

# River Talk

Newsletter of the Carantouan Greenway



Spring 2022

## Birding at Wildwood

Photographer Liz Ricci captures migrants and residents



The Tree Swallow is a small songbird, about 5" to 6" long, that can be found flying above fields and wetlands. So named for their habit of building nests in trees. Unlike a barn swallow, its tail is not deeply forked. Its breast is white rather than the peach color of the barn swallow. Although negatively affected by human activity, it is considered a species of least concern.

*"I grew up in Waverly and the Wildwood Preserve became a favorite spot of mine to explore when I'm home visiting my parents. The varying habitats for birds made it a great place to work on my nature photography and every season is different, so it's fun to see what new things I'll find each time I'm there."*

- Liz Ricci



The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is one of the smallest and most active insectivorous harvesters moving quickly from branch to branch as it searches for food. The song of this migrant in the Twin Tiers is loud, long, and melodious. It is easily recognized by its activity, its song, its white eye ring, wing bars, and a red spot at the top of its head. In New York it nests in the spruce-fir and tamarack habitat of the Adirondacks.



The Swamp Sparrow is a common widely distributed breeding bird in New York State wetlands. At Wildwood you can hear its continuous trill among the cattails and the phragmites. Its body coloring is a rich gray with a little white under its "chin". They have a rusty crown and rusty wings and tail. They may have two clutches of eggs (one to five) laid May through July. The sparrows are agile moving through dense vegetation.

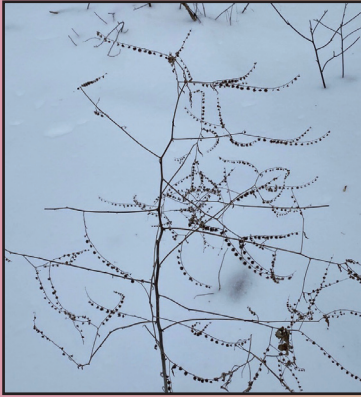
All photos © Liz Ricci



The Northern Cardinal is certainly not an uncommon sight. The lovely, brilliant red plumage always commands the eye. They are especially noticeable as they persevere against Winter's snowy backdrop. Their thick bill is evidence that their primary food source is seeds, but will supplement their diet with insects. Their nests are constructed in shrubs, vines, or the fork of a tree.



## Signs of a Frosty Spring



Beggar's lice, *Hackelia virginiana*, is a biennial whose five-parted tiny blueish flowers develop into racemes of stick-tight fruits.



A snow-ringed goldfinch nest resting in paper birch branches with a background of phragmites and white pine.

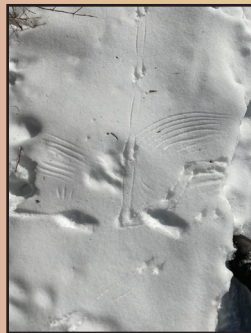
Wild carrot, aka Queen Anne's Lace is a common biennial and ancestor of our commercial carrot. Its skinny white roots smell and taste like carrot hence one of its



common names. Its second common name, Queen Anne's Lace, refers to its leaves, which are heavily dissected and look like ferny lace. It is shown here in its winter fruiting conditions - clearly exhibiting its compound umbel floristic form.



Heavy healed track of raccoon with a few white pine needles.



The double-footed track of a probable meadow mouse that was scooped up by a probable sharp shinned hawk leaving its feather sign behind.



A squirrel hole dug out in search of a buried acorn exposing the woodland sedge.



This winter's extended cold temperatures led to the hiking path icing up.



## Joining the Community

On March 5th the Carantouan Greenway participated in Satterlee Creek Environmental Center's 22nd annual Open Forest celebration. Located in Litchfield, just east of Sayre, the event is a way to help people beat the winter blues and get outside. Vice president Marty Borko set up a display highlighting the trails available to the public, the Greenway's community involvement, and educational offerings brought to the public. The event included many fun and informative events like a sled dog team, archery competitions, Chinese auction, quilt raffle, craft vendors, wagon rides, and projects for kids to do.



# Earth Day Hike



April 23rd brought visitors to the Wildwood Preserve to enjoy a guided Earth Day hike, celebrating the vast diversity of living things present in our locale on Planet Earth. Naturalist Marty Borko pointed out many fascinating facts, starting out in the parking lot. The preserve is home to five species of birch including white, gray, yellow, black, and river birch. Red-wing blackbirds flitted about the crowd, the black and red males much showier than the rather plain females. Turkey vultures circled overhead, identifiable by the back of the wings being lighter in color than the front along with their red heads.

Along the marshy Otter Slide Trail was the constant trill of the swamp sparrow in the wetlands. In the distant hedgerow Marty pointed out red maples. This tree is an example of a polygamous plant. It may be female, it may be male, could be both, or could change from year to year.



*Young and old alike appreciated the warm weather as an opportunity to get outside. Here a young scientist has a close-up look at the vacated goldfinch nest.*



## Hooker Grant funds new mower, trailer, and trimmer

Recently the Greenway was awarded a grant from the Floyd Hooker Foundation, which was used to purchase a lawn tractor, trailer, and hedge trimmer. The grant will not only allow the Greenway to maintain its existing trails but to open up a new section of trail called the Hooker/Geiger Trail to honor both the donor agency as well as the Greenway's birdhouse building benefactor and deceased supporter, Mr. Ralph Geiger.

## Finding the Way



Several new markers have been added along the trails at Carantouan Greenway's Wildwood Reserve in an effort to assist hikers navigating the trails. An updated, downloadable trail map is now available on our website. A special thanks to Jesse Holdren for his fine woodworking skills. Pictured are Greenway board member Sue Williams and John Palmer, president, completing the installation.



## Upcoming Event

### Fishing Derby for Kids

Sat., June 25 from 8 to noon the Greenway will be hosting a fishing derby for kids ages 5-11. Prizes will be awarded. So pack up the kids and poles and come on out to the Wildwood Nature Preserve on Shepard Road.

## Friends of the Carantouan Greenway

**Yes! Count me in! I believe in protecting farm and forestland, wildlife habitat and watersheds in the Penn-York Valley. I want to become a member of Carantouan Greenway!**

- Mighty Oak ..... \$500/year       Trailblazer ..... \$25/year  
 Golden Eagle..... \$75/year       Other ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stargazer ..... \$50/year       **Renewing member**     **New member**
- I would like to receive the newsletter via email. Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 I prefer to receive the newsletter in the mail.  
 I prefer not to receive the newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts to Carantouan Greenway are fully tax deductible! (Tax ID Number 23-2750872)

Please send all contributions to Carantouan Greenway, P.O. Box 441, Sayre, PA 18840-0441  
or P.O. Box 827, Waverly, NY 14892-0827 or on-line at [carantouangreenway.org/joinonline](http://carantouangreenway.org/joinonline)



### Carantouan Greenway

P.O. Box 441

Sayre, PA 18840-0441

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED