



# Our 2015 Annual Picnic

Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

4:00 **Astronomy** Games for kids and the young at heart

5:30 Potluck Dinner

7:30 Astronomer, **Jackson Thomas**, will be our guide to the **Autumn Sky**



This is a potluck, so please bring your finest dish to pass, your table-settings and a card table (if you can). **Try to use local ingredients to lower our carbon footprint!**



## Photo Display at the Picnic!

Photos will be exhibited of three different categories – wildlife, landscape and people. If you have chosen to enter photos, don't forget to identify the picture and the location where you took it. Make your prints of your photos in 4x6, 5x7 or 8x10 sizes. We will place them in plastic page savers and hang them on a line for all to see. You may take them home the same evening. A people's choice award will be given for each category.

Any question, please call Julie at 249-9489 or Marigrace at 383-8462

## MOTH NIGHT



A Young naturalist looking at insects  
*Photo by Shirley Shaw*

On August 13, about 30 people gathered at the Sanctuary for an open house themed as “Moth Night.” The group included long-time members, newcomers, and members of the community. Like our recent Dragonflies field trip led by naturalist Bob Cooper at the Sanctuary on 8, it is gratifying to sponsor programs that are attracting good numbers of members and visitors.

David and Carol Southby led the moth-related activities and Bill O’Neill provided information about the cicada, cricket, and katydids that were singing. In addition to the Southby’s talk about many aspects of the life cycle of moths, there were demonstrations of ways to attract moths using a sheet and lights, Skinner traps, sugaring, and plantings of white flowers in the garden.

Since different moths fly at different times during the night, the Skinner trap can be set up to capture insects throughout the night, leaving people free to get their sleep. In the morning, the insects can be studied and then set free. Painting a concoction of over-ripe fruit, sugar, and alcoholic beverages on the bark of a tree (“sugaring”) or dipping strips of cloth in an aromatic red wine and hanging them from branches attracts moths and other insects, which will linger and nectar, thus allowing people to have good opportunities to observe them.

Everyone—including the three young boys present—enjoyed the various activities. It was great to stand back and observe so many people, flashlights in hand, searching our butterfly garden for nocturnal insects, studying specimens using a microscope and perusing books on the porch, and examining “sugared” trees and the Skinner trap’s occupants.

*Shirley Shaw*



Examining the exhibits  
*Photo by Shirley Shaw*



Cecropia moth caterpillar  
*Photo by Jay Greenberg*



Looking & listening for insects in the Butterfly Garden  
*Photo by Shirley Shaw*

# The Tanager



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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Wasn't this summer glorious? Did you take photographs? What memories do you have? What did you see? What did you do? Where did you go? Please share with us. You can enter our clothesline photo exhibit at the annual picnic (September 26), and we'll all enjoy your memories. Please contact Chris Benard if you have any questions.

Needless to say, it's our members with their invaluable contributions as committee chairs, hosts for open houses, program presenters, work crews, and more who keep our organization functioning. I would especially like to thank Tom Klonick, Drew Yampanis, and Charlie Woodruff, who have joined our Building and Grounds Committee and will help Dean Clayton with mowing and trail maintenance. Dean has worked hard single-handedly keeping our lawn and trails in good condition, and he has needed help for some time.

We've had some highly successful events recently: Bob "Coop" Cooper's dragonfly talk and walk, the Southby's Moth Night (with assistance from Martha Zettel and Bill O'Neil), and our annual John Burroughs Day hosted by Julie Clayton and Joanne Altre. Our monthly Come for Coffee open houses, organized by Chris Benard, have given us additional time for pleasant conversation and enjoyment of our beautiful grounds.

Of course, we have much more to come that you won't want to miss: a field trip to Webster Park focusing on Fungi on September 12, our final Come for Coffee on September 17, our Annual Picnic on September 26, a fall indoor program on Highland and Durand-Eastman Parks' Arboreta at St. John's Meadows on October 9, and our Annual Meeting and Experience Night, also at St. John's Meadow on November 13. Please contact Julie Clayton if you wish to be a part of the Experience Night program.

Cleaning up the grounds and closing the building for the winter is a major task. This year's fall clean up will be November 7. Although we anticipate plenty of young helpers from the Victor High School Key Club to do the raking, Dean Clayton and Ginny Wilterdink will need members to help with the many other tasks. There will be soup for lunch, so please mark your calendars and come out to help. The old adage "many hands make light work" is so appropriate. Thanks to Julie Clayton for working to get young volunteers who need a community service project such as this one and to Carolyn Dancy who will be host for the refreshments and lunch.

We value all our members, and we like to see big turnouts for all our events. BANC has so much to offer for everyone—young and not-so-young. Despite a little feeling of loss as summer draws to a close, fall is a magnificent season too. We hope you'll be enjoying it with us.

*Shirley Shaw*

## Witch Hazel



When October rolls around and the maples, oaks and the rest of the deciduous trees are wrapping up another year of pollination and growth, there's an understory

tree, the native witch hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, springing into reproductive life.

It flowers in autumn at the same time its leaves are turning color. Yellow ribbon-like petals about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long flutter in the breeze while nearby on the same branch are last year's pollinated flowers, now hard capsules waiting for a warm fall day to swell and burst free the two black seeds within. The seeds may fling themselves 10 to 20 feet away then lie there for a year hoping to not be eaten by a bird or chipmunk before germinating.

Cherokee collected witch hazel seeds to enjoy their pistachio like flavor. A word of caution should you care to try them. Euell Gibbons, one of the first foraging gurus of the 1960's and 70's once brought a few flowering branches into his house to enjoy their beauty a bit longer when later in the evening he was pelleted with the seeds as he quietly sat reading.

The witch hazel is often called a "water-witch" because its branches are used to seek sources of underground water. "Wych" is actually from the Anglo Saxon word for "bend," or "pliable," not from the black clad ladies mixing their toads and eyes of bat in a cauldron. Although it is not in the hazel family, its leaves reminded early settlers of the hazel nut tree and so the name stuck.

In the 1840's, Theron T. Pond of Utica learned from the Oneida Indians how to distill the twigs of this understory tree into an extract that could relieve insect bites, burns, and hemorrhoids. First marketed under the name Golden Treasure, and later, Pond's Extract, witch hazel is found today in deodorant, after shave lotions, cloth wipes, soaps and creams.

Carl Linnaeus, the developer of binomial nomenclature in the mid 1700's, gave it the name of *Hamamelis virginiana*. The name combines two Greek roots meaning "fruit" and "together," referring to the plant's habit of producing flowers at the same time the previous year's fruits mature and disperse seed. *virginiana* denotes its North American origin.

*Chris Benard*

## John Burroughs Day

BANC members gathered on the clubhouse porch on a beautiful July morning to delve into the nature writings of John Burroughs, 1837-1921, after whom this club was formed and named. We shared aloud, beginning with several pages of Volume One, Chapter One of his book "Wake Robin", 'The Return of the Birds', enjoying his keen descriptions and observations of the "live birds" he promised his readers. We also read an April 2015 article in the NYS Conservationist regarding Burroughs 150 year legacy, the nature essay; followed by a June 1974 article written by a woman whose family enjoyed close ties with Burroughs over the years, enjoying his delight in everyday natural bounties, be it a fresh homegrown peach or a chance encounter with an interesting bird. As we shared these written words, their joys spilled over to us, surrounded by BANC's flower gardens and a delightful bevy of butterflies, birds and kindred spirits. Hope you can join us next July!

*Joanne Altre*

WAKE-ROBIN, by John Burroughs, Volume One, Chapter One: The Return of the Birds: copyright 1871

\* Spring in our northern climate may fairly be said to extend from the middle of March to the middle of June. At least, the vernal tide continues to rise until the latter date, and it is not till after the summer solstice that the shoots and twigs begin to harden and turn to wood, or the grass to lose any of its freshness and succulency.

It is this period that marks the return of the birds, -one or two of the more hardy or half-domesticated species, like the song sparrow and the bluebird, usually arriving in March, while the rarer and more brilliant wood-birds bring up the procession in June. But each stage of the advancing season gives prominence to certain species, as to certain flowers. The dandelion tells me when to look for the swallow, the dogtooth violet when to expect the wood-thrush, and when I have found the wake-robin in bloom I know the season is fairly inaugurated. With me this flower is associated, not merely with the awakening of Robin, for he has been awake some weeks, but with the universal awakening and rehabilitation of nature.

\* Yet the coming and going of the birds is more or less a mystery and a surprise. We go out in the morning, and no thrush or vireo is to be heard; we go out again, and every tree and grove is musical; yet again, and all is silent. Who saw them come? Who saw them depart?

(continued on page 4)

## President Obama, Climate Change Champion?



President Obama said in his 2015 State of the Union address "No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change". He is trying to educate Americans about why we need to take action by touring the country and speaking at many places where climate change has caused extreme weather and major disasters. He says the U.S. has already incurred enormous financial costs because of climate change related storm damage and forest fires and the Pentagon declared recently that climate change poses immediate risks to our national security.

President Obama has taken some steps to deal with climate change on his own because the current Congress is unlikely to take action. He raised the standards for fuel economy for cars and trucks to double their efficiency by 2025. He proposed the Clean Power Plan which requires power plants to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 32% from 2005 levels by 2030. The EPA will now require the oil and gas industry to cut down on their methane leaks. (Methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide). The president's budgets have supported renewable energy and research on clean energy technology.

But in a 2012 speech in Cushing, Oklahoma, the president said "Over the last 3 years, I've directed my administration to open up millions of acres for gas and oil exploration across 23 different states. We're opening up more than 75% of our potential oil resources offshore. We've quadrupled the number of operating rigs to a record high. We've added enough new oil and gas pipelines to encircle the Earth, and then some".

President Obama has close ties with the fossil fuel industry and has an "all of the above" energy policy that develops every source of American-made

energy. It encourages the continued use of fossil fuels and supports hydraulic fracturing to obtain natural gas and oil. The administration has approved permits for Shell, one of the most irresponsible oil companies on Earth, to drill in the American Arctic Ocean, a sensitive, ecologically rich and unforgiving environment, despite the current glut of oil that is causing oil prices to drop precipitously.

The use of coal in U.S. power plants has dropped significantly the last few years because of the abundance of cheaper natural gas, but coal is still being mined and, under this administration, exported much more frequently now to other countries where it will be burned and emit carbon dioxide and pollutants into the atmosphere. Climate change is a global problem, and U.S. coal continues to make it worse.

President Obama appointed as his Energy Secretary, Ernest Moniz, a nuclear physicist who supports nuclear power and shale gas fracking. Moniz has led a controversial study that supports exporting liquefied natural gas and he is in favor of so-called "clean coal". Sally Jewell, a former petroleum engineer who supports fracking on our public lands, is his Secretary of the Interior. Currently 42% of coal, 26% of oil, and 18% of natural gas produced in the U.S. comes from our public lands.

Despite his eloquent speeches about the need to address climate change, the president's actions often don't agree with his words. Time is of the essence if we want to stop climate change. The use of natural gas as a bridge fuel only slows down the process of converting to renewable energy sources. What the president really needs to do is to move aggressively to keep fossil fuels in the ground, stop promoting expanded drilling and fracking, and accelerate the transition to 100% renewable energy.

*Carol Hinkelman*

Mary Jane Rowe

Nature lover, Mary Jane Rowe, passed away on July 6, 2015. Mary Jane and her husband Rev. Robert Rowe have been BANC members for many years. She led wildflower hikes at the sanctuary and was very conscientious about getting the exact name for each plant species. We send our condolences to her family.

MEET MEMBER – FRANK CROMBE

Many BANC members are collectors. Some collect rocks, some drawings, some dried flowers. Frank Crombe collects trees. After our chat for this article, Frank treated me to a brief tour of his extensive backyard in Scottsville. The part closest to the

house is nicely landscaped with a few trees, shrubs and flower gardens – his wife Karen’s domain. However, the ‘backlot’ is a wild mixture of native tree species, nearly all planted by Frank, from an impressive 30-foot Pawpaw replete with fruit to tiny beech seedlings with their protective wire shields. Frank shared interesting stories behind the acquisition of many of the trees, and it was very clear that this disorganized arboretum has long been a ‘labor of love’ for him.

Frank’s interest in nature in general and trees in particular began when, as a young boy in East Rochester, he started caddying at various local golf courses. He learned about many of the trees from the golfers and supplemented his study with field guides – he’s still an avid collector of nature books. Later he participated in hikes led by Steve Daniel at Mendon Ponds and took trips to Allegany State Park and the Adirondacks.

Frank graduated from RIT with a degree in Business Administration, although he speaks more fondly of his classes in Music Appreciation and Public Speaking. His career has included financial accounting roles in several companies including Harris Seed and a construction company, where his arboreal interest led him to rescue trees from destruction and transplant them to his home.

Frank and Karen met through a local church group and were married in 1986, living first in Chili before moving to their present house in Scottsville. They have two sons, adopted from Honduras, and Frank enthuses about the lush vegetation they have encountered there on their visits, as well as the many trees and wildflowers he has been able to experience in business trips to Europe.

Frank is still a keen golfer and regularly takes part in charity tournaments. He also has a winter occupation of re-shafting golf clubs, which he donates to charities.

BANC first entered Frank’s life when he came upon a club tree hike in Highland Park around 1983. He has since led field trips for the club and currently serves on the Finance Committee. He has also led hikes for the Nature Conservancy at Thousand Acre Swamp and has been associated with the local chapter of the Sierra Club. Frank says his motivation for leading hikes and educating the participants stems from his dismay at the extent and adverse impact of deforestation and the problems arising from climatic changes.

*Richard Ashworth*

(Wake-Robin continued from page 2)

\* (...)Not long after the bluebird comes the robin, sometimes in March, but in most of the Northern States April is the month of the robin. In large numbers they scour the fields and groves. You hear their piping in the meadow, in the pasture, on the hillside. Walk in the woods, and the dry leaves rustle with the whir of their wings, the air is vocal with their cheery call. In excess of joy and vivacity, they run, leap, scream, chase each other through the air, diving and sweeping among the trees with perilous rapidity.

\* (.....)At sunset, on the tops of the tall maples, with look heavenward, and in a spirit of utter abandonment, he carols his simple strain. And sitting thus amid the stark, silent trees, above the wet, cold earth, with the chill of winter still in the air, there is no fitter or sweeter songster in the whole round year.

\* (.....)The first utterance, and the spell of winter is thoroughly broken, and the remembrance of it afar off. (End of excerpts.)

Welcome new members

Cheri Crist  
 Matthew Cunningham  
 Thomas & Michele Driscoll  
 Thomas Hargrave  
 Bruce & Sarah Johnson  
 Robert & Susan McLean  
 Patti & Jim Morris  
 Rose Quinnan  
 Shawn Ryan  
 Kimberly Sucky  
 Jayne, Dean & Charlie Woodruff  
 Chauncy & Suzy Young

**CRISS – CROSS PUZZLE**  
*Jennifer Markham*

Criss-cross clues below are *scientific names* [followed by traits to which they refer]. Match them to organisms in the Word Bank. To solve, write Word Bank words into the criss cross frame. (You could Google the scientific names to verify your answers.)

**Across**

- 2 *Dolichonyx* [long toenails]
- 7. *albicollis* [white-throated]
- 10. *mellifera* [honey carrier]
- 13. *Odocoileus* [hollow teeth]
- 14. *aurocapillus* [orange cap]
- 15. *Pterophylla* [leaf-like wings]

**Down**

- 1. *Tetraopes* [four eyes]
- 3. *Didelphis* [pouch for offspring]
- 4. *atricapillus* [black-capped]
- 5. *Bombycilla* [silk tail]
- 6. *brachyrhynchos* [short beak]
- 8. *vermivorum* [worm-eating]
- 9. *sempervirens* [always green]
- 11. *rotundifolia* [round-leaved]
- 12. *Notophthalmus* [eyespot]

**Word Bank:**

bee beetle bobolink chickadee  
crow deer katydid newt  
opossum ovenbird sequoia  
sparrow sundew warbler  
waxwing

The crossword puzzle grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The grid is defined by the following coordinates (row, column):

- 1: (1,5) to (4,5)
- 2: (1,1) to (1,7)
- 3: (1,2) to (1,3)
- 4: (2,5) to (4,5)
- 5: (2,4) to (2,6)
- 6: (2,5) to (2,6)
- 7: (3,1) to (3,8)
- 8: (3,5) to (3,6)
- 9: (4,6) to (4,9)
- 10: (4,5) to (4,10)
- 11: (4,9) to (4,11)
- 12: (5,4) to (5,6)
- 13: (5,1) to (5,4)
- 14: (5,6) to (5,11)
- 15: (6,1) to (6,10)



Chris Benard and "Tumbleweed" 8/26/15  
Photo by Julie Clayton



Three photos taken by Marigrace Piazza  
at the Dragonfly hike at Sanctuary on 8/8/2015

# **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**

**Saturday, September 12, 10:00 AM  
Webster Park**

**FUNGI IN WEBSTER PARK**  
Leader: Dave Wolf, 482-2640

**Thursday, September 17, 9:30 – 11:30 AM  
BANC Sanctuary**

**COME FOR COFFEE OPEN HOUSE**  
Host: Chris Benard, 924-4979

**Saturday, September 26, 4:00 PM**

**BANC Sanctuary  
ANNUAL PICNIC  
THE AUTUMN SKY**  
Hosts: Marigrace Piazza, 383-8462  
Julie Clayton, 249-9489

**Friday, October 9, 7:30 PM**

**St. John's Meadows  
EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF ROCHESTER'S  
TWO MAJOR ARBORETA:  
HIGHLAND & DURAND-EASTMAN PARKS**  
Presenter: Beverly Gibson

**Saturday, October 24, 10:00 AM  
Thousand Acre Swamp**

**FALL FOLIAGE OF THOUSAND ACRE SWAMP**  
Leader: Frank Crombe, 889-5644

**Saturday, November 7, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**BANC Sanctuary  
FALL CLEAN-UP**  
Leader: Dean Clayton, 248-9489  
Host: Carolyn Dancy, 381-5369

**Friday, November 13, 7:30 PM  
St. John's Meadows**

**ANNUAL MEETING & EXPERIENCE NIGHT**  
Host: Julie Clayton, 249- 9489