



Winter 2018

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From the Board President

I am delighted to be your new Indian Creek Nature Center Board President. Being neither a North Country or New York native, I thought I might share a little about myself. I have lived in the North Country for six years with my wife, Emily, and our dog Eli. I grew up in southcentral Pennsylvania along the shores of another mighty river, the Susquehanna. I spent large portions of my childhood playing, learning, and exploring outside. Whether that was in the woods, wetlands, estuaries, or ocean just depended on the time of year. A fifth-grade biology teacher set me on a path that used this love and energy for the out-of-doors, and that path turned me into an undergrad that got a degree in wildlife and fisheries science. I experienced the spring cherry blossoms in our nation's capital, and the fireworks of fall along the Shenandoah valley while living in D.C. I continued my education in Michigan, where I saw mountain-sized sand dunes that I thought were amazing not for their size, but for not being at the ocean!?! Okay, so they were along Lake Michigan, but still! I also walked through forests of jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) and swam in Lake Superior, where even in August the water is cold. I have lived in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, the Berkshire Mountains, and the Adirondack Mountains.

We are happy to call this gem of a region home. Not only because generally we have less traffic, but also because of all of the options you have on a daily basis. Mountains, lakes, rivers, wetlands, farms, access to major metropolitan areas (and another country's capital if you so choose) – the list could go on. While one of the four universities in the Canton-Potsdam area brought us here, we have developed a sometimes-grudging love for the North Country.

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Indian Creek Nature Center Public Programs

Review of programs from Fall 2018

ASTERS, GOLDENRODS, AND OTHER FALL FLOWERING PLANTS

On Sunday, September 16, Anne Johnson led a stroll along the edges of the ponds and marsh to look at and identify late flowering plants.

FALL WARBLERS AND OTHER MIGRANTS

On Saturday, September 29, Eileen Wheeler and Mary Beth Warburton led a fall bird walk at Indian Creek Nature Center. Participants viewed a wide variety of species on a hike through shrubland, marsh, wetland, and forest habitats along the Tower and Succession Trails. A spotting scope was used to view birds on Lower Lake from the top of the observation tower.

NIGHT SKY

On Saturday, September 29, Jeff Miller helped members say goodbye to the summer sky with an evening of star gazing. They toured the sky using a telescope, binoculars and the unaided eye, explored the mythology behind some of the constellations, and viewed star clusters, the Andromeda galaxy, and Saturn.

FUNGI AT THE NATURE CENTER

On Saturday, October 6, Claire Burkum shared her enthusiasm for all kinds of fungi. Participants saw lichens, shelf fungi, mushrooms, and perhaps distinguished these fungi from similar (but non-fungal) organisms like slime molds.

FALL WORK DAY

On Saturday, October 13, Roger Hutchinson along with other Board members had a workday to set the Center in order for the winter. Tools were supplied. The work day was joined by numerous students from the local Colleges.

FOREST ECOLOGY AND LOCAL CITIZEN SCIENCE

On Saturday, October 13, members joined Emlyn Crocker, Board member and affiliated with Nature Up North, to learn about various native tree species and the part they play in the forest ecosystem. The program covered leaf, bark, and bud identification for species occurring in mixed northern hardwood forest, as well as natural history and ecosystem services. Emlyn also discussed exciting volunteer opportunities with two of Nature Up North's citizen science initiatives, one focused on slowing the spread of emerald ash borer and a second researching the relationship between climate change and sugar maple decline.

Winter 2019 Programs at ICNC

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.

WINTER TRACKING

The ICNC hosts a wonderful array of interesting animals and 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 5, 2019, 10:00am – noon

SNOWSHOEING WITH GAMES AND A SCAVENGER HUNT

Explore ICNC while having fun in the snow! After our snow adventures, we will have a campfire with hot cider and hot chocolate.

Leaders: Nick Hamilton-Honey, 413-885-5725 and Eileen Wheeler 315-386-2482

Date: February 16 (if there is no snow, the event will be rescheduled for March 2)

FAMILY SNOWSHOE DAYS AT INDIAN CREEK!

Multiple dates!

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. Dress in layers and bring a drink and snack. Please call the leader ahead of time to register.

Leader: Eileen Wheeler 315-386-2482

Dates: January 12 and February 9

Leader: Mary Beth Warburton 315-268-0150

Dates: January 27 and February 24



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

We enjoyed discovering ICNC, with all of its variety of ways to enjoy your walk/hike/snowshoe/cross country ski. You can experience wetlands, upland and lowland forests, meadows and more. Having enjoyed ICNC, I was delighted to be asked to join Board and now to be President.

We had several events throughout the fall and more to come this winter. Emlyn Crocker led a program on forest diversity and citizen science in the North Country. Anne Johnson led us through pond and marsh edges looking at late flowering plants. Eileen Wheeler and Mary Beth Warburton helped us enjoy a fall bird walk and plan for winter snowshoeing. Jeff Miller helped us gaze at the stars and explore mythology related to our constellations. In January 2019, Peter O'Shea will be leading winter tracking. We also had our Fall Work Day and our Annual Bird Seed Sales.

ICNC now has an e-mail and Instagram, as well as the website and Facebook. If you have not joined our Facebook page, please do! The link is at the bottom left of the cover of this newsletter along with our main web page. You can e-mail us at indiancreeknaturecenterny@gmail.com. Did you notice the "new" logo on the front of this newsletter using the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). Hopefully we will be using it on flyers, brochures, newsletters, and e-mails in the near future.

While change is a constant, as the new Board President I would enjoy hearing from the membership. Please e-mail our Gmail account or e-mail me at my work address, nh327@cornell.edu. If you have ideas for a newsletter, an idea for a program, or a question, please feel free to contact me.

Enjoy our change from autumn to winter! Cheers!

Nick Hamilton-Honey
President, ICNC Board

Orkney

Topographie
und
ausgewählte Attraktionen

Poetry Corner

THE ORKNEYS, JUNE/2012

(FOR FELLOW BIRDERS — ANN BEAULIEU AND MARY BETH WARBURTON)

HERE THE STANDING STONES
PREDATE THE PYRAMIDS
AND THE FOSSILS ARE STRIATED TELLS
FROM TIMES BEFORE DINOSAURS
TURNED INTO BIRDS
AND TREE SHREWS INTO US
ENCRYPTED FISH AND MUD
OF SUB-EQUATORIAL LAKE ORCADIE
AT THE EDGE DESERT EVOLVED INTO HIGHLANDS
THE LAKE ITSELF TURNED INTO ISLANDS
OF WIND, RUINS AND BIRDS ENCRUSTING CLIFFS —
SWIFT KITTIWAKES
FULMARS, GUILLIMOTS
BLACK AND COMMON
RAZORBILLS, SHAGS
PUFFINS PEEKING FROM CREVICES
BAD BOY SKUAS ON PATROL ABOVE
THE LONE PEREGRINE TOPPING CLIFFS
POISED TO POUNCE —
LITTLE WINGS, TOO
IN TUFS OF TREES
GREENFINCHES, ROBINS
SONG THRUSHES, WRENS —
ON LOCHS AND LOCHINS
WEE DABCHICKS, SHOVELERS
REDSHANK, DIVERS, WIDGEON
AND DUNLIN —
OVER FIRTH AND FLOW
ARCTIC AND LITTLE TERNS
SWOOP AND PLUMMET
WHILE SHORT-EARED OWLS AND HEN HARRIERS
GLIDE THE GORSE —
TINY FLOWERS FLOURISH IN SALT STUNG AIR
ENCIRCLING THE BEACHES
AS A BASKING SHARK SWIMS LOOPS IN THE SEA
SIFTING PLANKTON NEAR THE SHORE
... THE SUN GLOWS BRILLIANTLY AND FADES
IGNITING A GREEN FLASH GONE IN AN INSTANT
THE WILD BLOWS BRACE THE BEJWELED ISLANDS
FLUNG OUT TO SEA
CYPHERS OF EARTH'S TREASURES
SPINNING THROUGH SPACE TIME.

JOAN GAIL HOWLETT



Legende

- Höhengliederung
- Hauptstraßen (nur The Mainland)
- high cliffs
- Fels- und Sandstrände
- Pelamis ♦ Hauptattraktionen
- Städte und ländl. Zentren

Nature in Focus: Virginia Creeper Sphinx



This past July ICNC Board member Ray Erickson led a wonderful program on moths. One of the many interesting sphingid moths in the North Country is the Virginia Creeper Sphinx, *Darapsa myron*, which has a range that covers most of Eastern North America. The sphingids is a Lepidopteran family that includes the sphinx moths, the hawk moths, and the hornworm moths. In general, moth species seem to be in decline and the sphingid moths seem especially hard hit over the past few decades.



As the common name suggests, *D. myron* mostly uses Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) as the host plant for laying eggs and feeding larvae, although various species of Grape (*Vitis*), and Peppervine (*Ampelopsis*) can also be used as hosts. Eggs are often laid in pairs or in threes. The caterpillars can grow up to three inches and are often bright greens and blues, but the colors mute and brown as the caterpillar gets ready to pupate.



The cocoon is a silk and leaf structure often hidden in leaf litter. The adult may emerge in just a few days or overwinter. Adults typically have a wingspan of 2.0 – 2.5 inches. The moths can be identified by the dark-brown to pale yellowish gray forewing, often with a greenish-grey tint. The hindwing can vary from dark yellows to oranges.



Lotts, Kelly and Thomas Naberhaus, coordinators. 2017. Butterflies and Moths of North America. <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/> (Version October 20, 2018).

Wagner, D.L. 2012. Moth Decline in the Northeastern United States. News of the Lepidopterists' Society 54(2):52-56

Wikipedia contributors. *Darapsa myron* [Internet]. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia; Available from: https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Darapsa_myron&oldid=871742557.

Wright, A.B. 1993 Peterson First Guide to Caterpillars of North America. Boston & New York. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Photos by Ray Erickson

Think about visiting us!

Indian Creek Nature Center was spawned as an outreach and educational center. We exemplify this through our programs, Conservation Field Days, and special programs for schools, such as Mrs. Brown's 3rd grade class from Colton, as pictured below. Please contact the ICNC Board President if you want more information about bringing your class to Indian Creek!

Photos by Eileen Wheeler



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

If you are a LIFE member or 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"/>		
ICNC Life Member (nontransferable)	\$200 <input type="checkbox"/>		

Please consider an additional donation! \$ _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____

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

Please help us conserve resources!

Please send me **only** an email newsletter Email _____
 Please send me **both** email and printed newsletter

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.

Volunteer Profile – Anne M. Johnson

Anne M. Johnson started botanizing when she was in 9th grade and has never stopped. It is her passion and she has excelled in the subject.



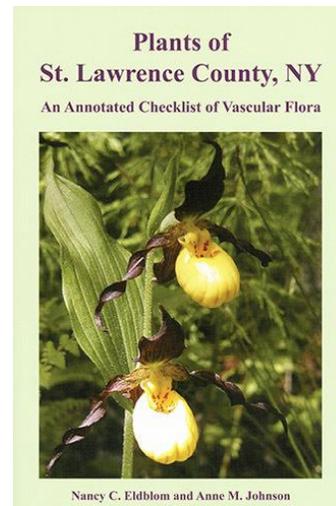
She moved to St. Lawrence County in the early 1980s. She taught school at Brasher for a few years, and then decided to return to her alma mater, SUNY ESF, to complete her master's degree in Botany. She planned to return to teaching but instead was offered a position as a research associate in plant ecology at Ft. Drum where she remained for many years.

With her close friend, Nancy Eldblom, a fellow botanist and librarian at SUNY Potsdam, Anne spent over 30 years exploring and identifying and recording the flora of the north country, with a concentration in St. Lawrence County, particularly at Indian Creek Nature Center. They would meet once a week at Indian Creek Nature Center where they meticulously identified numerous species of plants. Anne noted that ICNC was a perfect place to study native plants and she still enjoys searching the trails for some of her favorites. As a result of years of research Anne and Nancy co-authored, "Plants of St. Lawrence County, NY: An Annotated Checklist of Vascular Flora" in 2010. This is a checklist that

identifies more than 1,300 plants found in St. Lawrence County and is a valuable addition to one's library and has been called a botanical masterpiece. ICNC is one of the best locations to see many of the species featured in the guide.

Anne and Nancy were members of the New York Flora Association and contributed their data to the New York Natural Heritage Program and various herbaria over the years. They also put out a St. Lawrence County Native Plant newsletter for a number of years. In 2013, the New York Flora Association awarded Anne the New York Plant Conservation Award, in recognition of her contribution to preserving native plants in the state.

Anne's friend, Alison Charles, invited her to join the ICNC board about 18 years ago. Since then she has served as membership chair, led countless wildflower walks, helped on work days and Conservation Field Days and has been organizing field trips and doing publicity at ICNC for several years.



Indian Creek Nature Center is fortunate to have Anne as a member. Her knowledge of the plant life at ICNC, which she gladly shares with others, and her involvement with its' programs and organization have greatly contributed to the success that ICNC enjoys with the visiting public. Thank you, Anne!

INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER
PO BOX 286
CANTON, NY 13617

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

