

Indian Creek Nature Center Fall 2016

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315-268-0150

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trybulj@potsdam.edu

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A Message from the President of the ICNC Board

As the recently elected president of Indian Creek Nature Center, I am pleased to introduce myself to the membership. I have been a member of ICNC for about five years and have served on the board for four years. My husband Bill and I moved to Potsdam in 2003. We are fortunate to live on a dead end road surrounded by 160 acres which we consider a sanctuary for all the wildlife that share the land with us.

I was a founding member and president of the Northern Catskills Audubon Chapter, a past board member of the Northern New York Audubon Chapter, and a member of the Audubon Council of New York State for ten years. I have also served on the board of the New York State Ornithological Association and had the privilege of working with the Endangered Species Unit of the New York State Department of

Environmental Conservation for 15 years, monitoring breeding Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons.

Having lived in central New York, the Hudson Valley and now the North Country, Indian Creek Nature Center is unique to my experience and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as its president. The many talented and knowledgeable people, such as outgoing president John Bursnell, who have volunteered their time to care for ICNC for the many years of its existence have done a wonderful job and deserve a hearty round of applause.

There are several interesting programs listed in this newsletter and I hope many of you will get a chance to participate in some of

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Indian Creek Nature Center
PO BOX 286
CANTON, NY 13617

On the Web
<http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.us/>

Fall 2016 and Winter 2017 Public Programs!

Public programs are provided free of charge by volunteer naturalists and educators. We ask that you **register** with the program leader **prior** to the date of the event by calling or emailing the leaders.

Unless otherwise noted, groups will meet at the Nature Center Main Entrance parking lot.

Please remember that the 315 area code goes to mandatory 10-digit dialing in February 2017!

NATURE IN LATE SUMMER

This is the time of year that signals change, of slowing, of approaching dormancy. Animals begin feeding heartily on fruits in preparation for hibernation, migration, or readying themselves for winter survival. The plants produce colorful fruits to attract the feeders who will then disperse the seeds, assuring the continuation of the species. Early leaf color change and dropping will begin. The resultant leaf litter will provide nourishment for soil animals while enriching the soil itself for the next season's plant growth. Let's explore this process while enjoying the many changes around us.

Leader: Don O'Shea 315-393-5137

Date: Saturday, September 17, 9:30am – 12:00

CANOE/KAYAK THE MARSH

An easy Sunday afternoon paddle to enjoy the early fall color and birds. Binoculars, camera, and insect repellent are desirable. **Meet at the boat launch on CR 15**, south of the village of Rensselaer Falls approx. 1.2 mi. Please call ahead for time and to register.

Leader: Mark Lee 315-265-2723

Date: Sunday, September 18, call for time and to verify meeting place.

FALL WORK DAY

Join Board members for a workday to set the Center in order for the winter. Tools will be supplied, or bring your own. There's plenty of work for all.

Leader: Roger Hutchinson 315-386-4795

Date: Saturday, September 24, 8:30am – 12:00

FUNGI ROLES IN THE ECOSYSTEM

Join Claire Burkum as she shares her enthusiasm for all kinds of fungi. We will see all manner of fungi and learn about their roles in the ecosystem. Bring a hand lens or magnifying glass, a notepad and pencil, if possible. We may also create a species list during our outing.

Leader: Claire Burkum, (315) 261-1884 or cburkum@stlaw.edu

Date: Saturday, October 1, 10:00am – 12:00 noon

FALL BIRDING AT WILSON HILL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Come enjoy a bird walk with Linnea Rowse, Golden Winged Warbler Project Specialist. The walk will be held at **Wilson Hill WMA**. Linnea will meet attendees at the observation tower on Route 131 at the parking area, and we will look for birds at various locations in the WMA. Bring binoculars, and water and snacks for yourself. Linnea will bring a spotting scope.

Leader: Linnea Rowse 952-451-0096 or lmrowse@gmail.com

Date: Sunday, October 2, starts at 9:00am

NIGHT SKY

Say goodbye to the summer sky with an evening of star gazing. You'll take a tour of the sky using a telescope, binoculars and the unaided eye. We'll explore the mythology behind some of the constellations, and view star clusters, and the Andromeda galaxy. Feel free to bring your own binoculars.

Leader: Jeff Miller 315-229-5493.

Date: Saturday, October 8, 7:30pm – 9:00pm (rain date October 9).

WINTER FAMILY FUN DAYS

Twice a month, join us at the Center for fun in the snow on skis (your own) or snowshoes (the Center has some to loan). Watch the paper or website for the dates. We'll look for animal tracks, birds, or just play. There will be a fire and hot cocoa. Bring the kids.

Leader: Ann Spencer 315-379-1383

Dates: Tentative dates December 11, January 8, January 22, February 5, and February 19

Depends on snow and weather

Look for exact dates and times in local newspapers and on northcountrynow.com and natureupnorth.org

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE!

PROGRAMS CONTINUED!

WINTER TRACKING

The ICNC hosts a wonderful array of interesting animal fauna throughout the year. Peter O'Shea, local naturalist and author, will lead the group in identifying various creatures by their tracks and other unique features. If snow is sufficiently deep, trackers can bring their snowshoes or borrow them from the Nature Center. If no snow, we'll scout the trails on foot. Dress appropriately.

Leader: Peter O'Shea 315-848-2178

Date: Saturday, January 7, 10:00 – 12:00 noon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED!

them. Notice all the dates listed for winter snowshoe treks on the trails. What a great way to enjoy our North Country winter! Ann Spencer has done an amazing job getting enough snowshoes for lots of hikers.

I look forward to meeting more members and seeing you on the trails. Until we meet out there, take care and enjoy all the opportunities that await at Indian Creek Nature Center.

Mary Beth Warburton
President, ICNC Board

P.S. Thanks for signing in at the kiosk, it is nice to see who has visited ICNC and accurate numbers help us with planning and with reporting to the DEC.

Please consider becoming a member of the Indian Creek Nature Center!

If you have already paid your membership for this year, Thank You!

The top right of your address includes a series of letters and numbers. The first letter and numbers are the season and year that your membership expires. The last letter identifies your membership category. We send complimentary newsletters to schools, libraries, and other entities.

Student member (in school or college)	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	Membership for 20_____	New <input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Citizen member	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	Please notify us of any address changes!		
Individual member	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	Name	_____	
Family membership	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	Address	_____	
ICNC Patron	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>	City	_____	State _____ ZIP _____
ICNC Life Member (nontransferable)	\$200 <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone	_____	

Please consider an additional donation! \$ _____

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

See what you've been missing! Receive the ICNC Newsletter by email as a PDF file to see the images in color!!

Please send me both email and printed newsletter

Please send me only an email newsletter

Email _____

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.

At the Nature Center!

By various ICNC Board Members

3rd Graders visit ICNC

Third grade classes from Norwood-Norfolk Central School spent part of a day in spring at the Center. They spent time learning about birds, rocks, the woods, and the ponds through hands on activities with our Center volunteers. Everyone had great fun!

Are you interested in having your class come to the Nature Center for a visit? If so, please contact ICNC Board president Mary Beth Warburton 315-268-0150, to see up a time that some Center volunteers may be able to lead your trip and make it even more educational!

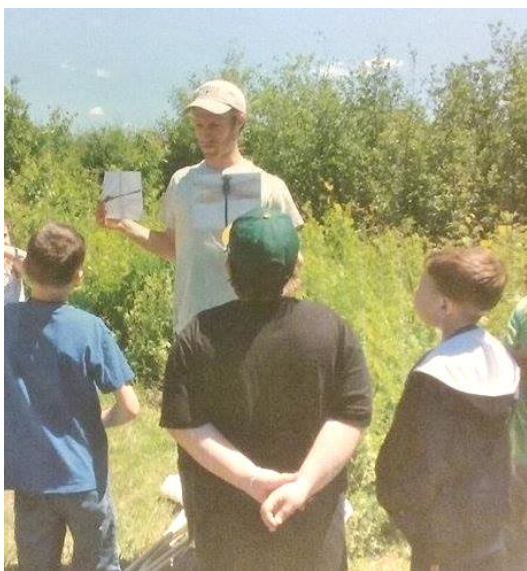
Butterfly Gardens

A group of board members interested in improving butterfly habitat met at the Center. We have designated two sites, one near the East entrance and one near the observation tower, to be made butterfly friendly by planting native perennials such as Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* sp.), Tickseed (*Coreopsis* sp.), and Coneflower (*Echinacea* sp.).

Thanks to Deb and Greg of Harmony Farms for the donation of seed packets. Fall work is planned. Want to help? Volunteers are encouraged to call for date and time. Ann Spencer 315-379-1383

YCC at ICNC

In mid-June the Youth Conservation Corps worked at Indian Creek Nature Center clearing trails. Thanks for all the hard work!



Do you have some photos of your time at the ICNC? Or do you have something to say about your experience at the Center? If so, please send materials to the newsletter editor, Jan Trybula. Send submissions via email (trybulj@potdam.edu) or to: Indian Creek Nature Center, PO BOX 286, Canton, NY 13617.

Nature in Focus: Golden-winged Warblers



Golden-winged Warblers (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) are one among many declining songbird species, their population declines primarily linked to loss of habitat. In New York state, their population has declined by -5.3% per year since 1966, and by -2.6% per year range wide (Breeding Bird Survey data). Without continued conservation action, this species may continue on a path towards extirpation from large parts of its range.



Golden-winged Warbler male
Credit-Jeff Nadler

A gem of a species, with the males' flashy golden crown and wing patch and black facial pattern, and the females' subtler hues of gray and yellow, this bird can be found in patches of young forest, shrub wetlands, old abandoned pasture or old hayfields with encroaching shrubs – places that include a heterogeneous mix of shrub clumps, few scattered trees and snags, and open ground with grasses and forbs.



Suitable early successional habitat in St. Lawrence Valley

Here in the St. Lawrence Valley, Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area is a good place to look for Golden-wings. At Indian Creek Nature Center, check out the ongoing habitat management work being done alongside the trails to bring the habitat to the right stage of young forest/shrubland that Golden-winged Warblers use.



ICNC young forest management sign
Credit-Linnea Rowse

Just past the parking lot on the trail to the observation tower, one can see where some tree felling has been done to open

the forest canopy and allow for shrub growth. In other parts of the St. Lawrence Valley, Audubon New York and partners including the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service are working with private landowners to help manage the habitat on their lands where appropriate, to increase the overall availability and quality of habitat for Golden-winged Warblers and other young forest bird and wildlife species.



S. Shute surveying for GWWA
Credit -Linnea Rowse

Audubon New York has also been doing bird surveys in the St. Lawrence Valley to find where Golden-winged Warblers are occupying habitat patches and also monitoring managed sites to observe whether Golden-wings are using restored young forest patches. To learn more about Golden-winged Warblers and habitat requirements, visit <http://www.gwwa.org>.

- Linnea Rowse, Audubon New York – Field Conservationist/Project Specialist. Contact information: rowse@audubon.org.

Species Update:

Invasive Frog-bit

Perhaps you have noticed the miniature water-lily like plant growing here and there in the waters of the Nature Center. It is the European Frog-bit, (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) and is a relatively recent introduction to our state. In 1932, this frog-bit was brought to the Ottawa Experimental Farm from Switzerland and planted in a pond. Seven years later, it was found growing in a nearby ditch which connected to the Rideau Canal.

By 1953, frog-bit was found in several other places, one of them about 100 miles from Ottawa. It was first collected in the U.S. in 1974 at the mouth of the Oswegatchie in Ogdensburg, and now is found throughout St. Lawrence county

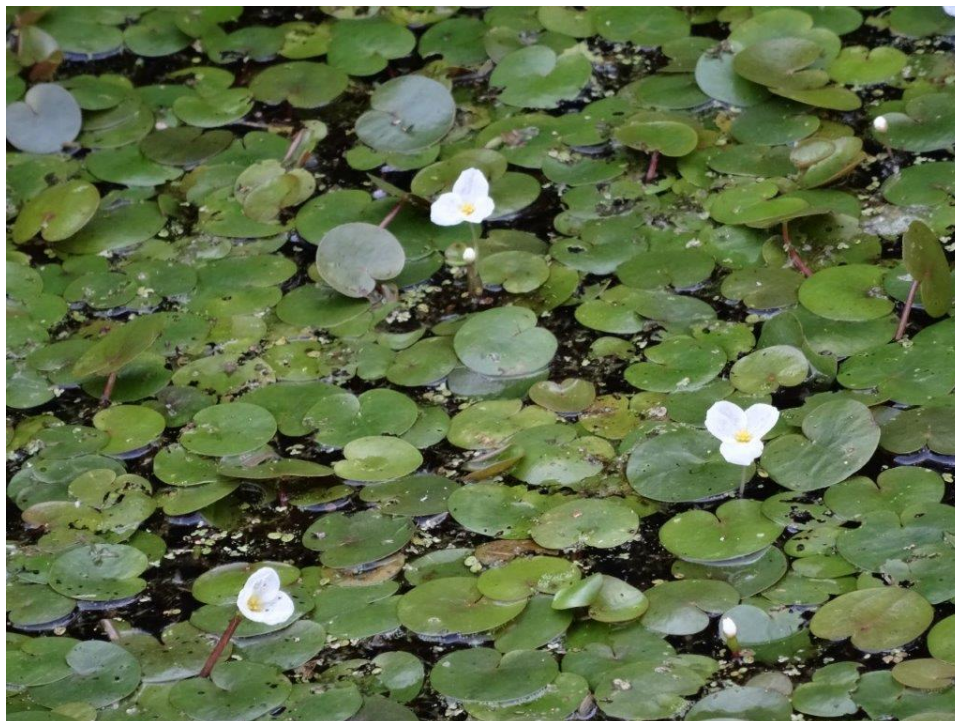
and the counties on the eastern and southern shores of Lake Ontario. It has not yet successfully infiltrated and established itself in the Adirondack portion of our county.



Credits - Natalie Aldrich

The flowers on this plant have three gauzy, white petals. Underneath its floating carpet of emerald green leaves are masses of tangled roots and stolons. The stolons form vegetative

buds at the tips which expand into new plantlets that can rapidly fill an area or float downstream to colonize other areas. At the onset of winter, these buds remain closed, abscise, and sink to the bottom and overwinter there. At this stage they are called winter buds or turions and can germinate rapidly in the spring to quickly populate the rim of a body of water, extending a foot or two out from the shoreline. Frog-bit is an attractive plant, but has been shown to choke out other, less aggressive native aquatic plants, and so has been given a threat ranking of "very high" by organizations that monitor invasive species.



ICNC Birdseed Sale 2016 – Many prices reduced 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, overhead, and programs at the ICNC.
 Please use the form below, or copy this page.

Please Keep This Copy for Your Records!

<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
20 lbs	Choice Blend	_____	\$13.50	_____
40 lbs	Choice Blend	_____	\$26.50	_____
20 lbs	Premium Blend	_____	\$17.00	_____
40 lbs	Premium Blend	_____	\$31.00	_____
20 lbs	Just Desserts	_____	\$26.50	_____
18 lbs	Cardinal Blend	_____	\$16.50	_____
20 lbs	Finch Blend	_____	\$26.00	_____
20 lbs	Chickadee Blend	_____	\$21.50	_____
30 lbs	Value Blend	_____	\$14.00	_____
25 lbs	Black Oil Sunflower	_____	\$14.00	_____
50 lbs	Black Oil Sunflower	_____	\$25.50	_____
40 lbs	Striped Sunflower	_____	\$33.00	_____
25 lbs	Sunflower Kernels	_____	\$35.00	_____
50 lbs	Cracked Corn	_____	\$14.50	_____
10 lbs	Nyger (Niger Thistle)	_____	\$18.50	_____
25 lbs	Nyger (Niger Thistle)	_____	\$40.00	_____
Ea.	Nutty Butter Suet	_____	\$ 1.25	_____
Ea.	High Energy Suet	_____	\$ 1.25	_____

Total Enclosed = \$_____ (Check #_____)

Call Roger at 315-386-4795 if you have questions.

Mail your order & payment by **Friday, October 3**

to: **Roger Hutchinson**
c/o Indian Creek Nature Center
4 Orebed Road
Canton, NY 13617

Pick up order on **Saturday, October 22**, 9:00-2:00
 at Army Reserve Center, W. Main St. Canton, NY

Please Return This Copy with Your Order!

<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
20 lbs	Choice Blend	_____	\$13.50	_____
40 lbs	Choice Blend	_____	\$26.50	_____
20 lbs	Premium Blend	_____	\$17.00	_____
40 lbs	Premium Blend	_____	\$31.00	_____
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Ea.	Nutty Butter Suet	_____	\$ 1.25	_____
Ea.	High Energy Suet	_____	\$ 1.25	_____

Total Enclosed = \$_____ (Check #_____)

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

