montezuma Wetlands Facility and the Iroquois Wetlands to maintain and restore wildlife in these local areas.

Duck Stamp winner, Jennifer Miller, was our delightful presenter at our Annual Picnic in September, and had painted the original which won the contest for the U.S. Postal Service in 2015. Please come, enjoy and help out!

If you would like more information about Jennifer and/or the Federal Duck Stamp program, check out the following websites:  
[www.featherdust.com](http://www.featherdust.com) and [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com)




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Tickets are \$30 per person. Please mail your checks to: Chita McKinney  
 198 Parkview Dr.  
 Rochester NY 14625

Please make checks payable to: BANC.

Names of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions – Call Julie Clayton 249-9489 or Chita McKinney 482-2588

This article was omitted from the December 2017 Tanager

Annual Picnic  
September 30, 2017  
The Art of Conservation with Jennifer Miller



On a cool but lovely Saturday in late September, dozens of BANC members gathered at the Sanctuary for the Annual Picnic. As usual, the potluck was delicious and offered something for everyone's tastes.

For the third year in a row, photos taken by our talented members were hung along a clothesline in order to be admired and for participation in the photo contest.

Julie Clayton and Kathy Henrie had crafts and games available and the trails were open for hiking. Before dinner, Jennifer Miller, our speaker for the evening, gave a lesson in nature journaling. She encouraged the participants to look at nature in ways that they may not have thought of before and, in the process, make deeper observations of the natural world. The butterfly garden served as an inspiration for many of our budding nature journalists.

The highlight of the evening was Jennifer's presentation about her journey as the winner of the 2015-2016 Federal Duck Stamp contest. She presented a slide show of her artwork and discussed ways that art can be used to inspire people to care about conservation issues. She delighted us with her bird sculptures and her description of how she creates them. Her husband was in attendance and surprised us when he made an entrance as a vulture wearing an outfit created by his wife.

Jennifer very generously presented BANC with a print of her winning Duck Stamp. The Council has decided to hold a raffle of this print. Tickets will be available for sale at the Annual Banquet and with our annual dues statement. The proceeds for this sale will go to the Montezuma and Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. This follows the mission of the Federal Duck Stamp Program. 98 cents of every duck stamp dollar goes directly into purchasing wetlands and habitats for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

If you would like more information about Jennifer and/or the Federal Duck Stamp program, check out the following websites: [www.featherdust.com](http://www.featherdust.com) and [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com)

Thank you to the picnic committee for making this event a very memorable and inspiring evening.

*Marigrace Piazza*

# The Tanager



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## **President's Message**

Welcome to the 105<sup>th</sup> year of Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. As your new president, I have been asking myself what is so special about this club that has made it last 105 years, and what are the goals for the club to keep it going for another 105 years.

I have been thinking about my relationship with this club and why I am proud to be serving you as president. I realized that it came down to people. BANC is a community of nature lovers who are enthusiastic to share that love with other people.

My journey with BANC started when I was a teenager in the 1970s. Frank and Joyce Myers were my Girl Scout leaders. Frank served as BANC president from 1968-1972 and Joyce from 1963-64. Some of you who attend Allegany Nature Pilgrimage might know their son, Lon Myers. Mr. Myers brought the troop to the Sanctuary for a bird event. All I remember is trying to keep up with him as he ran quickly around the trails naming various birds as he spotted or heard them. I think his joy in the woods had more of an impact on me than his incredible expertise.

Fast forward to the early 1990s and I am a mother of two young girls. My husband, Tony, and I had just moved to our new home near Powder Mills Park. We enjoyed taking the girls on local hikes and we discovered Burroughs. I did recall that I had visited there once or twice as a Girl Scout. The first time we went to an event at BANC, Lois Jenkins took my girls under her wing and patiently helped them with crafts on the porch and gently shared her love of nature with them. We were on a snowy trail with Lois when both of my daughters, Elise and Nina, first had a nuthatch land on their open palms.

When Tony and I became empty nesters in 2008, I decided to devote more time to BANC. I have been chair of the Garden Committee and the Nominating Committee and I have served on the Council on and off since 2008. There have been many BANC members who have made an impact on me during the years since 2008. I hope to recognize many of these people in future columns.

I attended the memorial service today for Cindy Coupal. She had been a beloved BANC member for many years. I would estimate that 50% of the attendees at the service had some connection to BANC. Cindy was one of those people, like Frank Myers and Lois Jenkins, that make BANC a club that should last another 150 years. Cindy gave a warm, welcoming smile to everyone she met and always made newcomers feel at home. One of my special BANC memories is a time when Cindy and I sat out a thunderstorm during an Open House on the porch of the Clubhouse. She was like a child the way she got such a thrill out of watching the storm from the shelter of our wonderful porch. We will all miss Cindy.

Our 105<sup>th</sup> year is set to be another year with plenty of opportunities to make nature connections within our special BANC community. I am looking forward to seeing you at one or all of the 29 events listed in the BANC Handbook of Activities for 2018.

*Marigrace Piazza*



## MEET A MEMBER – ELLEN PRILL

In today's mobile society, very few of us live within yards of our great grandparents' home. Even fewer can have combined this with a career spanning three continents. Ellen Prill is one.

I enjoyed very much listening to Ellen's reminiscences as we sat in her restyled cottage, complete with knotty pine roof and sleeping loft, in a quaint cove on the northeast corner of Irondequoit Bay.

Ellen's parents lived here and she was born here. They moved away when she was three – largely because of her mother's aversion to snakes and toads. (She recounts a tale of sharing her backyard playpen with a garter snake, much to her mother's horror.) One of six siblings, Ellen grew up in the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward on the west side of the city. After a brief marriage, she earned a Master's degree in Education, specializing in reading, and relocated to Geneseo, where she lived for many years. She taught Middle School developmental reading in Perry and later remedial reading in the Honeoye Falls-Lima district, which was then in transition from a rural area to a largely affluent suburb. Ellen describes herself as driven by intuition and drawn to rural, somewhat 'wild', unstructured environments. Given an opportunity for a two-year leave of absence from HF-L, she spent the first year teaching ESL at an American school in the Netherlands. Although she enjoyed the country, the

efficiently organized and predictable Dutch society was stifling to her style.

For her second year she moved to Quito in Ecuador. Here she reveled in the many colorful, local cultures and the different flora and fauna to be found in each of the distinct elevations in the nearby mountains. (Ecuador is the second most bio-diverse country in the world.) Ellen traveled extensively throughout the country, and still visits Ecuador regularly in our northern winter. She also spends winter time in Jamaica, where she served in the Peace Corps many years ago.

Upon returning to the US, Ellen taught remedial reading in Williamson. Having obtained certification at Nazareth College, she worked extensively with the large local population of migrant workers in the apple farming community and became closely involved in their families. She retired from Williamson in 2010.

Back to the beginning of our story: Recently Ellen was looking to move from her Brighton condo and had hoped she might find something in her old neighborhood. After some time without success, the stars aligned and with the help of several 'small world' experiences she acquired and extensively remodeled her picturesque home. Here she is a very short walk from the cove where she keeps her canoes and kayaks during the summer. Ellen enjoys paddling – both weekly in company with ADK friends and alone – around the Finger Lakes, Oak Orchard and Black Creek, and also in Florida, where her parents live. This year she will be snorkeling in the Florida Keys for the first time.

Ellen was drawn to BANC through her general interest in different aspects of nature. Through Anne and Betty Stewart she was introduced to the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage, where she met Julie Clayton. Julie encouraged her to join BANC and recently recruited her to serve as Recording Secretary for the club. Ellen is passionate about the need to expose children to nature, and also to nurture young people as the future of BANC. She is particularly pleased about our new collaboration with the Navigators organization.

*Richard Ashworth*

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**The Allegany Nature Pilgrimage will be held this year on June 1, 2 and 3. It will be the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage!!!!**

*For more info go to:*

[www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com)

## The Price of Convenience



In the last century an amazing material was invented and became ubiquitous in our lives. Because it is light, strong, versatile, easy to manufacture, inexpensive, plastic is used for everything from grocery bags, milk jugs, soda bottles, plumbing, vinyl siding, toys, and furniture, to medical devices and lighter weight car parts. However its many benefits to mankind and our convenience have come at a very high cost to our environment.

The manufacture of plastic uses 8% of the world's oil production and half of all plastic goes into items that are used once and then thrown away. Worldwide, nearly a trillion plastic bags are used every year. Americans alone use as many as a half billion plastic straws each day and throw away 35 billion plastic water bottles every year. Tons of tiny microbeads of plastic added to hundreds of personal care products like facial scrubs and toothpastes pass right through sewage plants into our waterways.

Most kinds of plastic are recyclable, but only 5% of plastic actually is recycled and 40% goes into landfills where it lasts indefinitely. Outside of a small percent of plastic that is burned, virtually every bit of plastic ever made is still in existence because plastic is not biodegradable. It does break down into smaller and smaller pieces over time, but they are still plastic and never really go away. Most of the plastic that does not get recycled, landfilled or burned ends up in the environment catching in bushes and trees and creating litter along roadsides and in vacant lots.

Over time much of the plastic in the environment finds its way into waterways and eventually into the ocean where it is creating a major disaster. Eight million metric tons of plastic ends up in the ocean each year and ocean currents carry it to every part of the world. It washes up on beaches everywhere, even on the remotest islands. There are 150 million tons of plastic in the sea already and by 2050 there will be more plastic by weight than fish in the ocean. The majority of the plastic ultimately sinks to the sea floor, but almost half of plastic floats. There are now 5 huge concentrations of floating plastic in the oceans that stretch for hundreds of miles. The largest of these, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is twice the size of Texas.

Plastic in the ocean has negatively affected 86%

of all sea turtle species, 44% of all seabird species and 43% of all marine mammal species. Large pieces of floating plastic are easily mistaken for food by seabirds, whales, dolphins and turtles. It gets lodged in their windpipes and blocks their digestive tracts resulting in malnutrition, starvation and death. Some seabirds feed pieces of plastic to their chicks who fail to thrive and often die. Tons of abandoned plastic fishing nets trap and drown thousands of marine animals a year. One million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually by plastic in our oceans.

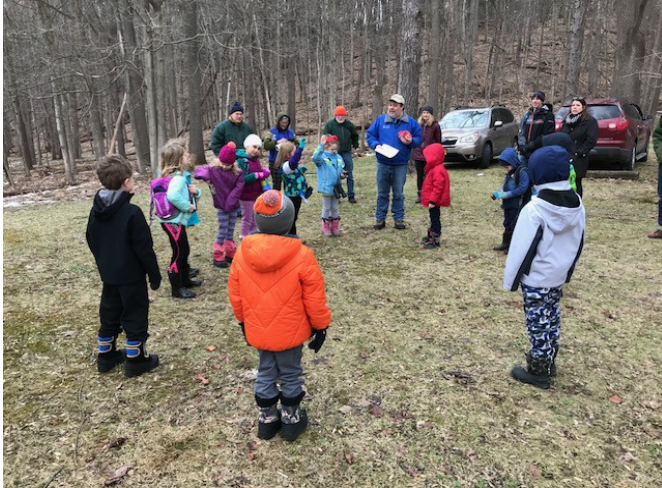
Some plastics contain harmful chemicals that can be absorbed by the body. 93% of Americans age 6 or older test positive for BPA, a chemical in some plastic. Plastics can break down into microscopic pieces and have the ability to absorb waterborne pollutants in the ocean. Then these particles mingle with the plankton and are eaten by fish and whales poisoning their tissues. That impacts not only marine creatures themselves, but also human health because humans eating those fish will absorb the pollutants. Coral reefs, made up of tiny marine animals, are becoming diseased in areas with high concentrations of microplastics.

The production of plastic increases each year and the volume of disposable plastic products being used daily has become enormous. As a society, we need to change our habits. We need to educate the public to control litter and clean up roadsides and waterways to keep plastic out of the ocean, but preventing the litter in the first place is even more important. We can replace disposable plastic bags with reusable ones, and carry reusable water bottles and coffee mugs. Cut down on the use of sandwich bags by using lunch boxes with containers for food. Don't buy foods packaged in individual servings, personal care products containing microbeads and styrofoam cups that can't be recycled. Return plastic bottles that have deposits and recycle as much plastic as possible including packaging plastic.

We should encourage legislators to tax or ban plastic bags which has worked well in other countries to cut plastic bag use. In Europe they are now considering a ban on all single use plastics. The banned plastic would be replaced by biodegradable items such as paper cups and straws like we used for many years before there were plastic cups and straws. We need to get our gigantic appetite for plastic under control before it does any more damage to our planet.

*Carol Finkelman*

## BANC WELCOMES NAVIGATORS' FAMILIES



The BANC Council is excited to announce a new partnership between our club and a scouting organization called Navigators.

Rachel Hutchins, co-leader of the Rochester Chapter of Navigators, approached the Council to see if BANC would like to sponsor the group.

After much discussion and research, the Council moved to accept this sponsorship and since January 1, 2018, we have welcomed twenty new family members to BANC. In order to facilitate this, the Council decided to form a special membership dues category for Navigators' families. Each family contributes \$15/family from their Chapter dues towards a one-year BANC membership.

### Who are the Navigators?

Navigators USA is a national non-profit scouting organization that welcomes all people, children and adults, no matter what gender, race, lifestyle, ability, religious or lack of religious belief. The organization believes that the greatest challenge for the future of our planet is for humans to learn how to get along with people different from each other.

Navigators' mission is to help children and their parents spend more time outdoors, getting to know what nature has to offer while getting to know each other.

Navigators USA was founded in 2003 by a group of volunteers who had previously led Boy Scout Troop 103 in East Harlem, serving children in need, sponsored by All Souls Unitarian Church. The volunteers felt it critical to offer more choices within the scouting community, even if it required the creation of a new organization.

The Rochester Chapter of Navigators USA, Chapter 168, was started in July of 2017 by Rachel Hutchins and Katrina LeVan. Previously Girl Scout leaders, they were interested in an organization that served all of their children and allowed for family events where brothers or sisters weren't left out of the fun. In searching for such an organization, they found Navigators USA, a group whose philosophies resonated closely with their own. With a moral compass stressing mind/body health, social justice and civic engagement, it was a simple choice to start the Rochester Navigators.

Starting with their previous scout troop of 13, the group quickly grew to 36 scouts without any advertising. The chapter currently has children ranging in age from four to twelve years old living in Rochester, Webster, Fairport, Brighton and Pittsford.

It is our hope that the sponsorship between BANC and Navigators will help each organization in many ways. BANC will benefit by welcoming many new, young families to our club. We are always looking for ways to share our Sanctuary with children and we are always looking to increase membership. Navigators will benefit by having access to our Sanctuary, our scheduled events, and our members eager to share their expertise with children.

We have already had an event at the Sanctuary on January 27 with the Navigators' chapter. There were 14 children and 16 adults in attendance. It was a thrill to see so many excited children walking our trails for the first time.

BANC members are welcome to attend Navigators' programs held at the Sanctuary and as BANC members, Navigator families are welcome to attend all BANC events.

Rachel Hutchins will be serving as chairperson of our Program and Field Trip Committee in order to help coordinate events for 2019 that are Navigator and BANC friendly.

The Rochester Navigator chapter continues to grow and would love to have BANC members take on leadership roles in their organization. Address all inquiries to [chapter168@navigatorusa.org](mailto:chapter168@navigatorusa.org)

Find out more about the chapter at [www.navigatorsroc.org](http://www.navigatorsroc.org) or about the national organization at [www.navigatorsusa.org](http://www.navigatorsusa.org)

*Marigrace Piazza and Rachel Hutchins*



**New York State Ornithological Association  
71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
Hosted by Burroughs Audubon Nature Club & Rochester Birding Association  
October 5 – 7, 2018,  
RIT Inn and Conference Center, Henrietta, NY**

The 71<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) will be held October 5 – 7, 2018 in Rochester. This meeting will be hosted by Burroughs Audubon Nature Club (BANC) and the Rochester Birding Association (RBA). This will be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first meeting of the organization, formerly called the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, which was held in Rochester in 1948, with each following 10th anniversary meeting since also held here. The meeting and associated activities will be centered at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY 14467. This location has ample space for our inside activities and easy access to the Thruway and highways for travel to nearby birding spots.

The weekend meeting will include Friday afternoon field trips for early arrivals and a welcome reception and buffet followed by two workshops, each run twice and in parallel on Friday night. On Saturday morning there will be field trips. A papers session will be held in the afternoon and a banquet and speaker in the evening. Sunday morning will bring more field trips. Friday and Saturday afternoons will also provide an opportunity to visit vendors and other exhibits while meeting with birding friends. We are looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

**Saturday Night Banquet Speaker: Greg Miller  
A Big Year: Life After**

The banquet speaker will be Greg Miller of *The Big Year* book and movie fame. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Greg's Big Year. He will approach the subject from the viewpoint of what followed from his adventures: the book, the movie, and his future involvement in birding. He was able to spend time on the movie set interacting with Jack Black (who played him), Steve Martin, and Owen Wilson and served as Bird Consultant to the movie. He has become an advocate of bringing birding to as many people as possible through talks and leading tours, makes bird records contributions through eBird, and has a special interest in encouraging young birders.

In 2016, he embarked on another Big Year, this one non-traditional. It consisted of 11 one-week tours aimed at introducing many to target species birding, with a goal of surpassing 500 species with that limited-time, focused approach. He currently lives in Sugarcreek in the heart of Amish Country in Northeast Ohio.

*Shirley Shaw*

**New York State Ornithological Association  
70th Anniversary Meeting  
Hosted by BANC & RBA  
Henrietta, NY  
October 5 – 7, 2018**



Please use this form to register by mail. For Online Registration: <https://rochesterbirding.com/nysoa-reg/>

**Registrant #1 Name**

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Delegate? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrant #2 Name**

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Delegate? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

	Number/ Selection	Per Person/Each	Total	<b>Mail completed form and payment to:</b>  Rochester Birding Association c/o Chita McKinney 198 Parkview Drive Rochester, NY 14625 chitamckinney@gmail.com 585-482-3588
Registration postmarked by August 15, 2018		\$50.00		
Registration postmarked by September 15, 2018		\$60.00		
Student Registration fee		\$35.00		
Friday evening buffet (three entrees)*		\$35.00		
Saturday evening banquet-buffet*		\$35.00		
<i>*For those with special meal restrictions, please let us know at registration and at the meeting. A special meal will be provided.</i>		<b>TOTAL</b>		Checks payable to: Rochester Birding Association

**Room reservations:** A block of rooms has been reserved at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY 14467, to be held through September 14, 2018. Rate for all rooms is \$109.00 plus tax. Contact the RIT Inn and Conference Center directly at 585-359-1800 to make your reservation. Be sure to mention the NYSOA meeting for the special rate. For information about the hotel: [www.rit.edu/ritinn/](http://www.rit.edu/ritinn/)

An email will be sent to confirm your registration. Registration refunds will be available through September 15, 2018.



*Great Collection of Photos  
from  
Laurie Dirx*



*Short-eared Owl*



*House Finch, male*



*Ring-necked Pheasant, rooster*



*Ruffed Grouse*



*Snowy Owl, juvenile male*



*Greater Scaup, drake*

# The Tanager

Burroughs Audubon  
Nature Club  
PO Box 26814  
Rochester, New York, 14626

To

If you haven't renewed  
Your membership,  
Please do it now

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, March 9, 7:30 PM**  
**Clover Center for Arts & Spirituality**  
**LIFE IN THE DEVONIAN**  
Presenter: Dan Krisher  
Hosts: Becky Jenkins, 342-3812 and  
Marilyn Schindler, 392-6144

**Saturday, April 14, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**BANC Sanctuary**  
**SPRING CLEAN – UP**  
Leader: Dean Clayton, 249-9489  
Host: Carol Hinkelman, 663-2981

**Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 PM**  
**BANC ANNUAL BANQUET**  
**@GLENDOVEERS**  
**THE ART, LIFE, AND TIMES OF ARTHUR SINGER**  
Presenter: Alan Singer  
Chairperson: Julie Clayton, 249-9489  
Reservations: Chita McKinney, 482-3588

**Saturday, April 21, 10:00 AM**  
**FIELD TRIP to HARRIS WHALEN PARK**  
**EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS**  
Leader: Canandaigua Botanical Society  
Contact: Carol Hinkelman, 663-2981

**Sunday, May 6, 2:00 - 4:00 PM**  
**Open House and Program at BANC Sanctuary**  
**GORILLAS OF RWANDA**  
Presenter: Gary Paige  
Hosts: Bill O'Neill & Martha Zettel, 533-2333 and  
Marigrace Piazza, 314-8462

**Friday, May 11, 6:00 PM**  
**Potluck at BANC Sanctuary**  
**LIFE IN A BACKYARD POND**  
Presenters: Jon Dombrowski and  
Carol and David Southby  
Hosts: Shirley Shaw, 385-3907  
Linda Smith, 924-3871

**Saturday, May 19, 7:30 AM**  
**FIELD TRIP to POWDER MILLS PARK**  
**and BANC Sanctuary**  
**FINDING MIGRANTS AND NESTERS**  
Leader: Richard Ashworth, 381-2189

**Friday, June 1 – Sunday, June 3**  
**Allegany State Park**  
**ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE**  
Questions? call the Claytons, 249-9489