

The Tanager

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President's Message

by Marigrace Piazza

Welcome to the September, 2023 issue of The Tanager.

BANC has been an important part of the Rochester natural science community since 1913. We are celebrating our 110th year in 2023. Our original mission still resonates today as we strive to learn about and celebrate the natural world.

We have always had dedicated members willing to serve as educators, property maintainers, decision makers, money managers, hosts and program planners. Some of our volunteers donate a lot of time and some a little bit of time. Any help makes our mission at BANC more attainable. If you want to help but don't know where to start, feel free to email me or call to discuss ways that you can help keep our organization vital and relevant.

It is an exciting time to be a member of BANC. As the trail grant work proceeds there will be lots of changes coming and we would love to hear new voices to help guide us as we make decisions in the next few years. The Nomination Committee is busy right now looking for new Council Members for 2024. Let me know if you would consider serving the Club in this important capacity.

In September we look back on all the great programs we hosted in person at BANC over the spring and summer. With no Covid protocols to deal with it was great being able to gather together again in person during potlucks, brown bags, and during presentations in the clubhouse. We offered many great field trips in a variety of environments and they were well

attended. Please see some great photos in this edition from all of our events held since late June.

As the days get shorter and cooler there is still a lot of opportunity to gather together. Please consider coming to the picnic on September 16 where we will

(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue

President's Report	1
Sand Collecting	2
Family Nature Night	3
New Book About John Burroughs	4
The Birds and the Bees	5
New Members	6
Coming Events	7
Membership Form	9
Trails Grant	10*
Picnic	11*
Plein Air Painters	12*
Power Hour	13*
Miniature World of Mosses	Back Cover*

* Pages from 10 and above are in the digital edition

(President's Message - Continued from page 1)

be able to share a meal in person and hear a presentation from Lorna Wright, the Director of the Genesee Land Trust. We are also planning a field trip to Zurich Bog on September 19. This will surely be a unique experience for those of us who have never been there. On October 21, we are bringing back the well-received Spooky Scavenger Hunt. Please come and bring your children, grandchildren and neighbors' kids. Check out all the upcoming programs in this issue of the Tanager.

I recently came across a quote by John Burroughs, "To learn something new, take the path that you took yesterday." Our members have walked the same trails in our sanctuary over and over again. How many times do we notice something new? I know that, besides the expected changes that happen with the seasons, there is always so much to experience on any given day on a BANC path. Sometimes I am not in the mindset to notice the subtleties of nature that are around me. Sometimes, especially in my role as BANC President, I am distracted by the to-do list that forms in my head as I walk around our property. Fortunately, this does not happen too often and I know that I am not alone in having to solve all of the problems that our organization faces. I am thankful for all of our members, but especially thankful for our corps of active volunteers who are devoted to carrying out the mission of BANC that was set down by our founders in 1913.

Time to renew your membership

If you haven't already done so, you need to renew your membership now, either by mail or online. See the form on page 9, or go to <http://bancny.org/membership.html>.

Sand Collecting

On August 22, 2023, Fred Haynes, a retired geologist and active sand collector, shared his interest in garnet-rich sands with us. Before the presentation we gathered on the clubhouse porch for a brownbag supper.

Below are photos by Marigrace Piazza of the supper and presentation:



Family Nature Night

By Marigrace Piazza

Many thanks to those of you who participated in Family Nature Night this year on June 22. We had a nice turnout and a pleasant evening socializing and sharing our interests with fellow BANC members and new guests. There was music on the porch and refreshments in the clubhouse. The front lawn was turned into an outdoor natural history museum with several tables arranged into a wide horseshoe on the grass.

At least ten BANC members set up educational displays that ran the gamut from life in a drop of pond water to how to construct bee houses out of tree slices. Victor-Farmington Community Library participated and offered a craft and a story to the young visitors. Representatives from the Rochester Academy of Science's Astronomy and Fossil sections generously offered their time and expertise that evening and brought along an impressive collection of items to explore. BANC volunteers led scavenger hunts and a nature walk.

Many of the attendees had never visited BANC before and there were several comments related to the beauty and uniqueness of our property.

After a three year hiatus, it was a joy to see this event back at BANC and to celebrate the beauty of our sanctuary with guests and members alike. The ongoing curiosity about the natural world and the willingness of our members to share their knowledge with others made this a worthwhile evening for all who attended.



Photos by Richard Ashworth

New Book About John Burroughs and His Road Trips with Henry Ford and Thomas Edison

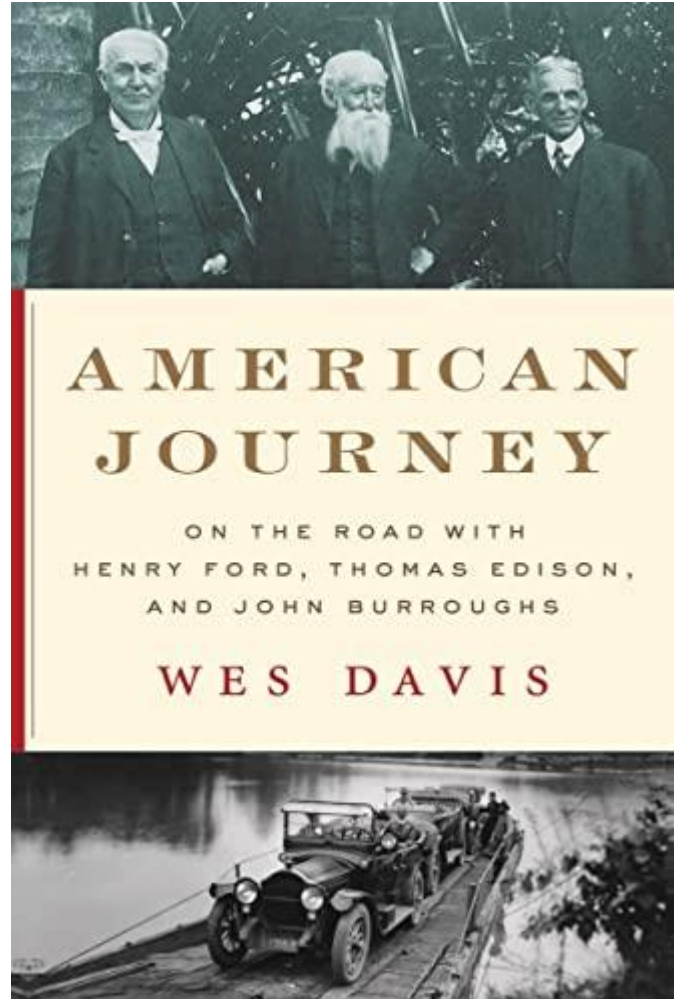
by Marigrace Piazza

BANC is celebrating its 110th anniversary this year. In 1913 a group of prominent Rochestarians wanted to refresh their minds and spirit and get away from the stresses of city life. They formed a club dedicated to learning about the natural world, and they used the essays of our namesake, John Burroughs, as an inspiration. The original BANC members spent social time together reading and discussing his essays. I imagine the original club members were conflicted with the industrial world they may have been contributing to and the natural world that was being impacted negatively by rapid technology changes. In 1913 Burroughs started a friendship with Henry Ford, the same year our club started. This led to the two of them and Thomas Edison setting out on a road trip in one of Ford's new Model Ts. These three important men influenced each other and the world as they navigated through the changes in America that occurred in the 1910s. There is a new book about this road trip called *American Journey: On the Road with Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and John Burroughs* by Wes Davis.

See the blurb below from Good Reads:

<https://wwnorton.com/books/9781324000327/about-the-book/description>

I have not read the book yet, but I am looking forward to learning more about the man who had such a strong influence on Ford and Edison. If anyone is interested in reading this book and having a group discussion about it, please let me know. If we have enough interest, we could set up a time to meet and share our thoughts about the book. It is available in hardcover and Kindle, and there are several copies in the Monroe County Library system. What a great way to celebrate our 110th year by participating in a book discussion similar to the ones engaged in by our club founding fathers.



“I go to books and to nature as the bee goes to a flower, for a nectar that I can make into my own honey.”

John Burroughs,
The Summit of the Years

The Birds and the Bees

By Carol Hinkelman

There have been alarming reports about the massive decline of birds over the years, and we are rapidly losing our pollinators and other insects as well. Losing bees threatens the production of our food crops, and losing insects is a major cause of bird declines. Most birds feed on insects, and 96% of birds feed insects to their young. Seabirds and shorebirds don't rely on insects, and they have only declined a little, unlike most other types of birds.

Agriculture is totally different now than it was a hundred years ago. Most farms today grow just one or two crops on hundreds of acres, and farmers have been convinced to rely on the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides by the chemical companies that make them. Some crops have been genetically modified to tolerate the use of herbicides to eradicate weeds and pesticides to kill harmful insects. Sprayed chemicals contaminate soil, run off into nearby streams, ponds, or lakes, and leach into the groundwater. Many of the seeds that farmers plant now are coated with pesticides.

Birds as well as insects are being impacted by pesticides. A single pesticide-coated corn seed can be lethal to a bird that eats it. Birds can die or become unable to reproduce if they drink water that is poisoned with pesticides or if the insects that they need to eat and to feed their young are not available.

Neonicotinoids, several related nicotine-like neurotoxic insecticides, were first introduced in the 1990s and are more widely used in the U.S. than any other

type of insecticide. Neonics have particularly high toxicity and are very persistent and water-soluble. They are systemic pesticides, spreading throughout every part of the plant. Insects that visit the plant can pick up the pesticide from the pollen or nectar and be



Photo from US EPA

killed or severely affected so that they can't function or reproduce. Neonics have been linked to massive bee losses, which have resulted in a reduction in food production.

Neonics have been banned in Europe for a decade, and ten states have restricted their use. In the U.S., giant chemical corporations and big agriculture interests lobby to prevent national or

state bans or restrictions on pesticide and herbicide use. U. S. regulations for the use, sale, and labeling of pesticides have not been updated since 1972. The EPA has to approve pesticides and has been using flawed risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses to make their decisions, and has underestimated the toxicity of neonics to birds.

However, on May 5, 2023, the EPA released an assessment finding that the use of three neonic chemicals likely jeopardizes the continued existence of

(Continued on page 6)

(The Birds and the Bees - Continued from page 5)

200+ species—or 11% of the *entire* endangered species list—effectively admitting that EPA’s approvals of the pesticides broadly violated the Endangered Species Act.

Every year for the last decade, New York beekeepers have lost 40% of their bee colonies largely due to neonic pesticides. New York’s water and soil have been contaminated with long-lasting neonics, and there are now human health concerns. Recent testing shows rising levels of neonics in pregnant women. This spring, the New York State Legislature passed the Birds and Bees Protection Act (A7640, S1856A) to limit the use of neonic pesticides. The act bans the uses of neonics that an in-depth Cornell University study shows provide no economic benefits to users or are replaceable with safer, effective alternatives. It bans neonic coatings on corn, soybean, and wheat seeds and lawn and garden uses (with an exception for invasive species treatments). This would eliminate 80%-90% of the neonics entering New York’s environment yearly.

While the Birds & Bees Protection Act does not go as far as Europe’s total outdoor neonic ban, and Canada has largely phased out neonic-coated corn and soybean seeds, it is the first law to address neonic seed coatings in the U.S.—far and away the largest and most widespread neonic use nationwide.

Gov. Hochul has not signed this bill as of September 7, and she is being heavily lobbied by the Farm Bureau and chemical companies not to sign it. They maintain that farmers need all the options available to prevent the loss of their crops. You can call Gov. Hochul at 518-474-8390 and urge her to sign The Birds and Bees Protection Act.

Text of the bill: <https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2023/S1856A>



BANC hosted the Rochester Birding Association picnic at the Sanctuary.

Photo by Richard Ashworth

Pardon Our Dust!

Some of our boardwalks are in disrepair until they can be rebuilt as part of the grant work. Keep a look-out for some Trail Closed signs near the Balsam Fir Trail boardwalk and on the Woodland Trail near the step down boardwalk where it nears the Creekside Trail. Enjoy our sanctuary but be a little extra careful and “pardon our dust.”

New Members

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

Jim Sutera	Webster
Christa Campbell	Fairport
Kent Millham	Rochester
Susan Roberts	Rochester
Jimmy Johnson	Lyons
Sue Johnson	Lyons
Elise Piazza	Pittsford
CÄftÄflin Jordan	Pittsford
Eric Drum	Webster
Greg Russell	Canandaigua
Betsy Russell	Canandaigua

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 16, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Annual Picnic

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road

We will have a potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to pass (enough for at least 8 people), your own dinnerware, and a drink. Please try to use local ingredients as a favor for the environment.

Registration is required. To register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-picnic>

At 6:30 p.m. there will be a presentation, “What we need to know about Climate Change,” by Lorna Wright, Executive Director of Genesee Land Trust, who will talk about climate change in the Greater Rochester Region and the impacts we are seeing. She will use examples from the Genesee Land Trust’s land protection and land management work to discuss ways that we can mitigate and adapt to these challenges, continuing to provide habitat for wildlife, farms for food, and connections for people.

You may want to come early and enjoy the beauty of the trails before dinner.

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Field Trip to Zurich Bog

3809 Arcadia Zurich Norris Road, Lyons, NY 14489

Please join us for a walk in Zurich Bog, a Natural National Landmark and featured property of the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society. Jimmy Johnson, Site Manager, will lead us through the varied habitats of this almost 650-acre wetland complex. Zurich Bog has been described as one of the best preservation areas unchanged by civilization in the vicinity of Rochester.

In September we will be able to see some unique flora blossoming in the Floating Moor section of the property. Fungi should be abundant throughout as we

walk through a swamp forest, bog forest, open bog, upland forest and finally the floating moor. Be prepared for some uneven, rugged footing and wet trails. Proper clothing to protect against insects is recommended. The trail is relatively flat and the total walking distance is two and one-half miles.

Bring food and water and be prepared to be in the woods until 2:00 p.m. if you stay with the group.

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

Friday, October 13, 2023 7:30 p.m.

Tree Topics, a Talk with DEC Forester Gary Koplun
Zoom

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Oak Wilt, Beech Leaf Disease, and Emerald Ash Borer are just a few of the environmental issues facing the forests of New York State. Gary Koplun, urban and community forester with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will discuss some of the issues currently impacting our local forests.

Gary will discuss causations, management options, eradication success stories, and what the public can do to help contribute to tree science research and play a role in forest management.

Registration is required at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-tree>. A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you the day before the meeting.

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Spooky Scavenger Hunt

Sanctuary 301 Railroad Mills Road

Wear your costumes for a creepy walk on the Wild Side! Our local woodland creatures are spending their Halloweens getting ready for winter—learn

(Continued on page 8)

(Coming Events-Continued from page 7)

how and win a prize for finding them all! Good for all ages, although we ask that all children bring an adult.

Don't miss the Sanctuary's Halloween decorations. Refreshments, trail exploration, and fun with autumn leaves round out the activities!

Friday, November 10, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting – President's Report, Election of Officers and Experience Night
Atonement Lutheran Church, 1900 Westfall Rd.
Use West Entrance.

After several years of Zoom Annual Meetings, we are pleased to hold our 2023 Annual Meeting/ Experience Night in person this coming November!

At the Annual Meeting, we will have the President's Report from Marigrace Piazza, and our election of officers for 2024.

This will be followed by Experience Night which is always a treat! Our members share a love for nature and many are very knowledgeable! Come and share this exciting event...and participate, if you so choose. Read a favorite nature poem, share a work you have painted, present a PowerPoint, relay an interesting experience you have had this past year. The possibilities are endless!



West Entrance of Atonement Church

Photo by Julie Clayton

If you would like to join the list of presenters, please call Richard Ashworth at 381-2189 or e-mail him at ashworth@rochester.rr.com.

Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Fall Cleanup Day!

BANC Sanctuary, 301 Railroad Mills Road, Pittsford

They say volunteering increases happiness and life satisfaction! Come test this hypothesis in the fresh, crisp air of fall in our beautiful sanctuary. We will be needing to move the leaves off the parking lot and onto the property where they can feed and shelter sanctuary critters even while they turn into soil for sanctuary plants. Volunteers will also be able to help take care of other important tasks along the boardwalks and trails and in the clubhouse before winter arrives, including helping with ongoing habitat restoration projects.

Bring your work gloves, a rake, and water. Light refreshments will be provided. If you are not able to do the labor, feel free to come and enjoy our beautiful Sanctuary and cheer the workers on. Students can receive service credit hours for joining the fun.

Host: Jane McConnochie

Friday, January 12, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Plants for Birds

Zoom

Bring birds to your home today by growing native plants. Chris Lajewski, Center Director at Montezuma Audubon Center, will give a presentation about the best plants for the birds in our area. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment.

Registration is required. To register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CACA828A5FE3-plants>. A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you the day before the meeting.

BURROUGHS AUDUBON NATURE CLUB (BANC) MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. If you join after October 1, 2023, your membership continues through the year 2024.

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	\$
Extra Donation Appreciated	\$	\$
		Total \$

TRAILS GRANT REPORT

By Shirley Shaw

In the June edition of the *Tanager*, I reported that we are living with the deteriorated condition of some of our boardwalks. We have decided that the “Step” boardwalk that links the Woodland Trail to Creekside Trail is no longer safe, nor is the short boardwalk on lovely Balsam Fir Trail. Therefore, both of those areas have been temporarily closed.

I hope, however, you have still been able to take advantage of our extensive trails leading from the club house down to Irondequoit Creek or the route that takes you down the hill from the entrance side of the club house, down Locust and Autumn Olive Trail to Aspen and then into the lovely Evergreen Grove and onto the Swamp Boardwalk. There is a bit of a “hiccup” getting onto the boardwalk, but the rest of the way is in relatively good condition. Won’t it be wonderful when construction is complete, and all the trails and boardwalks are in tip-top shape?

We have made a lot of progress this summer in our journey toward “tip-top shape.” Our landscape architecture firm SWBR has assigned an enthusiastic, attentive, knowledgeable woman named Brittany Murphy as landscape designer to do the preliminary design work. She has completed that, and so we now have illustrations and photographs of construction details and materials plus a detailed preliminary design report that has been sent to Albany for State approval. It is our hope that approval will come quickly so that we can begin searching for a construction firm.

We would, of course, prefer that we were looking at newly constructed boardwalks instead of plans on paper, but we must follow the process mandated by our funding source. Below is the project description that we have submitted to the state:

The Burroughs Audubon Nature Club Trail Improvement Project seeks to improve access to the sanctuary’s existing systems of trails and boardwalks. An accessible trail will be provided to an outdoor education space and the preserve’s most

prominent boardwalk will be upgraded to be accessible. Needed refurbishments and replacements to existing boardwalks and drainage work in degraded at-grade trails are also part of this project.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: The proposed project will reinforce 550ft of existing at grade trail with accessible gravel and grass permeable pavers and convert 250ft of existing boardwalk with an accessible boardwalk and a 12’x12’ observation deck. Furthermore, the project will replace a total of 200ft of dilapidated boardwalks and repair 250ft of poorly drained earthen trails. Finally, a 1,200sf outdoor education area will be mulched in an existing clearing to allow accessibility without disturbing existing tree roots.



**Eastern Comma summer form
Fern Hike, July 12, 2023**

Photo by Dave Southby

Come to Our Annual Picnic At The Sanctuary!



When? Saturday, September 16

What Time? Potluck at 5:00

Speaker at 6:30 Lorna Wright

Evening Program – Come and meet the Executive Director for the Genesee Land Trust, **Lorna Wright**. Lorna's presentation will be about Climate Change. She will share with us the impacts that we are seeing. She will use examples from Genesee Land Trust's protection and land management work to discuss ways we can mitigate and adapt to these challenges, continuing to provide habitat for wildlife, farms for food, and connections for people. You do not want to miss this presentation!

About the Potluck: Please bring a dish to share -- to serve at least 8 people. For the sake of our planet, try to prepare your dish using local ingredients. Bring your own table settings and a cup/mug and, if possible, a card table and chairs.

Arrive early and enjoy the trails!

Plein Air Painters

On Wednesday, July 26, 2023 the Plein Air Painters demonstrated their art at a meeting and pot luck at the Sanctuary. Here are some photos from Richard Ashworth:



Just Four Habitat Restoration Power Hours Left in 2023!!

By Jane McConnochie

Sunday, September 10 at 4pm

Friday, September 22 at 10am

Sunday, October 8 at 4pm

Friday, October 27 at 10am

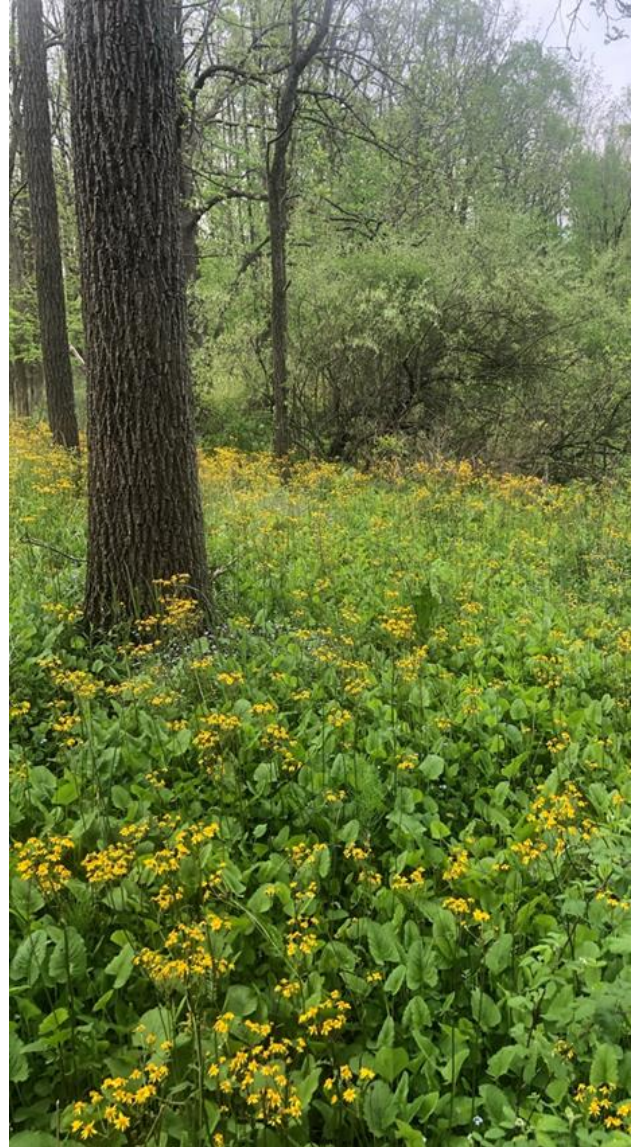
The BANC sanctuary wildlife needs your help! Invasive insects and vegetation have put the health of the sanctuary's rare and beautiful ecosystem at risk. But you can help!

This summer small Power Hour crews have prevented Pale Swallow-wort, which has nearly taken over nearby Powder Mills Park, from gaining a foothold in the sanctuary. We also continued working to keep Garlic Mustard out of our woodland wildflowers and got ready to install deer exclusion fencing. We even planted a few natives to provide food and shelter for sanctuary critters.

Come join the fun (and important work) while it lasts!

Power Hour participation is eligible for service-learning credits. Usually there are snacks after.

Text or E-mail Jane M for details: 734-330-6066 or BANCrsvp@gmail.com



**Golden Groundsel (Golden Ragwort)
under the Walnut trees**

Photo by Jane McConnochie

Two Habitat Restoration Power Hour volunteers

Photo by Jane McConnochie



Miniature World of Mosses

BANC members and naturalists Carol and David Southby told us about mosses, including an introduction and display at the clubhouse, and a walk with an introduction of mosses in our Sanctuary. Below are some photos of the event.



Display of Mosses

Photo by Julie Clayton



Carol leading us on a hike to view mosses

Photo by Julie Clayton



Microscopes to view mosses

Photo by John Shaw

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Program details are on pages 7-8. Some programs require registration. See details.

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