



Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Fall 2023

Vol. 51, No. 1

President's Column

By June Summers

Dear Members,

The Board of GVAS hopes you had a good summer. We thought we would share some of the things that have happened locally to clean the environment in the Rochester area.

Did you know that **Monroe County** has developed a **Climate Action Plan (CAP) - Phase I Government Operations** that focuses on reducing GHG (Green House Gas) emissions from County-run sites, facilities, and operations, and it is an important first step in planning for a more sustainable and resilient Monroe County?

What is a Climate Action Plan?

A climate action plan is a comprehensive, strategic effort to address and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere and the related environmental and climatic impacts associated with rising GHGs (Greenhouse Gases)

What is a Government Operations Climate Action Plan?

Communities are encouraged to prepare GHG inventories for governmental operations. Phase I of the Monroe County Climate Action Plan (CAP) focuses on reducing GHG emissions from County-run sites, facilities, and operations. GHG inventories can include direct emissions (i.e. emissions that occur physically within a boundary, such as burning natural gas in a building), indirect emissions (i.e. emissions from electricity power plants based on the amount of electricity consumed within the inventory boundary),

and other indirect or "upstream" emissions that a community has no control over.

What is the difference between the County's Phase I and Phase II CAPs?

Monroe County is stepping into a leadership position and making firm commitments to a more resilient and sustainable future for our community by analyzing and understanding their current carbon footprint and developing a strategic action plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation at the County-government level.

Once this portion of the Climate Action Planning process has been completed (Phase I), the County will turn its eye to the emissions produced

community-wide. This includes those outside of the direct control of the County government (Phase II). Phase II will provide a more robust understanding of the full scale of emissions-producing activities and infrastructure in the County, such as private industry operations and land use. Both phases are integral planning efforts to develop a deep understanding of where we are, where we'd like to go, and how we intend to

foster a more sustainable future.

Why does the County need a CAP?

The goal of the Climate Action Plan for Government Operations is to examine GHG emissions from Monroe County-run sites, facilities, and operations, and develop strategies to mitigate future GHG emissions. The purpose of the Plan is to identify a strategy for Monroe County to decrease greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations to reach a certain GHG reduction target over a defined timeframe. Some of the strategies suggested are to improve sustainability, reduce

GVAS GREEN INITIATIVE:

Beginning in early 2024 GVAS will no longer be mailing paper newsletters. The newsletter will continue to be available via the GVAS website at <http://gvaudubon.org>. If you require the newsletter in paper format, please send a note stating your name and address to P.O. Box 15512, Rochester, NY 14615, or email Loretta Morrell at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting GVAS and our efforts to save volunteer time, donor money and resources.

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Programs

September program

An Inside Look: A Falconer's Journey with Rodney Stotts

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, 7:30 pm, By Zoom

Rodney Stotts, a young black man, grew up in southeast Washington, DC. He gained a love of animals when he visited his grandmother's farm and often skipped school to visit the zoo. Later in life he was sent to prison for selling drugs. When he was released, Rodney worked in the Earth Conservation Corp program. There he was exposed to how people treat the Earth, throwing trash out of their cars, dumping household goods in marshes. While there Rodney also became familiar with falconry. Rodney decided he wanted to become a falconer. This took long years of work. He shares the spirituality this gives him by going into classrooms.

There have been a number of articles about Rodney and last year he came out with his own memoir, *Bird Brother: A Falconer's Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife*. This will be a personal recorded interview with Rodney made by New York Audubon. Join us. I think you will learn a lot. Let June know by Sept. 24 if you wish to join us, summers@frontiernet.net.

October program

Migration Trends

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023, 7:30 pm, By Zoom

Have you thought about when each species of hawk migrates? Do Cooper's Hawks migrate before Red-Tail Hawks? Do some owls migrate early in the spring? Daena Ford, co-chair of Braddock Bay Raptor Research (BBRR), will be our speaker. BBRR has decades of data on when hawks, owls and other birds of prey move through the Rochester area. Let June know by Oct. 22 if you wish to join us, summers@frontiernet.net.

November program

"The Chickadee's Guide to Gardening," Why Native Plants Matter to Pollinators and Songbirds

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, 7:30 pm, By Zoom

GVAS is borrowing this video from the North Field Bird Club of Massachusetts. Desire'e L. Narango, PhD, 2020 David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellow at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will be our speaker. She was a student of Doug Tallamy. Desire'e looked at chickadees to learn about the ecology of residential landscapes and how humans have changed them to offer less biodiversity to support and attract native insects and birds.

Let June know by Nov. 12 if you wish to join us, summers@frontiernet.net.

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greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and strengthen resiliency of Monroe County facilities.

What is the process for the CAP?

- Develop GHG Inventory and Baseline
- Identify GHG Reduction Goals
- Review Best Management Practices and Case Studies
- Identify and Analyze Strategies and Actions (Scenario Planning)
- Prioritize Strategies and Actions

Existing Climate Conditions

Monroe County, similar to other areas of New York State, is seeing effects such as increased precipitation, more frequent and intense storm events, and increased shoreline erosion. The average temperature in Rochester, NY has increased by 0.32° F between 1901 – 2012, and Rochester has experienced 2.32 fewer days below 32° F per decade.

Baseline GHG Inventory

Due to the limited availability of GHG-related historical data for the County and the economically disruptive COVID-19 pandemic, it was determined that 2019 is the most appropriate year for Monroe County's baseline inventory of carbon dioxide.

The County's emissions were calculated based on data provided by the County by sector, resulting in a total current annual emissions of 58% Buildings and Facilities, 20% Pure Waters Infrastructure, 13% Solid Waste and Material Management, 7% Transportation Fleet, 2% Expressway Lights and Signals; this is the baseline by sector. The total current annual emission is 45,632 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. These figures are the baseline figures that will be used to measure carbon dioxide reduction in the future against.

Total current annual emissions

Based on analysis, the following targets were set for each sector, resulting in an overall target for GHG emission reductions of 80% below 2019 levels by 2050 from 45,632 metric tons to 7,993 metric tons of carbon dioxide. Once Phase I is finished, reducing the County's emissions by 80% by 2050, they will move on to Phase II. Phase II will provide a more robust understanding of the full scale of emissions-producing activities and infrastructure in the County, such as private industry operations and land use.

All of the information in this article was taken from the County's Monroe County, NY Climate Action Plan, <https://www.monroecounty.gov/files/DES/climate-action/report/CAP-Monroe-County-Executive%20Summary.pdf?v2>. Go to the web site for more information and to take the survey to give them information.

Field Trips

Seneca Park Trout Pond Trail (0.64 mile)

Orange Trail (0.32 miles), Wednesday, September 13, 10:00am

This walk we will focus on looking for the last of the summer migrants before they head south while enjoying the beautiful views of one of Monroe County's parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. We will be strolling on tarmac around the pond located behind and below the Seneca Park Zoo, checking to see what birds we might be able to find. For those wanting a longer walk we will next explore the orange trail (natural moderately groomed) which runs between Saint Paul Blvd and the Park boundary. Binoculars, sunscreen, and bug spray may help with your enjoyment of the walk. For trail details, check out the [trail assessment for Trout Pond](#) and [Trail Assessment for Orange Trail](#) on Birdability. For questions, to discuss any accessibility accommodations that you might need, or to register, email Loretta at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Register no later than Monday, September 11.

Full assessment links: https://audubon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b9d1bd41b4f1429f867f330885e2250e&query=survey123_7b5a83ebc9044268a03b84ff9fe12c71_stakeholder_2837%2Clocation_name,Seneca%20Park%20Trout%20Lake%20Path Trout Pond and https://audubon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b9d1bd41b4f1429f867f330885e2250e&query=survey123_7b5a83ebc9044268a03b84ff9fe12c71_stakeholder_2837%2Clocation_name,Seneca%20Park%20Orange%20Trail for orange trail.

Genesee Riverway Trail, River Street Marina/Genesee Riverway Trail Boardwalk (2.8 miles), Wednesday, October 11, 10:00am

Hoping to catch the beauty of the river gorge in autumn, we will be enjoying the Charlotte end of the trail between River Street Marina and Turning Point Park. Meet at the River Street Marina at 110 Petten Street. The highlight of this portion of the Genesee Riverway Trail is the boardwalk that divides the river channel from marshes along the shoreline. This multipurpose trail is stroller and wheelchair friendly. The grade changes are few and the slopes are gradual. The trail surface is a combination of tarmac (some heaving caused by temperature changes) and boardwalk. Anyone interested in a longer walk or perhaps lunch can continue north at the end of our

walk. The trail eventually terminates at the Charlotte pier with a slight detour to get around the Port of Rochester Marina entrance. Binoculars, sunscreen, and bug spray may enhance your enjoyment. For trail details, check out the [trail assessment](#) on Birdability. For questions, to discuss any accessibility accommodations that you might need, or to register, email Loretta at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com. Register no later than Monday, October 9.

Full assessment Link: https://audubon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b9d1bd41b4f1429f867f330885e2250e&query=survey123_7b5a83ebc9044268a03b84ff9fe12c71_stakeholder_2837%2Clocation_name,Genesee%20Riverway%20Trail%20and%20Boardwalk%20from%20Petten%20Street%20Parking

Save the date Saturday, October 14 Fall Event Birding and Eclipse GVAS and Rochester Accessible Adventures at Mendon Ponds Park. Updated information TBD and will be posted on the website.

Chickadee Walk Mendon Ponds Park, Saturday, November 4, 2023, 10:00 am

Get your nature therapy by taking a walk in the woods; no more than 2 hours in Mendon Ponds Park. Walk a natural but generally hard surfaced trail and feed the chickadees, tufted titmice & nuthatches while enjoying nature. Fun for the whole family!! All are welcome to participate in this outdoor adventure. If sitting and enjoying nature is more your thing we can share the best spot. We will meet Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 10:00 am in the Nature Center Parking lot on Pond Rd off of Clover St (the southernmost of the 3 park entrances off Clover) Dress for the weather (wear boots, warm clothes, etc.) Seed will be provided – donation optional. Registration is required by Wed Nov 1. For trail details, check out the [trail assessment](#) on Birdability. For questions, to discuss any accessibility accommodations that you might need, or to register, email Joni at bajacool416@gmail.com.

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Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Meadowlark

P.O. Box 15512, Rochester, NY 14615-0512

GVAS: A chapter of the National Audubon Society

The vision of Genesee Valley Audubon Society (GVAS) is to promote environmental conservation. Our mission is to educate and advocate for protection of the environment, focusing on birds, wildlife and habitat.

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Follow Genesee Valley Audubon Society on Facebook for program and field trip reminders and much more. Also see gvaudubon.org.

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The Meadowlark is published the first week of March, June, September, and December. Articles for the Meadowlark should be submitted four weeks prior to the date of publication. Send articles to Joanne Mitchell, 169 Black Walnut Dr., Rochester, NY 14615, or at jwmitchell@rochester.rr.com.

Meadowlark staff: *Editor & Layout*, Joanne Mitchell; *Business Editor*, vacant; *Printing*, Minuteman Press; *Distribution*, vacant.

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Chickadee Walk Mendon Ponds Park Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 10:00 am-11:00am

Come on out and meet some of our year resident birds up close and personal. Walk a natural but generally hard surfaced trail and feed the chickadees, tufted titmice & nuthatches while enjoying nature. Fun for the whole family!! All are welcome to participate in this outdoor adventure. If sitting and enjoying nature is more your thing we can share the best spot for you to do just that. We will meet in the Nature Center Parking lot on 27 Pond Rd off of Clover St, NY-65 (the southernmost of the 3 park entrances off Clover). Dress for the weather (wear boots, warm clothes, etc.). Seed will be provided – donation optional. For trail details, check out the [trail assessment](#) on Birdability. For questions, to discuss any accessibility accommodations that you might need, or to register, email Loretta at loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com Register by Monday, December 11.