



# Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 Public Programs!

**Outdoor programs continue with mask and social distancing protocols.**

**Please check our website, Facebook, or Instagram for updates on programs**

**Public programs are provided free of charge by volunteer naturalists and educators.**

All programs unless otherwise noted take place at Indian Creek Nature Center, meeting at the main back drive parking area off County Rt 14.

Directions are available at <https://www.indiancreeknaturecenterny.org/> Please **RSVP** for programs by contacting [indiancreeknaturecenterny@gmail.com](mailto:indiancreeknaturecenterny@gmail.com) with your name and group size.

## **Asters, Goldenrods, and other Fall Flowering Plants**

Join us for a fall wildflower walk on the trails at the center. We'll stroll along the edges of the ponds and marsh to look at and identify late flowering plants.

**Leader:** Anne Johnson (315) 322-4058

**Date:** Saturday, **September 24**, 9:00AM – 11:30AM

## **Autumn Night Sky**

Join Jeff Miller for an evening of star gazing. Tour the sky using a telescope, binoculars, and the unaided eye. Explore the mythology behind some of the constellations, view star clusters, and planets. This program has a rain/cloud date. Mask use is required.

**Leader:** Jeff Miller

**Date:** Saturday, **October 1**, 7:30PM – 9:00PM  
(Rain/Cloud date Sunday, October 2, 7:30PM)

## **Annual Birdseed Sale**

Please see the page later in this newsletter for details on ordering and pickup.

**Date:** **Order by Friday, October 7**

## **Fall Workday**

Join Board members for a workday to help clean-up the Nature Center from those strong summer storms and be ready for the winter. Tools will be supplied or bring your own. There is always plenty of work for all!

**Leader:** Roger Hutchinson 315-386-4795

**Date:** Saturday, **October 8**, 8:30AM – 12:00 noon

### **Do you have something to say about your experience at the ICNC?**

If so, please contact Indian Creek at: [indiancreeknaturecenterny@gmail.com](mailto:indiancreeknaturecenterny@gmail.com) or send us a Message through Facebook or Instagram.

If you have photos or other items for the newsletter, please send materials to the editor, via email [trybulj@potsdam.edu](mailto:trybulj@potsdam.edu)

## **Fall Bird Walk**

Join us for some fall birding on the Indian Creek Nature Center trails! This bird walk will be led by Susan Wilson. Extra binoculars will be provided, if needed. Please RSVP for this event to

[phlegopsis@gmail.com](mailto:phlegopsis@gmail.com)

**Leaders:** Susan Wilson

**Date:** Saturday, **October 15**, 8:00AM – 10:00AM (Rain date, Sunday Oct 16, same time)

## **Autumn Nature Walk**

This will be nothing too formal, but just a chance to get out to the Center and see how nature prepares for the coming winter. We will look at plants, ponds, fungi, and anything else we may come across.

**Leader:** Jan Trybula

**Date:** Saturday, **October 22**, 1:00PM – 4:00PM

## **Family Snowshoe Days**

Join us for some easy snowshoeing on Nature Center trails. We'll observe tracks and other signs to learn which animals are active and discover the wonder and beauty of nature in winter.

Snowshoes are available to borrow for free. We have youth and adult sizes. Dress in layers and don't forget a drink and snack. Please check our Facebook page for dates and times!

**Leaders:** Nick Hamilton-Honey and Casey Sukeforth

**Dates:** Check our Facebook page for various dates - [@IndianCreekNatureCenterNY](https://www.facebook.com/IndianCreekNatureCenterNY)



The Board wishes to thank Roger Hutchinson for 50 years of service to Indian Creek Nature Center!!

## An intern's perspective (Continued from page 1)

community in ways that would not be possible without this internship.

I want to say thank you to Nick Hamilton-Honey and other board members for this opportunity, and I hope to stay connected with Indian Creek Nature Center during my remaining years at St. Lawrence University.

## Education and Conservation!

By Zola Braswell

On June 6th, Canton Elementary 5th Graders visited Indian Creek for a Conservation Field Day (CFD), a full day of activities where students



spend the day both learning about and being in nature. ICNC was joined by other environmental and education organizations to provide an array of educational activities for the kids throughout the day.

The NYS Department of Environmental

Conservation brought the kids on a forest walk. Cornell Cooperative Extension taught a valuable lesson about ticks. Nature Up North studied macroinvertebrates by the pond and showed the students how to use different tools like a magnifying glass. St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District played a game with the kids while teaching them about invasive and native species. And our very own board president, Nick Hamilton-Honey, led the kids in a lesson on binoculars, bird watching, and bird identifying.



More recently, a group of Lisbon School District 5th and 6th graders visited ICNC as part of the Extended School Day Program. We joined the kids as they explored some of the trails, making stops along the way to teach them about different aspects of nature that we have at Indian Creek. (The front picture of this newsletter shows Zola, left, with the group from Lisbon – Editor)



Conservation Field Days and Extended School Days help foster a love for the outdoors in younger children, which is something that is of the utmost importance. One of Indian Creek's primary goals is to facilitate environmental education and appreciation of nature, and Conservation Field Days and Extended School Days are a catalyst in this pursuit.

If you are interested in bringing a group to Indian Creek Nature Center for a day, email us at [indiancreeknaturecenterny@gmail.com](mailto:indiancreeknaturecenterny@gmail.com).

**Keep up with information about Indian Creek Nature Center!  
Visit us on the web and social media!**



<https://www.IndianCreekNatureCenterNY.org>



[@IndianCreekNatureCenterNY](https://www.facebook.com/IndianCreekNatureCenterNY)



[@IndianCreekNatureCenterNY](https://www.instagram.com/IndianCreekNatureCenterNY)



# Poetry Corner

This newsletter we present two poems by our regular poet Joan Gail Howlett. Enjoy!  
Photos by Jan Trybula

## AUTUMN

River edge willow  
Rides the wind  
(Within)  
Bird calls fly away  
Leaves fall and scatter  
Curled and golden  
... Moonlight  
On ripples  
Singing to stones.

— Joan Gail Howlett



## SNOW QUEEN

Crystal Flakes  
Startled  
By winter peach skies  
... The Queen of Snow  
Flashes  
Diamonds for her eyes.

— Joan Gail Howlett



### Memberships are on a calendar year schedule

If you are a **LIFE** member or you have already paid for **2022**, Thank You!  
**For 2023, please renew now or consider becoming a 2023 MEMBER of the Center!**

Student member (in school or college)      \$10   
Senior Citizen member                              \$10   
Individual member                                    \$20   
Family membership                                  \$30   
ICNC Patron    \$100   
ICNC Life Member (nontransferable)            \$200

**Membership for 2023**    New     Renewal

Please notify us of any address changes!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation! \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

### New and renewing members!

Do you want your newsletter sent to you:

- By email
- By regular mail
- both email and regular mail

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

We **never** share member emails or contact information with any outside entities.

Please make checks payable to: **Indian Creek Nature Center**; PO Box 286; Canton, NY 13617

**You can also join or renew through PayPal on our website:** <https://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org>

Indian Creek Nature Center is run by North Country Conservation – Education Associates, Inc. a section 501(c)(3) organization that relies on memberships, grantors, and donors. Your donations are tax deductible.

# Climbing Vines of St. Lawrence County

by Nancy Eldblom (via Anne Johnson)  
with photos by Anne Johnson, Steven Daniel, and Jan Trybula

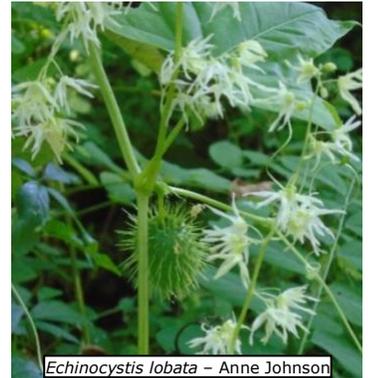
Most of our vines are attractive rather than menacing, as are the very spiny catbriers and the monstrous alien kudzu of more southern climes. My way is sometimes blocked by brambles of raspberries and blackberries, but rarely by vines. Some of the following are woody, at least in part, and some are herbaceous; all can be seen along roadsides, in thickets, and on woods edges.

**Wild honeysuckle**, technically a climbing shrub, is the first "vine" I notice each season. With its few whorls of showy red-purple to greenish-yellow flowers, *Lonicera dioica* is a treat to see in late May or early June.



Festooning our roadside trees and shrubs in the summer are our common **virgin's bower** (*Clematis virginiana*) and **wild- or prickly-cucumber**

(*Echinocystis lobata*), both of which have delicate white flowers. Their fruits are more distinctive: those of the virgin's-bower have long feathery tails which help disperse them, while those of the prickly-cucumber are curious prickly cases which hold the few



large seeds. Occasionally we see the cucumber's relative, the **bur cucumber** (*Sicyos angulatus*) in neglected backyards and thickets. A native purple clematis (*C. occidentalis*) is found growing in the southwest part of the county. If anyone ever comes across it, please let us know.



**Carrion-flower** (*Smilax herbacea*) is our common "greenbrier", but it lacks "prickers". Its parallel-veined leaves and showy fruit clusters easily distinguish it from the plants over which it climbs. I have not noticed the

reputed bad odor of its inconspicuous flowers. In summer, its handsome hemispherical umbel of blue-black fruits reminds me of the smaller clusters of wild leek fruits. A spiny relative, the bristly greenbrier (*S. hispida*) can be found in the southwest portion of the county.

## **Mooneed**

(*Menispermum canadense*), also with blue-black fruits, is a treat to see as it is not too common in the county. We usually see it along rivers, and sometimes on woods and thicket edges. Its leaves look somewhat maple-like.



Grapevines are commonly found growing in thickets throughout the St. Lawrence River Valley. Native grapes have been used successfully for wine and jelly making and are a



favorite songbird food. When in flower (late May to June), they send out a heady fragrance disproportionate to the flower's small size. All the wild grapes in the county are **riverbank** or **frost grapes** (*Vitis riparia*).

Another member of the grape family, **woodbine** or **Virginia creeper**, is especially obvious in late summer and fall when its five leaflets turn a brilliant red. The species we most often see up here is *Parthenocissus inserta*, which is characterized by clusters of flowers/fruits on a dichotomously forked stem, rather than the flowering panicle characteristic of its relative *P. quinquefolia*.



*Parthenocissus inserta* - Jan Trybula

**Hops** (*Humulus lupulus*) were presumably once cultivated in the county. We see these vines with their unusual leaves and fruits only rarely, and then climbing on roadside trees and shrubs.

We have two **bittersweet** vines, an alien one (*Celastrus orbiculata*) and a native one (*C. scandens*). In our county, the native



*Celastrus orbiculata* - Steven Daniel



*Celastrus scandens* - Steven Daniel

one is (fortunately) more common than the non-native. Rounding out our true vines are **poison ivy**, usually seen as a sprawling kind of plant, though sometimes it climbs high into trees, and nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*), which has colorful berries in late summer. We also have some smaller, less noticeably viney herbaceous plants, including tearthumbs, false buckwheats, and the weedy bindweeds.

## New Signage!

Recently members of Indian Creek Nature Center worked on making our entrances a bit more visible. A large new sign was installed at the Main Entrance and the signs at the East Entrance were also enhanced. Photos by Nick Hamilton-Honey, Blanche Town, and Jan Trybula



## ICNC Birdseed Sale 2022 – New prices this year!

The birdseed sale is one of the fundraisers for the ICNC and we need your financial support!

Your purchases are, in part, a contribution toward maintenance and overhead at ICNC.

Please use the form below or copy page.

<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
20 lbs	Choice Blend	_____	\$25.00	_____	20 lbs	Choice Blend	_____	\$25.00	_____
40 lbs	Choice Blend	_____	\$47.00	_____	40 lbs	Choice Blend	_____	\$47.00	_____
20 lbs	Premium Blend	_____	\$29.00	_____	20 lbs	Premium Blend	_____	\$29.00	_____
40 lbs	Premium Blend	_____	\$52.00	_____	40 lbs	Premium Blend	_____	\$52.00	_____
20 lbs	Just Desserts	_____	\$48.00	_____	20 lbs	Just Desserts	_____	\$48.00	_____
18 lbs	Cardinal Blend	_____	\$33.00	_____	18 lbs	Cardinal Blend	_____	\$33.00	_____
20 lbs	Finch Blend	_____	\$43.00	_____	20 lbs	Finch Blend	_____	\$43.00	_____
20 lbs	Chickadee Blend	_____	\$32.00	_____	20 lbs	Chickadee Blend	_____	\$32.00	_____
30 lbs	Value Blend	_____	\$22.00	_____	30 lbs	Value Blend	_____	\$22.00	_____
25 lbs	Black Oil Sunflower	_____	\$25.00	_____	25 lbs	Black Oil Sunflower	_____	\$25.00	_____
50 lbs	Black Oil Sunflower	_____	\$47.00	_____	50 lbs	Black Oil Sunflower	_____	\$47.00	_____
50 lbs	Striped Sunflower	_____	\$50.00	_____	50 lbs	Striped Sunflower	_____	\$50.00	_____
25 lbs	Sunflower Kernels	_____	\$66.00	_____	25 lbs	Sunflower Kernels	_____	\$66.00	_____
50 lbs	Cracked Corn	_____	\$19.50	_____	50 lbs	Cracked Corn	_____	\$19.50	_____
10 lbs	Nyger (Niger Thistle)	_____	\$23.00	_____	10 lbs	Nyger (Niger Thistle)	_____	\$23.00	_____
25 lbs	Nyger (Niger Thistle)	_____	\$48.00	_____	25 lbs	Nyger (Niger Thistle)	_____	\$48.00	_____
Ea.	Nutty Butter Suet	_____	\$ 1.70	_____	Ea.	Nutty Butter Suet	_____	\$ 1.70	_____
Ea.	High Energy Suet	_____	\$ 1.70	_____	Ea.	High Energy Suet	_____	\$ 1.70	_____

Total Enclosed = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Check # \_\_\_\_\_)

Total Enclosed = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Check # \_\_\_\_\_)

Mail your order and payment by **Friday, Oct 7**

To: Davis Rogers  
 c/o Indian Creek Nature Center  
 991 Miner Street Road  
 Canton, NY 13617

Pick up order on **Saturday, October 22, 2021**  
 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon  
 at ICNC, County Road 14, Rensselaer Falls, NY

**Thank you!!**

**Make Checks Payable to:  
 Indian Creek Nature Center**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

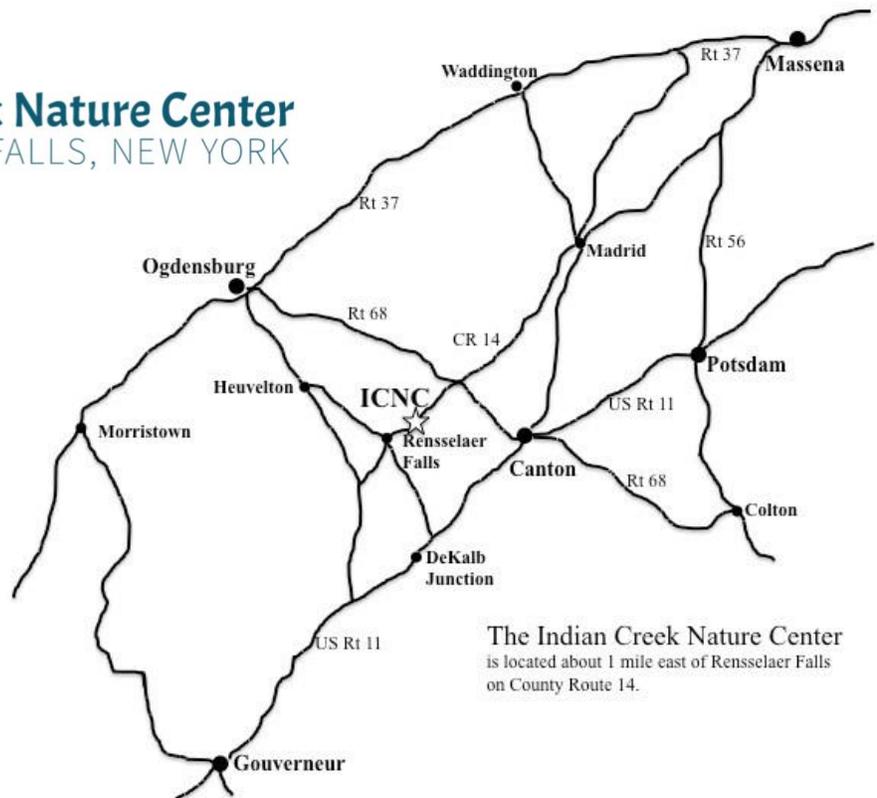
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER  
PO BOX 286  
CANTON, NY 13617

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Indian Creek Nature Center**  
RENSSELAER FALLS, NEW YORK



The Indian Creek Nature Center  
is located about 1 mile east of Rensselaer Falls  
on County Route 14.