

The Tanager



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Burroughs Audubon Nature Club

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President's Message

Ellen K Prill, BANC President 2022

Your Voice Matters: Jane McConnachie (Recording Secretary) and Marie Heerkens (Vice President), with edits from the rest of Council, have designed a survey that you will find in your email. Its purpose is to receive your input into activities and services that you would like the Club to offer. Our yearly spending budget has increased because of Warren Crandell's legacy to the Club. Expanding upgrades to our Sanctuary and Clubhouse is possible. Increasing use and activities will help to retain current members and attract new people. Please do take the time to complete it. Your recommendations matter in Council's decision making process. Thank you.

Federal Climate Bill Passed: Increased incentives to heat in an environmentally friendly way will help us make choices that align with our Club's values. Council will be deciding, with your input from the survey, whether or not to heat our Clubhouse.

Seasons: Have you noticed sunset time is earlier seemingly overnight? That the air has a nip to it at night? That farm stands offerings are transitioning from peaches and tomatoes to pumpkins, gourds, and apples? A walk through our BANC Sanctuary further attests to the change as nature gets ready for a long sleep. Notice and enjoy the smells, sights, and sounds. Happy Fall!

Another Dimension: Bernie Shore wrote the following poem when participating in Diane Rennie's Dharma session held at BANC. This tree was his inspiration. See next page.



Clubhouse at Sanctuary

Photo by Richard Ashworth

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* Pages from 10 and above are in the digital edition

Blessing Tree, Revisited

Oh blessing tree of blessed memory (*)
 I searched fruitlessly on my device today
 for the hymn I wrote
 when I last stood, speechless,
 in the grace of your benediction.

Now, a bit more weathered
 and still appearing on a quick glance
 dead
 like Moses' burning bush,
 yet I'm not so easily fooled again.
 Your arms upraised, your trunk
 filigreed with the homes and tunnels
 of smaller beings,
 your roots and broken branches
 feeding, becoming slowly one
 with the earth.

And today – to my delight –
 your head crowned by a
 sprig of green, branch and leaf
 loaned by a wise neighbor,
 who, like me, can see your
 strength, your history, your gifts
 shining, obliterating that seeming
 death, that so common misunderstanding
 we moving ones
 seem to make again and again,
 endlessly.

Bernie Shore,
 Burroughs Audubon Nature Club,
 Pittsford, NY,
 6/18/22

(*) - "Of blessed memory" is a traditionally added respectful phrase often used among older or more religious Jews when mentioning someone who has died. E.g., "I remember your father, Sid, - of blessed memory - once saying.... "



The Blessing Tree

Challenge: See if you can find the location of this tree on your next Sanctuary walk.

Time to renew your membership

You may renew your membership now, either by mail or online. See the form on page 9, or go to bancny.org/membership.html.

A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else

John Burroughs

MEET A MEMBER – KELLY HASKEL

By Richard Ashworth

BANC has many members with unique skills, experiences and lifestyles, and Kelly Haskell – one of our newer members – is certainly one of a kind, with a rich and diverse history and strong values which drive her and her husband Dan in their daily lives as lovers of the natural world and devoted parents to their three children, Bodie, Kalman, and baby Cosette.

Kelly was born in North Carolina but grew up in Pennsylvania. Her father created furniture and her mother paints with acrylic; Kelly credits them both with imbedding an entrepreneurial spirit in her from an early age. Her first business venture was running a bed-and-breakfast in Pennsylvania for some years.

She particularly enjoyed cooking good food for her guests. Wanting to pursue this interest, Kelly enrolled in the Institute for

Integrative Nutrition in New York and, in due course, became a Certified Integrative Nutrition Health Coach. In addition to providing advice and counseling to individuals, she develops recipes for the regional Headwater Food Hub, and sells a variety of food-related items through her website at wholesomegal.com.

Kelly exercises her creative skills in taking and selling photographs of still life subjects, focused on flowers and – guess what? – local fresh fruit. She also enjoys painting in watercolors, usually in her favorite garden room with ‘assistance’ from their cat, Saiorse, as depicted in the accompanying photograph.



With regular family hikes in Pennsylvania, Kelly developed a love of nature and the outdoors as a young child. After she met and married Dan, they moved to Phoenix, AZ for his job. Although they did not enjoy the hot and arid climate there and were frustrated in their attempts to maintain a garden, they spent as much time as possible hiking in the pine forests of Flagstaff.

While in Arizona, Kelly worked as an assistant teacher in a Waldorf school, embracing the philosophy of holistic education of children. Since they moved to Pittsford in 2018, this is reflected in their encouragement of their sons to follow their curiosity on local hikes, including the Auburn Trail and, of course, the BANC Sanctuary.

Kelly loves the Sanctuary for its simple, quiet walks and diversity of natural life, and she has been volunteering to help at recent open house events. (Dan has also been helping with weed whacking.)

She supports expanded use of the Sanctuary resource, and would like to see more events, such as outdoor nature classes for kids, foraging and outdoor cooking, and perhaps painting parties.

The Kingdom of heaven is not a place, but a state of mind.
John Burroughs

A 21st Century Bond Act

By Carol Hinkelman

Bond acts allow the state to take on debt to fund projects for a specific purpose. They are voted on by the public as a ballot initiative in November following their passage in the NYS Legislature. There have been eleven NYS bond acts for environmental purposes that have been on the ballot over the years, and only one of them was not approved by voters. The first three environmental bond acts in NY were for the purpose of land acquisition and the establishment of parks in the early 20th Century at the same time that New York State agencies to manage public lands and resources were being set up.

During a new wave of the environmental movement in the 1960's and 70's, the public expressed broader concern for industrial pollution, air and water quality. Between 1960 and 1972, New York passed five environmental bond acts. The bond acts during this period echoed these new concerns and the new way people were viewing environmental issues. They allocated funding not only for conservation and recreation, but to address the impacts of pollution and public health.

In the late 1970's to mid-1980's, the public learned about the toxic waste that was dumped in Love Canal and Black communities and were organizing opposition to hazardous waste landfills and the dumping of PCBs in their neighborhoods. New York established a state Superfund Program in 1979 and the majority of the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act's funding was spent on the management of hazardous waste. After a 1990 environmental bond act failed to pass by a small margin, voters approved the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act in 1996. That bond act's \$1.7 billion dollars were invested in water and sewer infrastructure, toxic site cleanup, public parks, open space preservation, and wildlife conservation across the state.

26 years later, in 2020, Gov. Cuomo proposed a \$3 billion dollar Restore Mother Nature Bond Act to

preserve, enhance, and restore New York's natural resources and reduce the impacts of climate change. Although it was approved in the NYS budget and was slated to be on the ballot that November, it was ultimately pulled because of the COVID-19 pandemic financial concerns.



This spring, Gov. Hochul revived that bond act, increased it to \$4.2 billion dollars, and renamed it the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Green Jobs Bond Act. This new environmental bond act will provide much needed and dedicated funding for New York to prepare for the worsening impacts of climate change. Many New Yorkers have already suffered from the effects of climate change such as flooding, storm damage and heat waves. Communities need help

to prepare for future climate change problems that disproportionately impact the most vulnerable populations. Investments to reduce urban heat, such as green roofs, open space preservation, urban tree plantings and community cooling centers, are included in the bond act.

The 2022 bond act will safeguard clean drinking water by helping communities make critical updates to water and sewer lines, replace lead pipes, and

(Continued on page 5)

(Bond Act - Continued from page 4)

maintain water treatment plants. Flood risks will be reduced by restoring wetlands, streams and floodplains, removing dams and repairing culverts. It will improve public health and reduce air pollution by paying for clean electric school buses and retrofitting public buildings to improve energy efficiency and air filtration. Infrastructure will be updated by repairing roads and developing clean energy projects.

Parks and open space that are so necessary for our physical and mental health will be protected, expanded, and improved. Wildlife will benefit from habitat preservation, fish hatchery upgrades, and endangered and threatened species conservation. Critical farmland that will be needed for the future will also be protected.

The main emphasis of this bond act is on climate change mitigation with \$1.5 billion of the total funding allocated to that category. \$1.1 billion will target restoration and flood mitigation. Most of the remaining \$1.6 billion is evenly split between the open space land conservation and recreation category and water quality improvement and infrastructure. All these investments will not only mitigate the effects of climate change and improve quality of life for us and for future generations, but will also help New York's economy by creating thousands of good jobs across the state. If approved by voters, this bond act will provide the funds communities need to deal with the challenges of the 21st Century. Be sure to vote on the Bond Act when you go to the polls on November



The Slater Sanctuary

Photo by Laura Ouimette

TRAILS GRANT REPORT

By Shirley Shaw

This summer has been a busy time for those of us working on the BANC Trail Improvements Project. The Executive Council appointed Richard Ashworth, Ellen Prill, and Shirley Shaw to be the selection committee to find a landscape architect. There are detailed guidelines that the committee must adhere to, to ensure that our choice is approved.

We published our advertisement for the landscape architect in the *New York State Contract Reporter*, a required advertising site. From a list of firms that we had compiled from research and recommendations over the past year, we directly e-mailed many local landscape architects. We contacted the local group of ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects), which published the advertisement in their newsletter. The advertisement is posted on our website as well, so if you would like to read it, go to www.bancny.org.

We made a site visit to our Sanctuary mandatory for candidates. How can anyone possibly give us an accurate quote based solely on a trail map and list of needed improvements? People need to see the site! As of this writing, we have hosted four different (and all highly qualified firms) and have two more scheduled. We have learned a lot from our conversations with these professionals, and our applicants have enjoyed seeing our lovely property.

We anticipate selecting the firm we will work with in October. Designs, final stamped plans and specifications, permitting, and selection of a construction contractor are planned for 2023. Hopefully our project will be completed in 2024.

We realize all this seems like a long time to make the needed improvements. We are working with the taxpayers' money, and every step involves going through a process and getting approval from our Regional Grants Administrator. The result will be worth the wait!

Coming Events

The following events are planned for the next three months. Please refer to our website, bancny.org, for any changes or additions.

Saturday, September 24, 2022, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. ANNUAL PICNIC (POTLUCK) AND AFTER- NOON TREE WALK

Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

We're having a potluck! Arrive by 4:00 and you will be able to enjoy an enriching tree walk with our very own Frank Crombe. We have a variety of amazing trees at our Sanctuary and Frank is a very knowledgeable and endearing lover of trees. You will learn a lot from Frank and have fun at the same time!

After the walk we will gather on the porch and lawn for a return to our potluck tradition. Bring your favorite dish to pass and don't forget to bring your dinnerware and a beverage. Please try to use local ingredients as a favor to the environment.

Volunteer opportunity: We need a host for this event

Registration and selection of type of dish to bring is required. To register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4caca828a5fe3-annual1>.

Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2, 2022 NYSOA Annual Meeting Oswego, NY

The 75th annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) will be hosted by Onondaga Audubon September 30 to October 2, 2022 at the Lake Ontario Event and Conference Center in Oswego, NY. The venue overlooks the Oswego River close to where it meets Lake Ontario. Uncommon shorebirds, seabirds, and raptors are expected along the lake shore this time of year when the winds are right.

Highlights of this year's conference will include a talk on nocturnal birds in NY by Bill Evans, a keynote address by author and researcher Scott Weidensaul on migration, field trips to numerous "hot

spots" in the Oswego area, a paper session featuring research by ornithologists and students, and more.

You do not have to be a member of NYSOA to attend. Registration information can be found on the NYSOA web site, <https://www.nybirds.org>.

BANC is a member of NYSOA and is entitled to send two voting delegates to the conference. Steve Melcher and Shirley Shaw will be this year's delegates.

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Slater History and Mushroom Hike

Decades ago, Floyd Slater generously gave Burroughs Audubon Nature Club his 90-acre property in South Dansville in honor of his beloved wife, Elizabeth.

There are acres of rugged terrain and steep slopes. Plant life abounds, as well as mushrooms and lichens. We will leave only footprints and take only pictures.

Join Paul Brach and Fred Haynes, experienced mycologists, in their hunt for mushrooms on the Slater Property. Join Mary Moore, Ellen Prill, and Paul Brach to learn about the history of the buildings and artifacts found on the property. This is a special trip to a special place. We think that you will love it! Dress in long pants and sleeves as protection against ticks and thorns. Bring your:

- hiking poles,
- hiking footwear,
- drinking water.

Please plan ahead. There are no facilities on the property. It is bow-hunting season so we recommend wearing an orange or neon colored vest.

Optional meal afterwards in Dansville.

(Coming Events - Continued from page 6)

Please Email ekprill@gmail.com by September 29th for location and meeting time.

Friday, October 14, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Members' Meeting and Wild Bees Presentation
Zoom

Pollinators in the woods? Exploring the many ways wild bees nest and forage in woody habitats, with Kass Urban-Mead, Ph.D.

Did you know that there are over 4,000 different wild bee species in the United States? Most are solitary, don't live in hives, and don't make honey. These wild, native pollinators have long evolutionary relationships with our beloved wildflowers and provide important pollination services of our favorite fruits, nuts and vegetables. We usually think of wild pollinating bees in our gardens, flower patches and meadows, but that is not the only place they can be found! In the northeastern US, up to a third of our wild bee species prefer, and rely on, forest habitats. Join us for an adventure exploring how wild bees use the woods—from the leafy forest floor to the tippy top of the canopy

Kass Urban-Mead, Ph.D. is a Pollinator Conservation Specialist with Xerces Society and an NRCS Partner Biologist. Her doctoral work at the Cornell Entomology Department characterized the wild bee species active in early spring forests and forest canopies. It looked at how the movement of bees between forests and orchards supports orchard pollination. In her position with the Xerces Society, Urban-Mead provides technical assistance on pollinator conservation in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions. She assists with planning, designing, installing, and managing habitats for pollinators and other beneficial insects and also works to develop technical guidelines and provide training on pollinator conservation practices.

Registration is required by going to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-wild>

People who are registered will be sent a link for the Zoom program the day before the meeting.

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Spooky Sanctuary Scavenger Hunt
Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Wear your costumes and bring a flashlight for a creepy walk on the Wildside! Our local woodland creatures are spending their Halloweens getting ready for winter—learn how and win a prize for finding them all! Good for all ages, although we ask that all children bring an adult along for the hunt.

Friday, November 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting and Experience Night
Zoom

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.

Registration is required by going to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-experience>

People who are registered will be sent a link for the Zoom program the day before the meeting.

November 13, 2022 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Habitat Restoration and Fall Cleanup Day
Sanctuary

Every fall we work together to maintain critical habitat for our wild neighbors as well as keep the

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(Coming Events - Continued from page 7)

sanctuary and clubhouse looking great. All hands, skills, and energy levels needed! Tasks this year include pulling privet, battling bittersweet, leveraging leaves, stacking sticks, sweeping steps, fixing (deer) fences, and keeping comers company, among other things big and small. Bring your friends and family, work gloves and boots, as well as protection from poison ivy and ticks. Light refreshments and conversation included.

See page 14 (digital) for more information about invasives.

Host: Jane McConnochie

January 13, 2023, 7:30

Living with Black Bears in New York State
Zoom

Management of black bears in New York State is a success story. During the past decade, populations in the southern part of the state have grown, and bears have expanded their range northward. Abundance of bears in the Adirondacks and northern NYS has remained relatively stable. Bears can now be seen in almost any NYS county, and they are becoming more abundant near suburban communities.

Consequently, conflicts between bears and people sometimes occur. The most frequent concerns are damage to bird feeders, and bears rummaging through trash. In this presentation, Dr. Paul D. Curtis, Professor of Wildlife Science at Cornell University, will discuss bear biology, behavior, and ways to reduce potential human-bear conflicts. Professor Curtis' research interests include human-wildlife conflicts in suburban, forested, and agricultural landscapes and resolving community-based wildlife issues.

Registration is required at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-living>

People who are registered will be sent a link for the Zoom program the day before the meeting.

Sounds of the Night

On the evening of August 12th around 20 people gathered at the Sanctuary for a presentation called "Sounds of the Night," by Bill O'Neill and Martha Zettel. Retirees of the University of Rochester and specializing in insect sounds and bat biology, Bill and Martha always provide a fabulous program.

After gathering on the porch for our brown bag suppers, this informal program began with Bill pointing out the crickets and cicadas we were hearing as Martha passed around some live examples of our most common species. While it is easy to hear these insects in the wild it is not often you get to see them close up. They discussed how these insects make their distinctive noise as well as other unique aspects of their life cycle.

As it got darker the insect sounds noticeably changed, and we began to hear a cacophony of Katy-dids take over. We were treated to fly overs by Big Brown Bats. Martha and Bill talked about the bats we were seeing, and we got to hear their vocalizations by using special detectors which lower their high frequency calls to a range we can hear. Special software was demonstrated which helps scientists identify the species of bat they are recording. As an additional treat Charlie Woodruff and Martha set up a moth light, and while the numbers were low, we had some nice sightings.

New Members

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

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Carl and Karen Petito | Victor |
| Jennifer Richter | Rochester |
| Katie Sheehan | East Rochester |
| Miranda Sheehan | East Rochester |
| Wanda Ashworth | Victor |
| Sheri Scherbyn | Phelps |
| Bruce Wilson | Barie, Ont. |

BURROUGHS AUDUBON NATURE CLUB (BANC) 2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. 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.

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 \$ |

What's Your Spark Bird, Tree, Insect, Amphibian, Mushroom.....?

By Marigrace Piazza

Visiting author, Susan Fox Rogers, asked the above question to the audience when she spoke at BANC on July 27. She actually just asked “What is your spark bird?” and the birders in the audience were happy to answer.

Susan was referring to the bird that sparks a person's interest. Most devoted birders can quickly name the bird that they first fell in love with and that got them hooked.

After listening to Susan's informal talk on the porch about her adventures as a person who discovered birding later in life, it was obvious to me and the lucky people in attendance that she had a spark for the natural world in general and an interest in learning and exploring new adventures of all kinds.

Susan read from her new book, published by Cornell University Press, called “Learning the Birds, A Mid-life Adventure.” She focused on a chapter devoted to John Burroughs who is one of her favorite nature writers and an inspiration to her craft.

Susan loved our sanctuary and was delighted by the spotting of a red fox as I took her on a short tour of the trails before her talk. She was also very pleased with the number of people who came to listen to her and the enthusiastic reception she received from the audience.

The program felt like a homecoming event. There were many people in attendance that had not been to the clubhouse for a while and it was wonderful to see so many members and new faces socializing and eating on our porch on a lovely summer evening.

Susan very kindly donated one of her books to the BANC Library, and it is available for loan to our members.

If you are interested in purchasing any of her books, please check out her website at <https://www.susanfoxrogers.com/>

www.susanfoxrogers.com/

Back to the title question, since we are a club of nature lovers, not specifically birders, ask yourself what living thing sparked that love. Maybe since we are generalists, it is hard to come up with just one

answer. Often, it might be a connection with a person who first showed you the butterfly or fern or owl. I would like to think that that is why our Club stays relevant. The knowledge that our members share with each other helps to keep the spark alive.



Photo by Richard Ashworth



Photo by Marigrace Piazza

Who was John Burroughs?

By Julie Clayton

John Burroughs (after whom our club is named) was active in the conservation movement in the United States. Burroughs was born April 2, 1837 and died March 29, 1921.

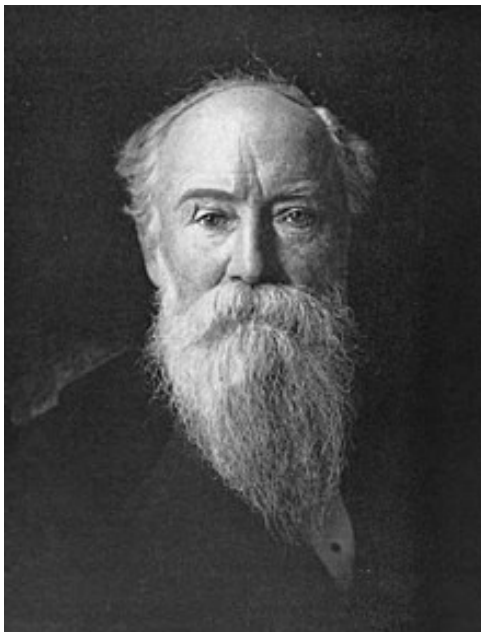
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club actually began by being a book club with its members reading John Burroughs' books. Burroughs had written essays for magazines. The topics ranged from his observations of birds, flowers and rural scenes, and also religion, philosophy and literature. The Complete Writings of John Burroughs totals 23 volumes. His first volume, *Wake Robin*, was published in 1871. We have all of his volumes in our library in the Clubhouse!

John Burroughs even came to Rochester and visited people from our club! In 1914, Burroughs met forty-five of our members when they found their way to President William Hoot's home located near Sea Breeze to meet the American icon (see photo on page 12).

John Burroughs was born on the family farm in the Catskill Mountains, near Roxbury in Delaware County, New York. As a child he spent many hours on the slopes of Old Clump Mountain, and he would look off to the east at the higher peaks of The Catskills. He was always amazed by the return of the birds each spring and of the other wildlife around him.

Burroughs developed a keen interest in learning in his teens. At age seventeen, he taught school in Olive, New York to earn money for college. In 1857 he married Ursula North. Although he had studied at Cooperstown Seminary, Burroughs later became an atheist with an inclination towards pantheism. In 1864, Burroughs became a clerk, then an examiner,

at the Department of the Treasury in Washington, DC. He met Walt Whitman in 1863, and the men became close friends. Burroughs began publishing essays in 1860 and continued to write. Burroughs and Walt Whitman would often visit the injured soldiers of the Civil War.



Burroughs left Washington for New York in January of 1873. The next year, he purchased a 9-acre farm in West Park, NY. He grew various crops there, where he would focus on table grapes. He loved writing and continued to do so. In 1895 he and his son, Julian, constructed an Adirondack-style cabin that he named "Slabsides". This was on land near Riverby. Burroughs grew lots of celery there. He loved to entertain visi-

tors there who included students from nearby Vassar College. After the turn of the 20th century Burroughs renovated an old farmhouse that he called "Woodchuck Lodge." This was near his place of birth. He would spend his summers at Woodchuck Lodge until his death.

Some very notable personalities were friends of John Burroughs. These friends included Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and Thomas Edison. Burroughs had accompanied Roosevelt on a camping expedition to Yellowstone Park and had influence on Roosevelt regarding preservation of the environment.

Although he was friends with notables, Burroughs loved meeting anyone hiking on his property. He enjoyed sharing ideas and the wonders of nature with them!



BANC members visiting William Hoot's home to meet John Burroughs (see page 11)

Photo from 100th Anniversary booklet. Original photo by George C. Kellogg.

Fallen Trees Take Their Toll on Boardwalks.

By Ellen Prill

Building and Grounds crew, especially Joe Hurley, cleans up using a power saw. Dean Clayton helps and does repairs. Jerry Spanganburg and his son will be repairing Jared's Eagle Scout boardwalk for the second time. These are unfortunate events, but we are fortunate to have members willing to take care and repair.

Thank you for all you do.



Fallen Tree on Boardwalk

Photo by Ellen Prill



Carol and Dave Southby (left) with Wildflower Walk at the 8/21 Open House

Photo by Julie Clayton

Don't Forget to Fill out our 2022 Member Survey—Your Input is Needed!

The Burroughs Audubon Nature Club is over 110 years old. Our primary mission—to promote the natural sciences, ecology, and conservation through nature-based education—is more important now than ever.

We are lucky to have a 30-acre sanctuary and a dedicated group of volunteers who keep things running. However, in the past several years there has been a steady decline in the number of members consistently volunteering. Too few people do all the work. Many active members are getting older, and it seems that younger members who want to volunteer their time to BANC are a small percentage of our membership.

Over the last decades, our property has become inundated with invasive plants, deer that eat the native plants, and alien insects and disease that spread and destroy. These concerns get worse every year while the number of volunteers to tackle the work to remove and control these problems goes down.

The BANC Executive Council takes its role of trying to serve you, the members of BANC, seriously even as we grow our membership, offer a variety of programs to attract people of all ages, and manage our property. We also strive to be fiscally responsible so that our club will have the funds to be a vibrant member of our community for years to come.

The Council needs your help to decide what we should do in the future, including improvements to our clubhouse, grounds, and programs. We would like to hear from you about your priorities. Why are you a member? How often do you visit the Sanctuary and when? What would lead you to volunteer? These answers will help us to decide where to devote our resources of people and money.

Your input matters, and so we decided one way we could gain your input efficiently is through an on-line survey.

You should have received a link to a 15-minute survey in your email. If not, simply click this link — [BANC Mem-](#)

[ber Survey 2022](#) — to complete the survey by September 30 and enter to win a free membership (or a gift if you are already a lifetime member).

You can use your phone, tablet, or computer to complete the survey. Or we can mail a paper version to your house if you prefer.

We very much appreciate your anticipated thoughts and insights to help our precious Club.

Contact Jane McConnochie at jane.calamity@gmail.com with questions about the survey or if you would like a paper version.

Many heartfelt thanks,

The Executive Council



Harvester

Photo by Dave Southby

Managing Invasive Species at the Sanctuary: An Update September 2022

By Jane Coggshall McConnochie

As our members know and a quick walk through the sanctuary will confirm, a good many non-local plants and insects have made the Burroughs Audubon Nature sanctuary their home. Some of these newcomers exist peacefully with the locals, but others can spread aggressively, edging out the plants that local wildlife rely on. In some cases, these newcomers have been deliberately planted with good intentions, while others were accidentally brought into the Rochester area through overseas trade. The more prolific, invasive species are a problem because they harm the resilience of the ecosystem, upsetting nature's critical balance.

A dedicated group of volunteers is pushing back on this upsetting trend. But the number, tenacity, and diversity of these non-local species is beginning to get the upper hand. Despite hours of privet popping, for example, acres of privet shrubs are heading into this fall growing heavy with thousands of dark blue fruit, or drupes, that birds will devour and distribute far and wide.

Despite twice-yearly habitat restoration events, bittersweet vines are twining up through thick garlic mustard foliage. Swaths of vinca and purple loosestrife have been spotted throughout the property. And although patches of swallow-wort have been dug up by their roots and removed from the sanctuary, it remains a constant threat as the plant has taken over nearly the entire understory of nearby Powder Mills Park.

And our resident deer population is not helping; squeezed by development and untroubled by predators, they munch down our native plants vigorously while giving the invasives a pass.

To add to the injury, invasive insects have also taken a significant toll in recent years. Emerald ash borer beetle larvae have killed nearly the entire population of sanctuary ash trees, some of which have broken wooden walkways as they toppled. This spring, the Executive Council had to take swift action to protect our hemlock trees from the invasive Hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect that would slowly but surely take

the life of our hemlocks and the beings that rely on them. Luckily the oaks and maples and spruces that make up our forest canopy have likely survived yet another brush with a Spongy moth caterpillar infestation.

Joining these insects in their destruction, however, is the invasive Jumping worm. These critters can be seen chewing through the leaf litter along the Woodland Path at an alarming rate.

To address these growing challenges, BANC's Invasives Volunteers and Flora Management Committee is taking stock and planning a strategic approach to keep the sanctuary a true sanctuary for our local flora and fauna. Plans for the future include:

- Developing and disseminating a Watch List of those invasives plants that have not yet been seen in significant numbers at the sanctuary so they can be removed quickly *before* becoming a problem.
- Partnering with the state's Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) program to host this year's Habitat Restoration and Fall Cleanup Event on November 13, 2022.
- Installing deer exclusion fencing to protect the native plants the deer favor to give them a better chance.
- Smothering vinca patches using heavy tarps.

(Continued on page 15)

(Invasive Species -Continued from page 14)

- Hiring knowledgeable and trusted individuals to help volunteers knock back woody invasives (e.g. privet, autumn olive, multiflora rose, barberry, honeysuckle, and bittersweet) on a regular basis.
- Putting the 30-year-old BANC planting policy in writing to help prevent the accidental introduction of invasive plants on BANC properties.
- Collecting seeds from locally native plants and propagating them ourselves to ensure they are well-suited to the natural environment of the sanctuary.
- Keeping an eye on the research on bio-controls for particular species to see if we can get an assist from some non-human partners in the struggle against invasives.

It will be a never-ending effort to conserve the health of our amazing sanctuary.

But your help can make a significant difference! Options to contribute include:

- Spending 2 hours (or more or less!) on November 13, 2022 popping privet, pulling invasive seedlings, maintaining deer fencing, etc. Many hands make light work; the event starts at 1pm and runs until 3pm. (see event on page 7.)
- Being on the lookout for the Invasives Watch List (TBA) and turn your walk into an opportunity to be a conservation hero!
- Renewing your membership to BANC every year—your membership dollars and moral support keep the work going!
- Joining BANC's Invasives Volunteers and Flora Management Committee! Email jane.calamity@gmail.com or call (585-204-0812) to get started. We need your ideas and energy.

More photos from the Susan Fox Rogers talk on June 27. See article on page 10.



Chita McKinney and Susan Fox Rogers

Photo by Marigrace Piazza



Susan Fox Rogers, Author, Giving Presentation

Photo by Richard Ashworth

The team of bird handlers from Braddock Bay Raptor Research on June 12 led by Deana Ford



Photo by Julie Clayton



Photo by Ellen Prill



Field trip during 2018 NYSOA meeting in Rochester

Photo from NYSOA



Steve Melcher and Julie Clayton Providing Music

Photo by Ellen Prill



Joe Hurley showing honeybees at the 8/21 Open House

Photo by Julie Clayton

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Program details are on pages 6 - 8.

Saturday, September 24, 2022, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
ANNUAL PICNIC (POTLUCK) AND AFTERNOON TREE WALK
Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2, 2022
NYSOA Annual Meeting
Oswego, NY

Saturday, October 1, 2022
Slater History and Mushroom Hike
Dansville

Friday, October 14, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Members' Meeting and Wild Bees Presentation
Zoom

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Spooky Sanctuary Scavenger Hunt
Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

Friday, November 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Annual Meeting and Experience Night
Zoom

November 13, 2022 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Habitat Restoration and Fall Cleanup Day
Sanctuary

January 13, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Living with Black Bears in New York State
Zoom