

## ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE 2015

### \*\* OUR LEADERS \*\*

**Alexander-Thomson, Kim** – Snyder, NY – B.A. Environmental Studies, SUNY-Buffalo, member of the Niagara Frontier Botanical Society, has taught at Pilgrimage over 20 years

**Bacher, Rick** – Buffalo, NY – Local wildlife photographer, birder and raptor banding understudy.

**Baird, Tim** - Salamanca, NY - retired science teacher with degrees in biology & education; bird knowledge through formal education and life experience. Nature study a life-long pursuit, also interested in nature photography.

**Baker, Mark** – Olean, NY – Runs Eagle Dream Rehabilitation Center.

**Burroughs, Andrew** - Waterport, NY – A senior at Albion HS, he has attended the ANP since age 2 & helped with the “salamander walk” for the past 5 yrs.

**Burroughs, Susan** - Waterport, NY - Elementary school teacher for 20 years (16 years of science with 5th graders); 8-year attendee at ANP, tutored by the Lights about salamanders

**Candeias, Matt** - Matt studied environmental biology at the University at Buffalo. He is one of the co-leaders of the Western New York Carnivorous Plants Club. An avid hiker and naturalist, Matt maintains a blog called In Defense of Plants.

**Carra, Mark** – North Java, NY – Head naturalist at Beaver Meadow. Mark does FasciNature™ which offers a wide variety of live animal events, while introducing visitors to an intriguing world of exotic wildlife and conservation.

**Corrigan, Teresa and Peter** - Buffalo, NY - Teresa & Peter are avid walkers and wildlife watchers. They are members of Buffalo Audubon, Buffalo Ornithological Society and Adirondack Mountain Club. Teresa is an elementary school teacher and a volunteer at Reinstein Woods. Both volunteer at Tiff Nature Preserve.

**Criest, Katie** – Erie PA – Registered Yoga teacher, lifelong nature lover and avid hiker, biker, camper & kayaker

**Crombe, Frank** - Scottsville, NY - Frank’s extensive knowledge of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, etc., comes from his hobby interest working outdoors and gardening, growing native plants, membership in various conservation organizations

**Daniel, Steven** - A lifelong naturalist, Steven teaches natural history at Monroe Community College, and has led nature outings for decades. He is a founder and popular trip leader for Nature Discoveries, a company that runs nature tours worldwide. His expertise spans all aspects of nature - plants, birds, butterflies and moths, mushrooms, aquatic organisms.

**Duckett, Christopher** - Jamestown, NY - Has been catching reptiles since age 3; works in a pet store and owns Amtilia Outreach which is a group dedicated to educating the public about our planet's wildlife as well as conserving their natural habitat! He works with Jamestown Audubon and has put on numerous presentations for local events and school programs

## ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE 2015

### \*\* OUR LEADERS \*\*

**Dustin, Laura** – A background of HS and College Physics, HS Chem and College Environmental Studies. A returning leader whose first leader walk was in 1976 she did general nature hikes, wildflowers, ferns, mosses and ferns.

**Erck, Iesa** –Lockport, NY - interested on origami for over 20 years and has taught it many times through the 4-H

**Gall, Wayne** - Lancaster, NY - MS Entomology, Univ. Wisconsin-Madison; Ph.D. Zoology, University of Toronto; Administrator, Tifft Nature Preserve, & Curator of Entomology Buffalo Museum of Science, 1983-2001; Regional Entomologist, NYS Dept of Health, Buffalo, 2001-present. 2009 is his 28th year as leader at Pilgrimage

**Gardner, Frank** - Bedford, MA - Amateur birder for 35 years, Christmas Bird Count coordinator; breeding bird atlas projects; field trip leader at ANP for 28 years.

**Jager, Nancy** – Dunkirk, NY - Nature enthusiast, enjoys nature photography. Five-year participant of the ANP. Taken Jamestown Community College courses on plants and insect sketching with Mark Baldwin. M.S. Education State University of New York at Fredonia. NYS Certified teacher K-12. Traveled and lived in South America. Bilingual: English/Spanish.

**Jager, Tiffany** – Dunkirk, NY - Participant of Allegany Nature Pilgrimage since the age of 10. Very knowledgeable in identifying local plants by their characteristics. Knows many edible and toxic plants. 4-H member for 7 years, having given presentations on plants at the Chautauqua County Fair, and at the area and district levels. Currently a junior at Dunkirk High School. Planning to major in Biochemistry.

**Johnson, Sara** – Buffalo, NY - Sara has a degree in Biology from Niagara University and has worked as an Environmental Educator at Tifft Nature Preserve and the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. She is an avid hiker, birder, and naturalist and makes and terrariums and runs educational workshops through her business Sylvania.

**Kerr, Tom** – Tonawanda, NY - Graduate of SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, Former NYC Urban Park Ranger, and currently one of the Naturalists at Beaver Meadow and the Buffalo Audubon Society.

**LeBlanc, Tom** - Salamanca, NY - naturalist, Allegany State Park; 18 years of experience in Environmental Education and as a Field Biologist; Tom spent 4 years studying bird communities in the Tornado Blowdown; works as a naturalist for Allegany State Park and runs a nature blog. Tom does this walk about every 5 years since 1997

**Light, Garner** - Gasport, NY - Buffalo Audubon member; Program Coordinator Iroquois Observations Nature Programs at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; compiler for Wilson-Lake Plains Christmas Bird Count

**Light, Judy** - Gasport, NY - art teacher in Medina, NY; Pilgrimage attendee for over 20 years; salamander catcher since age 8, reading about and studying salamanders for last 3 years; 4-H leader

# ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE 2015

## \*\* OUR LEADERS \*\*

**Light, Mitchell** - Gasport, NY – A sophomore at Royalton Hartland HS, he has attended the ANP since age 2 & helped with the “salamander walk” for the past 7 yrs.

**Makeyenko, Lauren** - Buffalo, NY - Experience Manager at Tifft Nature Preserve in the City of Buffalo. Prior to that she served as an environmental educator at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, Tifft Nature Preserve, Erie County Department of Environment & Planning and the Center for Great Lakes Environmental Education. She also co-instructs the undergraduate course Great Lakes Ecology at the University of Buffalo.

**Malicki, Andy** – Red House, NY - Lifelong affiliation with Allegany State Park and current Park Employee.

**Martin, Jeremy** - Lockport, NY - Jeremy spent his summers exploring the farm ponds around his house, and he was especially fascinated with the dragonflies. He is an amateur entomologist concentrating on dragonflies as a volunteer for the NY Dragonfly survey for the last five years.

**Miller, Jennifer** – Olean, NY - A life-long artist, Jennifer has been drawing critters, both real and imagined, since she was first handed crayons. More recently, for the last ten years, she has been following a full time professional career as a wildlife and fantasy artist. She is self-taught; learning under the vast umbrella of the natural world. While passionate about painting birds, conservation is also close to her heart, so it was with great honor that her painting of Ruddy Ducks was selected for the prestigious 2015-2016 Federal Duck Stamp. When not creating artwork, Jennifer enjoys studying and exploring natural things as well as the wild areas of Western New York.

**Morien, Celeste** – has taught Elementary school for 30 years and has done composting with her students using the school cafeteria garbage.

**Myers, Lon** - West Chester, PA - has degrees in Engineering, Accounting and Marketing; he is very qualified since he stays at Holiday Inn Express and hangs around bars. He also watches a lot of TV and listens to rock & roll. He has 40+ years at Pilgrimage; first to do Beginning Birds; ANP leader for 25 years, past chairman of ANP.

**Nutting, Mary Lyn** - Delevan, NY – A long time leader at the Pilgrimage.

**Ordiway, Linda** – Bradford PA - Dr. Ordiway is Mid-Atlantic/Appalachian Regional Biologist with the Ruffed Grouse Society. She has also worked as a wildlife biologist for the US Forest Service and has taught environmental and biological sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, Bradford PA.

**Podet, Dr. Allen** - Williamsville, NY - Ph.D. & DHL & DD; learned about ferns through classes, clinics & experience. Has been leading field trips at Pilgrimage for 20+ years

**Podet, Valerie Jill** - Williamsville, NY - Holds a Master's degree in zoology and is almost (all but dissertation) a geologist. Has been leading field trips at Pilgrimage for 20+ years.

**Rosenburg, Chuck** - Elma, NY – For the first 15 years of his professional career, Chuck worked as a private environmental consultant completing a broad variety of ecological studies. Since 2006, he has served as a wetlands ecologist with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. His primary responsibilities include mapping and delineation of state-regulated wetlands, reviewing wetland permit applications, and enforcement of wetland violations. He also leads the NYS DEC’s winter raptor study in Region 9.

## **ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE 2015**

### **\*\* OUR LEADERS \*\***

**Rosenburg, Kristen** - Elma, NY – M.S. -SUNY-ESF, field research on beavers, NYSDEC Environmental Educator at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve for past 10 years

**Ruth, Carolyn** – Erie, PA – Master Gardener – Penn State

**Sly, John** – Long time tour leader at Beaver Meadow for school groups & tree identification hikes

**Stock, Harold** - Fairport, NY - Harold has worked in three museums in the past 12 years. Avid Fly Fisher

**Taylor, Garret** – Ellicottville, NY – Self-taught through Mushrooms of Northeastern North America, but I now have a full library and am a member of the North American Mycological Association, the Rochester Area Mycological Association, and most recently the Mycological Society of Toronto.

**Tome, Jeff** – He has been a professional naturalist since 1994 when he started working & volunteering at nature centers. He has been a naturalist for the Jamestown Audubon Society since 1996. He loves all aspects of nature and knows a ton about wildflowers and herps and a little about a lot of things.

**Wellman, Adele** - Salamanca, NY - BS Biology, minor in Horticulture, Tennessee Tech Univ; I am happiest in the woods , on skis or my bike or on foot. I have a BS in Biology and minored in Horticulture. I started working as a naturalist for Allegany State Park in 2000. During the winter I teach skiing and snowboarding at HoliMont ski area. ” Every season her students teach her something new about edibles. She enjoys sharing her knowledge with others

**Winner, Barbara** – Pittsfield, PA – A A in Biology & lifelong herbal studies. Owns “Love Your Weeds” a center for teaching healthy life and forgotten skills to help people live a more self-sufficient life.

**Winner, David** – Pittsfield, PA – A Penn State Master Gardener. Owns “Love Your Weeds” with his wife (see above)

**Wymer, Dave** – Portville, NY - Has been involved in astronomy for over 20 years; astrophotography became a way to really explore the dark skies we can still find in this part of the country. I tell people that actually doing the photography is only half of the experience; the rest is simply being outside in a dark remote quiet place.