



Jeff Bolsinger

INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER

SPRING, 2011

ICNC Board of Directors, Officers

President: Ann Spencer	(315) 379-1383
Vice President: Anne Johnson	(315) 322-4058
Treasurer: Carol Zimmerman	(315) 212-2800
Secretary: Juanita Babcock	(315) 384-4289
Newsletter: Alison Charles	(315) 388-4245

Directors

Jeff Bolsinger	Roger Hutchinson
Bill Brown	Glenn Johnson
Don Brown	Mark Lee
Pat Burdick	Jan Trybula
John Burnsall	John Wood
Janet Favro	Tom VandeWater

President's Message

It's March and the temperature forecast for this week goes from -10 to 40. We've had some wonderful snow cover this winter so hope you've been out enjoying the season. But now we look forward to warmer weather and a change in activity. We've set April 30 for our Work Day, getting the trails ready for all of us to enjoy. Do join us! We're looking forward to Spring programs. If you have an idea for a program that would interest you, let a member of the Board know. We do hope that our programs bring people out to the Center. Thanks to Northern New York Audubon for the gift of a spotting scope. It will be really neat to have it for our bird walks. Our new interpretive panels have arrived, and the bird check list is in the works. Thanks to Bill Brown and Jeff Bolsinger for these additions to the Center. Hope to see you out at the Center enjoying the natural world. Please remember to sign the register. Best Wishes, Ann

Conservation Field Days

Conservation Field Days will be held this year on May 25 (rain date May 26) and if there are sufficient participants, on June 2 (rain date June 3). The first date is tentative, depending on the school calendar. This event introduces area sixth graders to a number of environmental topics as well as providing a guided nature tour of the Center. If you are interested in joining young people having a lot of fun, events start at the main parking area at 9 AM.

Spring Work Day

You don't have to be a Board member to join us for our annual Spring work day. Since the Center is a volunteer organization we count on your help to keep the trails in shape, and there is always a lot of work to do to get the Center ready for Spring and Summer programs or just a family stroll through the woods. All ages welcome. See "Programs" for further details.

What's New at the Center?

Last summer the ADK professional trail crew spent several days improving trails, especially in wet areas. This year they will continue the job when they visit the Center from June 27-July 1.

The long awaited interpretive signs will go up along the board walk as soon as the snow goes. These are very attractive permanent signs and you'll want to see them for yourself. They were made possible by a grant from the Sweetgrass Foundation.

A brochure listing birds seen at the Center will soon be available at the kiosks. There's room for additional sightings, so be sure to let us know if you see a species not on the list.

Spring/Summer 2011 Public Programs

Public programs, presented by our volunteer naturalists, biologists, foresters and educators, are provided free of charge. We ask only that you register with the individual program leader prior to the date of the event. Assistance is also available by calling Anne Johnson (315) 322-4058. **Unless otherwise noted, all groups meet at the Main Entrance parking lot.**

POND EXPLORATION.

Join naturalist Pat Burdick in a pond exploration using dip nets to capture amphibians and macro invertebrates. We'll use magnifiers and field guides to learn about the animals we capture.

Leader: Pat Burdick (315) 265-4879
Date: Saturday, April 23 10:00-12:00 PM

BIRDING WITH ADIRONDACK AUDUBON.

Come enjoy a spring bird walk at Indian Creek Nature Center. Participants will view a wide variety of species on a hike through shrubland, marsh, wetland, and forest habitats along the Tower and Succession Trails. A spotting scope will be used to view birds on Lower Lake from the top of the observation tower. Bring binoculars!

Leader: Mary Beth Warburton (315) 268-0150
mbwarburton@verizon.net
Date: Saturday, April 30. 8:15 AM

WORK DAY

Join Board Members to help repair the ravages of winter, demolish more of that still present rock pile or slash back some of the encroaching vegetation. A great way to end your early morning birding! Bring a lunch if you wish.

Leader: Roger Hutchinson (315)-386-4795
Date: Saturday, April 30 9:00 AM - noon

WILD HERBS.

Even before they learned to hunt animals, primitive people depended on wild herbs for food, medicine, and other uses. On this walk, we'll identify several of these plants and discuss how many of them are still used today. This is last years program, which was rained out but due to several requests is being offered again. **Pre-registration requested.**

Leader: Don O'Shea (315) 393-5137.
Date: Saturday, May 7 9:30 - 12:00 AM

CANOE/KAYAK THE MARSH.

The marsh is a magical place on an early Spring morning, rain or shine. Come listen to it's sounds and view it's inhabitants close up. Take advantage of this opportunity, as the marsh can only be canoed with DEC permission. Bring your own canoe/kayak, life jackets, and a whistle. Meet at DEC's middle access road on CR 14. This is 1.6 mi. from Rt. 68 and 2.5 mi. from Rensselaer Falls.

Leaders: Tom VandeWater (315) 386-8489
Mark Lee (315) 265-2723
Date: Saturday, May 14 9:30 - 12:00PM

SPRING BIRD WALK.

Join Jeff Bolsinger, ornithologist at Fort Drum, for a three hour bird walk. Bring footwear you don't mind getting wet and insect repellent. Binoculars will be available for those who don't own any.

Leader: Jeff Bolsinger (315) 386-2565
Date: Sunday, May 22 8:00 - 11:00 AM

FERNS, MOSSES AND FLOWERS

Meet at the North-east entrance. We will look for and identify several fern, moss and vascular plant species, and discuss their role in the woods.

Leader: John Green (315) 386-3851
Carol Budd
Date: Saturday, June 11 9:30 - 12:00 PM

Family Campfire and Evening

Retired park naturalist, Bob Wakefield, will give a demonstration on making bannock on the open fire and lead a short walk to the Nature Center ponds. There is a chance we'll hear whippoorwills and owls near by, as well as a variety of evening insects and frogs at the ponds. Bring a flashlight and insect repellent and meet at the main entrance pavilion area.

Leader: Bob Wakefield (315) 287-4179
Dates: Saturday May 14 7 - 9 PM
Saturday June 4 7 - 9 PM