

# The Tanager

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**Burroughs Audubon Nature Club**

c/o John Shaw

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*Shirley Shaw*

Here's a shout out to our program committee: Marigrace Piazza (chair), Julie Clayton, Jutta Dudley, Carol Hinkelman, Chita McKinney, Shirley Shaw, and Carol Southby. BANC has had great programs despite the challenges of the pandemic, using Zoom for our formerly indoor meetings (October-March); and for health reasons all spring, summer, and fall events have been outside. Be sure to check out all that we have scheduled for this fall on page 6, and mark your calendars. The committee will begin planning next year's events in October, so if you have an idea for a program or field trip you'd like us to consider, please contact [marigrace.piazza@gmail.com](mailto:marigrace.piazza@gmail.com).

Pandemic or not, the program committee believes that Zoom meetings are best for us in the cold weather months. Many of our members are uncomfortable driving in the dark, and who enjoys brushing away snow and scraping ice off a car at 9:30 p.m. on a windy, snowy winter night?

The current situation with the Delta variant creates uncertainty again. Therefore, the program committee will likely continue with outdoor events from spring-fall of 2022. If it seems safe to do so, we will hold our banquet again; but, at the moment, planning a large indoor gathering does not seem prudent. Knowing that our club house is not large enough to safely accommodate the number of people who enjoy having activities that include a meal, we've switched from potlucks to brown bag suppers so that the small kitchen does not have to be used. Sitting in a circle out on the lawn while eating our picnic suppers has

given us the bonus of socializing with more old friends and making new ones.

BANC has made good progress attracting families with young children to the Sanctuary. Ellen Prill has organized monthly family-oriented open houses with walks through the Sanctuary and craft projects and games for children. New member Kelly Haskell has suggested a children's book club and is working with

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(President's column - continued from page 1)

Ellen on the open houses, and Jane McConnochie is offering the Tree Club program. Marigrace Piazza hopes to resume Family Nature Night in 2022.

In the last edition of the *Tanager*, I told you about our application for a Recreational Trails grant to help us pay for all the work that needs to be done on our trail system. We won't know until the end of the year if the grant will be awarded, but repairing the boardwalks and dealing with the trail areas where drainage is inadequate must happen. Thanks to Dean Clayton for repairing the Balsam Fir boardwalk, to Joe Hurley and Dean for repairs to the Swamp boardwalk, and to Jerry Spanganberg for repairing the damage caused by a fallen tree to the Gentian boardwalk.

We also are investigating ways to prevent the flooding of our parking lot, which has happened twice this year during downpours. We will be consulting contractors for ideas and their costs.

Just as the heavy rains have meant problems in our parking lot, the erosion caused by the flooding of Irondequoit Creek has further eroded the creek's banks, making parts of Creekside Trail unsafe. We

are sorry to have to make closures, but there are places where the risk to walkers is too great. Especially on Keller's Knoll, enjoy the view, but walk behind the bench.

Naturally, all this maintenance requires more than volunteer labor. Money for materials and professional services is needed. The grant, if received, will take care of a lot, but a lot will remain to be done. Council has formed a fundraising committee: Joe Hurley, Julie Clayton, and Carol Klinger. This group is working to secure additional funding sources. And naturally, we appreciate all the donations of our members.

As I close, I want to send our gratitude to Jane Stock for all the work she has done for BANC these last few years. Jane has served as a host for events, been our corresponding secretary, and held the office of trustee on BANC's Executive Council. Because of life's challenges, Jane has had to resign from the Council. We wish her and her husband Harold the best.

We look forward to seeing you at BANC's upcoming events.

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### Nominations Committee Report

The Burroughs Audubon Nature Club Nominating Committee—Linda Smith, Chair; Mary Gordon; and Kathy Sheridan Henrie—propose the following slate of officers and trustees for BANC's Executive Council in 2022:

President: Ellen Prill

Vice President: Marie Heerkens

Treasurer: John Shaw

Recording Secretary: Jane McConnochie

Corresponding Secretary: Marigrace Piazza

Financial Trustees: Joe Hurley, 2022-2023

Trustees: Steve Melcher, 2022-2023; Shirley Shaw, 2022-2023.

Trustees are elected for a two-year term. Continuing on the Council as Trustees will be Julie Clayton, 2021-2022, Lura Kelley, 2021-2022, Carol Klinger, 2021-2022, and Mary Moore, 2021-2022. Continuing as Financial Trustee will be Frank Crombe, 2021-2022.

We appreciate the valuable contributions made by outgoing Financial Trustee Jon Dombrowski and Trustee Jane Stock, who resigned in August 2021.

The election will be held at BANC's annual meeting, to be held via Zoom on November 12, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Registration is necessary to receive the link to this meeting. Register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-annual>.

## Members' Meeting — October 15<sup>th</sup> Conversations with Joan Burroughs

*By Julie Clayton*

Don't miss our October members' meeting on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30. Please note that this will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of October. We will be privileged to have as our guest presenter Joan Burroughs, the great-granddaughter of John Burroughs after whom our organization is named! It will appropriately be called "Conversations with Joan Burroughs". Joan is a resident of the Ulster County area on the Hudson River, where she is restoring a portion of Burroughs' fruit farm. She is the president of the John Burroughs Association, whose mission is to bring to life the legacy, writing and natural world of John Burroughs. Its programs are primarily at John Burroughs' Slabsides and Nature Sanctuary in the town of Esopus.

We will talk with Joan via Zoom. John Burroughs lived such a very long, full life that it would be hard to tell all in just 45 minutes. Joan said that she would like to tell the tale of John's early camping days. She will then answer any burning questions that we members might wish to ask.

Be sure to join us. Joan is a delight!



**Joan Burroughs,  
John's great-granddaughter**

*Photo by Julie Clayton*

### Quotations from John Burroughs

A somebody was once a nobody who wanted to and did.

The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention.

We talk of communing with Nature, but 'tis with ourselves we commune... .

Nature furnishes the conditions—the solitude—and the soul furnishes the entertainment.

A man can get discouraged many times, but he is not a failure until he begins to blame somebody else and stops trying.

To strong, susceptible characters, the music of nature is not confined to sweet sounds.

## An Autumn Ritual

By Carol Hinkelman

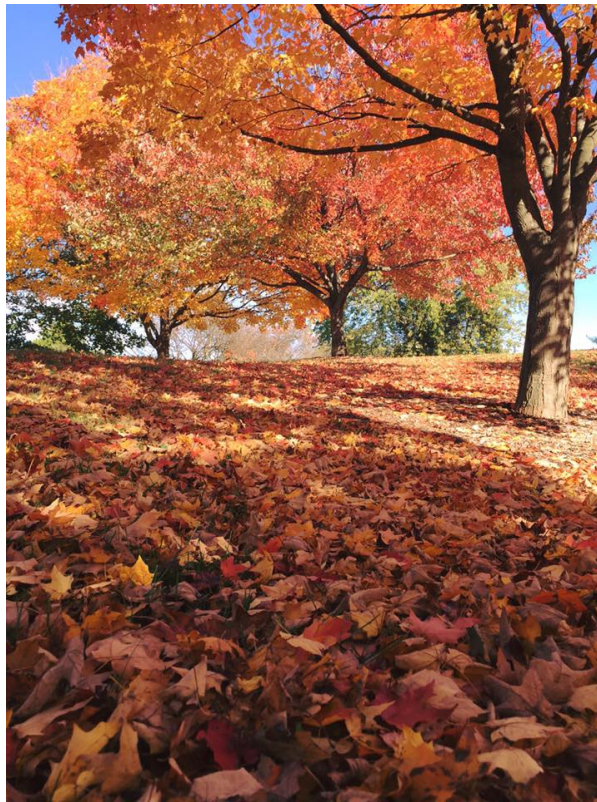
Fall has arrived, and we are told it is time to make our yards neat and tidy for the winter. We cut down all the plants that have finished blooming, rake up every fallen leaf, and send all that debris off to the landfill. But that is exactly the opposite of what we should be doing. To provide habitat for birds and butterflies and help save our disappearing pollinators, we should leave those plants and a thick layer of leaves in the garden over the winter.

We don't see nearly as many butterflies or birds in our yards as we used to, and that is in large part because we no longer plant the native plants that they evolved with. Our yards consist mostly of large expanses of lawn that don't support them and some pretty plants from other parts of the world that are not the ones our native birds and butterflies need. We also pride ourselves on keeping everything very manicured like the rest of our neighbors', but that is not a functioning ecosystem.

Butterflies have specific plant species that their caterpillars require to feed on, but 90% of those caterpillars do not make their chrysalises on their food plant. In our climate, the vast majority of butterflies and moths use leaf litter for winter protection of eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises, or adults from cold and predators. The chrysalises of Swallowtail butterflies and the cocoons of Luna Moths even look like leaves and can get discarded with the leaves we rake up. Many of our native bee species and other beneficial insects live in the ground, and others will make their winter home within dead plant stems or

cavities in wood. Even if a yard has the native species to feed our butterflies and pollinators, they can't get through their life cycles without safe places to overwinter.

A lot of gardeners clean up the leaves in their flower beds and get rid of them. Then they buy shredded wood mulch for their gardens to suppress weeds, hold in the moisture, and make them look neat. But leaves provide the same benefits as mulch and they are free. Save yourself a lot of work and expense and leave a thick layer of leaves in your garden and under the trees and shrubs. They will slowly break down and add valuable organic matter to enrich the soil. Keep those leaves whole because when you shred them, you may be destroying the eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalises of the beautiful butterflies that you want to attract.



### Fall Leaves left on ground

*Photo by Nitin Yadav, Indian Institute of Technology*

Your lawn can tolerate a thin layer of leaves too, and any extra ones that you have to rake off the lawn should be put under trees and shrubs or into your compost pile where they will turn into organic matter to use in your gar-

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(An Autumn Ritual — Continued from page 4)*

den. Ground feeding birds will scratch around in the leaf litter to find insects to eat. Leave the flower heads and seeds on the plants for the birds to eat over the winter and the plant stems as homes for insects. Wait until late April before you cut down those plants in the spring.

Early fall is a great time to plant some native species so that their roots grow strong before winter. The keystone species of trees support many more insect species than average, so you could add an oak, willow, cherry or birch tree, or maybe a small understory tree or two.

Make sure to have a variety of native plants so that there is something blooming throughout the growing season.

Fall blooming native asters and goldenrods provide food for migrating Monarch butterflies and will sustain pollinators through more of the year. You can bring nature back to your backyard and help restore our disappearing pollinators.

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### New Members

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

Loretta Morrell	Rochester
Michelle Laraby	Rochester
Susan Garrow	Penfield

## 1000 Hours Outside

*By Carol Klinger*

As the name of our club implies, Burroughs Audubon Nature Club is always interested in finding ways for children, adults, and families to enjoy time outdoors in nature. That said, we have discovered a program called “1000 Hours Outside.” The purpose of 1000 hours is to attempt to replace some screen time with nature time. On average, a child spends 1000 hours a year consuming media through screens, and this program suggests that at least some of those hours should be shifted towards a more healthy and productive activities outdoors.

The core concept of this movement is simple – that the time kids (and adults) spend outdoors actually matters, and benefits children in untold ways. The website ([www.1000hoursoutside.com](http://www.1000hoursoutside.com)) offers what they call low tech nature activities to provide inspiration. Also Burroughs has purchased the 1000 Hours Outside activity book which offers more suggestions. This will be put in our library once the clubhouse is open for inside activities. The program also has a Facebook page offering more support for the program.



**Looking at an interpretive sign**

*Photo by Ellen Prill*



**Getting outside at the June Open House**

*Photo by Ellen Prill*

## Coming Events

### **Saturday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.**

Hurley Woods on Benson Road  
249 Benson Road, Victor, NY 14564

Come test your knowledge of native trees and plants. For the first time ever, the owners of a unique 50-acre parcel on Benson Road in Victor are offering the members of Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and Canandaigua Botanical Society a private tour of their property. Joe and Ginny Hurley purchased the parcel (one of the largest concentrations of steep slopes in all of Ontario County) in 2009 and have worked over the last ten years to create a native tree arboretum and pollinator garden, to establish a maple sugarbush and apiary, and to manage invasive plant species on the property. The free 90-minute tour will stay on the flat portion of the property making it appropriate for all (waterproof boots are highly recommended). You will be invited to identify various trees and plants and hear the answers from a DEC forestry consultant. This tour is limited to 30 guests, and all NYS and CDC COVID-19 protocols in place at that date will be followed.

This event is full; no more reservations will be accepted.

### **Sunday, September 26, 2:00-4:30 p.m.**

Privet Pulling Sunday  
BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road, Pittsford.

Join us to work on BANC's Privet Pulling Project. Privet, an invasive shrub, has taken over parts of our woodland, pushing out native plants. This plant has got to go, and we need your help.

We'll identify privet for you, and our seasoned privet puller Joe Hurley will provide instructions for using a fantastic tool called a privet popper that we provide you. It's hard work but experience tells us once people get into a rhythm of popping and pulling, time flies by and they finish with a great feeling of accomplishment.

Bring your work gloves, water, and snack. Dress to protect yourself from ticks and poison ivy by wear-

ing long pants tucked into socks. See recommendations about what to wear for privet pulling at [bancny.org/whattowear.html](http://bancny.org/whattowear.html).

Host: Shirley Shaw

### **Friday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.**

New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) Annual Meeting on Zoom

Welcome and Keynote Address, "Climate Change and The Effects on Montane Birds" with Jason Hill, Conservation Biologist, Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

"Mountain ecosystems are warming faster than lower elevation zones due to climate change. For montane birds we can expect significant population effects from this change in their environment. Mountain Birdwatch is a citizen-science project designed to document the effect of climate change on boreal forest birds breeding in New York and northern New England. Jason Hill will present new findings showing that montane birds in our region have indeed moved upslope over the last decade."

The meeting on Zoom will be hosted by the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society.

You do not need to be a member of NYSOA to attend, but you do need to preregister to receive the link to the meeting.

Please preregister at [www.nybirds.org/annual2021](http://www.nybirds.org/annual2021).

### **Sunday, October 3, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

Fungi Walk  
Powder Mills Park

Join us for a nature walk along the Trillium and Ridge trails. We'll look for fungi; Carl Wolf will help us identify them. The change of elevation between the two parallel and connected trails is about 130 feet. There is no preregistration. Upon arrival everyone must sign in with the host and give their contact information as a covid safety precaution. This is tick country so applying repellent and wearing pants tucked into socks is recommended. Be prepared for inclement weather. The trip will only be

*(Continued on page 7)*

**(Coming Events - Continued from page 6)**

cancelled by a thunderstorm or heavy rain. There may not be time to place a cancellation notice on the website.

Meeting location: The large parking area near (but not at) the Oak Tree Lodge on Woolston Rd. It is close to Corduroy Rd. Woolston Rd connects Railroad Mills Rd and Fishers Rd. The trails are opposite the parking area.

Host: Jutta Dudley. 585-385-2368 (h). After 12:00 noon on trip day, call or text 585-967-6479.

**Sunday, October 10, 12:00-5:00 p.m.**

Explore Nature Day

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road, Pittsford  
Informal Guided Walks Trails, Boardwalks, Swamp, Creek, Woodland, Fern and Flower Gardens, Bird Watching, and Children's Activities

This afternoon is for all ages! Our activities will be outside and on the Clubhouse porch if weather allows. If it is cold that day, we will have the activities in the Clubhouse. To discourage ticks, dress in long, preferably light-colored pants, shoes (not sandals) and socks. Please wear a mask if you are not vaccinated. Thank you!

Hosted by Ellen Prill, 721-4103

**Friday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.**

Conversations with Joan Burroughs

The great-granddaughter of John Burroughs will speak to us via Zoom. Mr. Burroughs had such a very long, full life that it would be hard to tell all in just 45 minutes. Joan would like to tell the tale of John's early camping days. She will then answer any questions that we members might wish to ask. To register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-conversation>

Those who register will then be emailed a link to the Zoom meeting.

**Wednesday October 20, 10 a.m. to noon**

Tree and Nature Walk

Penfield

Join naturalists Carol and Dave Southby to explore

one of our area's newest parks at the former Shadow Pines golf club in Penfield. Our main focus will be the many trees and how to identify them. Along the way we will also take time to enjoy birds and seed heads from summer wildflowers. We will explore the section of the park south of Clark Road, which has easy, undulating trails, mostly on former golf cart paths with some mown trails. Bring binoculars and a favorite tree book, and dress warmly, as we will go at a slow pace to study the trees.

Meet in the parking lot of the former Clark House, 600 Whalen Rd, Penfield, NY 14526. The entrance to the parking lot is on the west side of Whalen Road, south of Atlantic Avenue and just north of Clark Road. Leaders Carol and Dave Southby (585) 383-8168.

**Friday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.**

Annual Meeting/Experience Night

The brief Annual Meeting will include the president's report on the state of the club, and there will be the election of officers and Executive Council members. The traditional Experience Night program, which has always proven to be one of the most interesting nights of the year, follows. Our members are so knowledgeable and appreciative of nature, which is always most evident on Experience Night. Presentations will be by our members: that means YOU! Feel free to share a story, show special photos or a short video, read a favorite poem, or whatever you feel comfortable doing to share your experience.

To reserve your place on the evening's program, please Call Richard Ashworth, 381-2189, no later than November 7. You must e-mail your photos/video to Richard ([richarda@rochester.rr.com](mailto:richarda@rochester.rr.com)).

To register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-annual>. Those who register will then be emailed a link to the Zoom meeting.

**Sunday, November 14, 2:00-4:30 p.m.**

Cleanup and Habitat Restoration Day

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road, Pittsford

*(Continued on page 8)*

**(Coming Events-Continued from page 7)**

We will be pitching in to help with work around the Sanctuary before winter arrives. Clean up of the outside area, including trails, boardwalks, and parking lot will be needed. Another important focus will be our ongoing habitat restoration work as we continue our mission to remove invasive plants and restore native ones to our property.

Bring your work gloves, a rake, water, and a snack. If you are not able to do the labor, feel free to come and enjoy our beautiful Sanctuary and cheer the workers on.

Hosts: Marigrace Piazza and Shirley Shaw

**Friday, January 14, 7:30 p.m.**

An Evening with Lon Myers, Humorist and Self-Taught Naturalist

Lon Myers will share fun and humorous memories of growing up in the '60s, '70s and '80s with Burroughs Audubon. He will relay fun stories of colorful characters, playing in the old house, kids summer camp and more. Lon is originally from the Rochester area and served on the executive committee of the BANC. His parents both served as president. He is Chairman of the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage, an annual nature event sponsored by the Audubon's of Rochester, Buffalo, Jamestown and Erie. Lon is a self-taught naturalist having led nature walks for nearly 50 years. His walks include Beginning Birding, Night Walk, Stream Adventure, Sharing Nature with Children, and an adult themed talk of mythology and animal behavior. He resides in the Philadelphia suburbs leading walks for local nature organizations.

To register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-anevening1>. Those who register will then be emailed a link to the Zoom meeting.

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### Time to renew your membership

You may renew your membership now, either by mail or online. See the form on page 11 (online only), or go to [bancny.org/membership.html](http://bancny.org/membership.html).



**The Tree Club**

*Photo by Jane Coggshall McConnachie*



**The June Open House**

*Photo by Marigrace Piazza*



## Tree Club

*By Jane Coggshall McConnochie*

On a rainy June afternoon, the clouds parted and Tree Club wrapped up a successful year of learning under the canopy at the BANC sanctuary. For their final meeting of the season, the Park Road Elementary School students invited their classroom teachers to the sanctuary where, after trouncing them in a tree themed game of “Are you Smarter than a 4<sup>th</sup> Grader?” the students led their teachers on tree walk through the woods.

The tree clubbers introduced their teachers to their favorite trees. One by one, students pointed out the warty bark of the hackberry, the smooth edges of a white oak leaf, the opposite branching of the green ash. The teachers were excited to learn that what looked like leaves on a shagbark hickory were actually leaflets, that the aspens quivered because of the shape of their leaf stems (or petioles), and that the walnut by the parking lot was probably over a century and a half old.

The pictures on this page show some of the highlights from that day as well as the spring session of Tree Club. The after school program will be back for the 2021-22 school year so look for us on the trails, and feel free to ask us what we’re learning! For more information about the program contact Jane at [jane.calamity@gmail.com](mailto:jane.calamity@gmail.com).

*Photos by Jane Coggshall McConnochie*



## NYSOA Conservation Committee

### A Resource for Member Organizations

*By Andy Mason, NYSOA Conservation Chair*

As a long-time Conservation Chair for my Audubon Chapter—Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society—we have often been faced with local issues that in reality have statewide significance. Perhaps the best recent example of this is a Southern Tier wind project that threatens migrating raptors. Approval of this project sets an example and precedent for other poorly sited projects that will no doubt affect birds in places important to other bird clubs and Audubon groups.

For this reason and others the Conservation Committee of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) has a policy that states "*Conservation issues brought to the Conservation Committee by NYSOA member organizations shall have potential for local, regional, statewide or national relevance to birds.*" As a member organization, your club is encouraged to call on NYSOA for support and assistance on these sorts of conservation challenges. With over 500 individual members and 44 member organizations, NYSOA has a significant statewide presence. In addition, there is ongoing communication with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, often involved in bird conservation matters.

NYSOA has adopted written policies on a number of bird conservation issues, has written newsletter columns on many of these and has written letters to decision makers in specific cases. These are available in the Conservation section of the NYSOA website, [www.nybirds.org](http://www.nybirds.org), and member organizations should feel free to refer to them. Anyone wishing to republish or send any of these items on to government officials are asked to contact me ([conservation1@nybirds.org](mailto:conservation1@nybirds.org)) before doing so.

The availability and support of NYSOA for our member groups is a benefit of this membership, and I urge you to not hesitate to call on the Conservation Committee if we can be of assistance with advice, a letter, or comments on proposals. I can be reached at [conservation1@nybirds.org](mailto:conservation1@nybirds.org), or (607) 652-2162.

Thank you for all the good conservation work you do locally and beyond. We stand ready to help in these important efforts.



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

*Photo by Richard Ashworth*



**A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in the garden**

*Photo by Richard Ashworth*

### BURROUGHS AUDUBON NATURE CLUB (BANC) 2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you join after October 1, 2021, your membership continues through the year 2022.

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](http://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	\$
Add \$4.00 for outside restroom key	\$4	\$
Extra Donation Appreciated	\$	\$
		Total \$

### The August trip to the Odonata Sanctuary



**The pond**

*Photo by Laura Ouimette*



**The Barn**

*Photo by Laura Ouimette*



**John Dombrowski at the pond**

*Photo by Julie Clayton*



**Steve Melcher feeding the donkeys**

*Photo by Julie Clayton*

### Explore Nature Day—September 5, 2021

*Photos by Richard Ashworth*



**Mary Moore, Ellen Prill, and Chita McKinney learn about the “Picture This” app for identifying plants.**



**White Snakeroot. Looks pretty right now but far too much of a “good thing” crowds out other plants. This plant is toxic if ingested.**



**A walk in the woods with Ellen Prill and Montessori School students and their moms.**



**Lura Kelley and her class of nature lovers**



**Marigrace Piazza provides instruction while Julie Clayton provides entertainment at the June Open House**

*Photos by Mary Moore*

### **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are holding our members' meetings online. The BANC Sanctuary is at 301 Railroad Mills Rd., Pittsford.

**Saturday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.**

Hurley Woods on Benson Road  
249 Benson Road, Victor, NY 14564

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BANC Sanctuary

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Powder Mills Park

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Sanctuary

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Conversations with Joan Burroughs on Zoom

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Penfield

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BANC Sanctuary

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