

The Tanager

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Burroughs Audubon Nature Club
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September, 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club's 98th Anniversary Picnic Saturday, September 10, 2011

WHERE YOU CAN FIND FELLOWSHIP, FUN AND FAIRIES?

IN FAIRYLAND, by JOYCE KILMER

THE FAIRY POET TAKES A SHEET
OF MOONBEAM, SILVER WHITE;
HIS INK IS DEW FROM DAISIES SWEET,
HIS PEN A POINT OF LIGHT.

OUR SANCTUARY IS A FAIRYLAND; PLAN TO SPEND PART OF YOUR DAY WITH US.

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Go on a walk, try a scavenger hunt, build a fairy house, enjoy cool drinks and snacks, meander in the gardens.

5:00 pm - Picnic Supper

You can register for one hot dog, hamburger or veggie, for \$2.00 per person, or \$5.00 for families with children.

Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. don't forget a trash bag. Extra card tables will be appreciated.

6:30 pm - Program

PETER DEBES, A NATURALIST AND BOTANIST AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB, WILL PRESENT A SLIDE TALK ON "THE ADVENTURES OF A NATURALIST AT THE AMAZON RIVER. FIND OUT HOW HE CO-EXISTED WITH SNAKES, SPIDERS, AND PIRANHAS IN THE WATER.

Fun Table : Bring a donation- books are popular, veggies from your garden or nature related items. We will sell these inexpensively. We always have a project that needs supporting.

Questions? CALL NANCY ROSENBERG, 271-6931 , PICNIC CHAIRMAN

Call Kris Smith 461-9395 or ursus101@aol.com to make your reservations. If no one is available to take your message, leave your name and how many hamburgers, hot dogs, or veggie burgers you wish to order (more than one will cost \$1.00 extra). Also indicate if you want to make a fairy house.

Please make your reservations by September 5th

**Burroughs Audubon Nature Club
Treasurer's Report July 20, 2011**

Year to Date:

TOTAL INCOME: \$4,710.05
TOTAL EXPENSES: 2,200.25
NET INCOME: \$ 2,509.80

Income to date includes \$1,216.68 of donations to the Steven Crane Weber Memorial Fund from family members, from Burroughs members and from other friends.

We anticipate an invoice for about \$1,200 this fall for insurance on the Sanctuary, our single largest expense.

Club membership, in terms of paid dues, is slightly ahead of this time last year.

Income from membership dues is just keeping pace with generally increasing operating expenses.

Efforts to reduce Tanager printing and mailing costs will allow us to maintain our current level of membership dues.

Respectfully submitted,
John Gordon

Do Squirrels Eat Birds?

My husband and I are novice birdwatchers. We've lived in our house over 25 years and for most of those years we thought the only birds around were robins, chickadees, cardinals and jays. After setting up our pole feeder, what a surprise to see finches, three kinds of woodpeckers, titmouse and nuthatches, to name just a few. We never knew they were out there.

Last week a grey squirrel took up a sentry position in the arborvitaes, starring at the feeder, eying the birds. I thought I saw saliva dribble down his chin and became concerned – no, worried for my new little friends.

Immediately I Googled, "Do squirrels eat birds?" looking for comfort and reassurance.

According to the site <http://www.squirrels.org/index.php>, gray squirrels eat nuts, seeds, grain, and fruit. By far their favorite food would be nuts, followed by sunflower seeds. Urban squirrels have adapted to eat just about anything, including pizza, luncheon meats and all forms of snack foods. Squirrels have been

known to eat bird eggs, but this is a last resort. When natural food is scarce, they will eat anything they can find.

However, while visiting other sites revealed by the question, I learned that for grey squirrels dining on bird eggs and baby birds is not "a last resort," but an opportunity of the moment. Viewing related videos on YOUTUBE also confirms this affirmative answer.

So what does this mean to those of us who feed birds?

I'm not sure there is anything we can do about it but be alert to where birds build their nests in our yards and be vigilant. For those of us who set out birdhouses, remove the perch. Birds who live in houses don't need them for entry and squirrels can't latch onto the house without one.

And a note of levity....

The website www.deadsquirrel.com may offer some solace to all rodent-ravaged gardeners. A couple of crazy guys (the Squirrel Defamation League, whose motto is "All Squirrels Must Die!") put together this wonderful (tongue-firmly-in-cheek) site to warn that squirrels are not the cute cuddly little forest creatures some folks are fooled into believing, but furry fiends bent on nothing less than world domination! "

Enjoy,
Chris Benard.



TREASURER'S REQUEST

Look at the mailing label on this Tanager! If it says "2011 dues are due", it's time to pay. The dues are \$15 single, \$20 per couple & \$25 per family. Make check payable to BANC, and send to BANC, c/o John E. Gordon, 126 Ayrault Rd., Fairport, NY

HELP!

We somehow have misplaced our weed wacker, which is badly needed. Does anyone know where it might be? If so, please contact Steve Maley at 659-2719 or e-mail smaley2@rochester.rr.com

Birdsong and Gunfire

Fort Drum has been getting a reputation among birders as a birding hotspot. Four BANC members Janet Miles, Carolyn Ragan, Mary and John Gordon joined 3 other friends June 1 to find out for themselves. Visiting the base requires pre-planning. Application must be made for recreational use. After receiving your permit by mail it is necessary to call the night before entering the base to receive instructions on which areas are off limits that day. The base is large and has a variety of habitats. Road signage is spotty and a navigational device is helpful.



The wind was howling the two days we birded so the birding was not optimum. However, we had some outstanding sightings. In a large grassy field across the road from old helicopters and rusting mangled army vehicles, we located a cooperative, singing Henslow Sparrow with the assistance of some birders from New Jersey.

Leaving the base on our first day, some of us observed a tall, dark object behind a fence that surrounds Wheeler-Sack Army Air Field. As we approached, it moved, dropped to all fours and leisurely went back into the shrubs. It was a huge black bear contemplating how to scale the barbed wire topped chain link fence. Another spectacular sighting was on the main road, Rt. 26. A mother woodcock was attempting to herd her two chicks across the road. The approach of our car caused confusion as Mom ran back and forth trying to corral the kids giving us great looks at this secretive bird. The chicks were an added bonus.

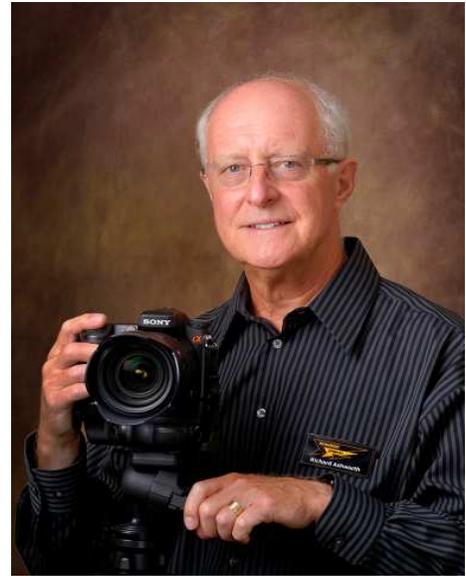
Occasionally there was gunfire and artillery bursts mingled with bird song in the woods. Convoys of humvees and trucks kicked up the dust and the sight of young men marching along the road carrying AK 47s and machine guns was sobering and gave us pause to consider their destinies.



As we headed home we stopped at Chaumont Barrens, a unique alvar landscape owned by the Nature Conservancy. Prairie smoke was in bloom along with yellow lady slippers. We all agreed it was a worthwhile trip and we would go again.

Carolyn Ragan

MEET MEMBER RICHARD ASHWORTH



In each issue of the *Tanager*, Richard Ashworth writes the 'Meet a Member' column, which is accompanied by a photograph. In this issue we thought you would like to meet our columnist, who even had to supply his own photo.

Richard was born in England and educated at Oxford University with a degree in Natural Sciences (Chemistry). He also has a Master's degree from Oxford, and a diploma in Personnel Management. His 30-year career with Kodak began in England and Europe, initially as a research chemist and later in human resources. After a short assignment in Rochester, he returned to England but was then offered a permanent position here, with only ten days to make up his mind about emigrating with his family. He eventually left Kodak and was employed at Johnson & Johnson as Vice-President of Human Resources, before taking an early retirement from corporate life. He had a consulting practice for several years and taught in MBA programs, but now concentrates on his commercial photography business.

Richard has been a birder for about forty years and was active in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in England. He is a past President of the Rochester Birding Association and also volunteers at the Nature Conservancy's Thousand Acre Swamp in Penfield.

BANC is fortunate that he actively participates in the club by leading field trips, giving talks and serving on the Executive Council. He also produced a colorful display for use at expositions and a sign for our public hikes.

Richard is married, with two daughters and two grandchildren living in the area. We hope the grandchildren will follow in his birding footsteps

Nancy Rosenberg

Threatening the Great Lakes

Most of us have heard of the problems that invasive species cause and can name some of those species like purple loosestrife, the emerald ash borer and zebra mussels. Usually we don't learn about invasive species until they are very widespread here and almost impossible to eradicate, but in the Great Lakes states there is already a lot of concern that Asian carp may become our next major invasive species problem.

In southeast Asia, these fish have been cultivated for food for more than 1000 years, often raised in submerged rice paddies. In the 1970's, catfish farmers in the southern US imported the carp from China to eat up algae in their ponds. Later, when the ponds flooded, the carp escaped into rivers and have been slowly making their way north in the Mississippi R. and its tributaries. In the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, Asian carp now make up 95% of the fish population and they have destroyed the fishing industry that used to flourish there.

Asian carp have the potential to also destroy the \$7 billion a year Great Lakes fishing industry.

They aren't predators of our native species, but because they are filter feeders that eat huge amounts of plankton, they could knock out the bottom layers of the food chain and starve the other fish species. They can grow to 3 feet long and weigh up to 100 pounds and they grow and reproduce very rapidly. They are unrelated to our common carp which are bottom feeders. There are several varieties of Asian carp, but the main ones are bighead carp and silver carp.

Silver carp can pose a threat to boaters. When startled by passing boats, they launch themselves out of the water like living missiles jumping as much as 8 to 10 feet in the air, often injuring fishermen, water skiers or jet skiers as can be seen on many You Tube videos.

The Mississippi River system was always separate from the Great Lakes until engineers in the late 1800's designed a network of canals and rivers to reverse the flow of the Chicago River to keep waste from flowing into Lake Michigan. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal now leads from the Illinois River to Lake Michigan. In 2002, serious concerns about Asian carp getting into the Great Lakes prompted the Army Corps of Engineers to put an electronic barrier in the canal to prevent the carp from entering Lake Michigan, but that may not have been enough Recently several

samples of water from the lake have been found to contain Asian carp DNA. All of the Great Lakes states except Illinois have filed a lawsuit to close the Chicago locks that allow the free flow of water between the lake and canal, but Illinois lawmakers don't want to disrupt hundreds of millions of dollars worth of shipping. Canada is also concerned about their Great Lakes waters being invaded by Asian carp. Federal officials have plans to build new barriers because carp can now bypass the current electric barrier when water levels are high. Will we be able to stop the Asian carp and protect the Great Lakes? Are they already here?

Time will tell what happens in this invasive species saga.

Carol Hinkelman

Fighting Invasive Plants at the Sanctuary

There has been a lot of concern in recent years about the invasive alien plant species that are taking over our sanctuary and crowding out the native species. Several people expressed a willingness to help remove some of the invasive plants and we decided to start with invasive shrubs like privet. Walking the trails we realized how big a project that would be. While we were discussing how to go about it, long-time member Paul Brach tried pulling out some smaller privets along the creek where the native spicebush was getting overrun. He pulled out several hundred of them by hand on Spring Cleanup Day and has gone back many times since then in all kinds of weather to continue the process, pulling out thousands of small privets. Recently Paul and Steve Maley worked together removing larger privet bushes with a special tool purchased for this purpose. We applaud Paul and Steve for this tremendous undertaking to improve our sanctuary flora.



Carol Hinkelman

Coastal Cleanup Day

Every year the Rochester area participates in the Coastal Cleanup and this year it will be held on Saturday, September 17. There are several sites along our shores where people of all ages will be cleaning up debris. Genesee Valley Audubon Society will be in charge of cleaning the Braddock Bay area and will be meeting at the Braddock Bay Marina at 9:00 AM. They could use more help, especially with weighing and tallying the trash. They can even use people in canoes to get trash out of the water. If you would like to participate in this environmental activity, please call June Summers at 865-6047 to register or to get more information. Remember to dress for the weather and bring work gloves.

Carol Hinkelman

A Big Thank You

Our club functions solely on the generosity of volunteers who do many various jobs. Our members are very generous with their time and talents. The Council would like to thank **Jim Gordon** for the time and energy he has given these past twelve years keeping the lawn and trails neatly mowed and trimmed. It has always looked great! Jim, we thank you!

Speaking of our grounds, **Steve Maley**, Chair of the Sanctuary Building and Grounds Committee, has taken care of many problems and situations that have arisen at the sanctuary. He has made many trips all the way from his home in Kendall to do many tasks for the club.

Both Jim and Steve have both passed on the baton as chairpersons. Thank you for jobs well done!

Julie Clayton

Need the Bathroom?

Any member who enjoys hiking the trails at the Sanctuary is entitled to a bathroom key. Please send \$2.00 to treasurer, John Gordon at 126 Ayrault Rd., Fairport, NY 14450. John will send you the key. The bathroom is on the back corner of the Sanctuary building near the birdfeeder. The door will be clearly marked.

Guided Walks

BANC sponsored three guided walks this summer. Richard Ashcroft and Julie Clayton guided the hikers on June 12th. Among them were several young guests from Fredonia who really enjoyed the peaceful sights and sounds of the woods and Irondequoit Creek. Several kinds of trees were identified, birds spotted and wildflowers appreciated. On July 10, many guests from the Monroe YMCA Silver Sneakers group came out to hike. Joanne Altre and Julie led that group. The Y folks were surprised by a lone deer springing forth from the swamp and bounding along the trail. They really loved the butterfly gardens as well! On August 14, Janet Miles and Kristine Smith will be leading the third guided walk. **THANK YOU** to the volunteers who gave their time and expertise to lead the hikes and we are happy that members and non-members alike came out to enjoy the Sanctuary and learn more about the wondrous mysteries of nature.

Julie Clayton

Notice

For questions or suggestions regarding the *Tanager*, please contact the Editor, Jerry Jenkins, at: gljenkins@juno.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!!

Kenn Voellinger
 Lisa Zapoticznyj
 Paul Dalessandris
 Deborah Anderson
 Russ and Jackie Chimera
 James Graves
 Tim O'Connell
 Joan Frenzel
 Ruth McNamara
 Rosemarie U. Kraft
 Bill Bross
 Alan and Susan Robertson

Please check out our events and join us!
 If you have any questions about anything,
 please call Julie Clayton at 249-9489.

The Tanager

**Burroughs Audubon
Nature Club
c/o John E. Gordon
126 Ayrault Rd.
Fairport, NY 14450**



TO:

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**.Saturday, September 10, 3:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
ANNUAL PICNIC AND EVENING PROGRAM**

Put Saturday, September 10th on your calendar for the annual picnic. Starting at 3:00 PM, there will be a scavenger hunt an opportunity and build a fairy house. A slide talk by Peter Debes, Vice-President of the Sierra Club, on "The Adventures of a Naturalist at the Amazon river." will begin at 6:45 PM.

Chairman: Nancy R. Rosenberg, 271-6931

**Saturday, September 24, 9:00 AM
Elizabeth Slater Sanctuary
BANC'S OTHER SANCTUARY
Leader: Paul Brach, 342-5629**

**Friday, October 14, 7:30 PM
St. John's Meadows
1 Johnsarbor Drive West
ROLES OF BIRDS IN THE FOREST ECOSYSTEM
Presenter: Jin Rhody**

**Saturday, October 29, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
BANC Sanctuary
FALL CLEAN UP**

Leader: Steve Maley, 659-2719

**Friday, November 11, 7:30 PM
1 Johnsarbor Drive West
St. John's Meadows
ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPERIENCE NIGHT**

Leader: Julie Clayton, 249-9489