

Volunteer Descriptions

Below are descriptions of the various volunteer opportunities at Genesee Valley Audubon. We are an organization that relies on the dedication, enthusiasm and skills our volunteers bring. Without your help, we would not have the success we enjoy. We are honored that you are interest in giving of your valuable time to us. *We will provide orientation and entry level training for these various positions as needed.*

Webmaster

Do you love creating an online presence? Have experience setting up your own webpage? A volunteer in this position would assist in updating and management of our current website. This would include updating and publishing new content, fixing broken links and images, and perform regular maintenance and troubleshooting to ensure the website runs smoothly. Interact with our website provider, Go Daddy, as needed for technical support. Experience and skills in maintaining a website, webpage using WordPress would be helpful along with problem-solving and organizational skills. *Training would be provided as needed.* Estimated amount of time per month is 2-4 hrs. If interested, contact GVAS for more information

Social Media Volunteers

Are you an avid social media poster? Do you enjoy sharing information online? Help us grow our Social Media Presence! These volunteers would be one of our point persons in creating and publishing events, news, photos, videos and/or flyers to our social media posts. We are on Facebook and would like to expand to Instagram. Experience in having and posting on your own social media platforms would be useful. Estimated amount of time per month is 2 hrs. If interested, contact GVAS for more information

Lead or assist with Bird Walks Volunteer

Share your love of the outdoors and birding experience! Recommend your favorite birding locations and time of the year with us. A volunteer in this position would be one of our leaders and/or assistants with bird walks. Leader picks dates and location of their bird walks while as an assistant, they co-plan or assist with a bird walk. We strive to make our bird walks accessible for all. *Training will be given to assist a person in this role.* Knowledge about bird identification both visually and by sound would be useful. How to use various birding apps such as Merlin and eBirds helpful. Estimated time per month: about 5 hours. This time can vary depending upon how many bird walks a person leads or participants in. If interested, contact GVAS for more information.

Newsletter Editor

Do you create your own newsletter to share with friends? Have used newsletter templates? This volunteer position may be of interest to you. A volunteer in this position would compile and lay out our quarterly newsletter. Articles and events would be forwarded to this person to put into our newsletter template. Newsletter is sent to board members for review and edits. The Newsletter Editor would send the finalized version to webmaster for posting on to GVAS website and for mass emailing to members. Experience in use of a computer and publishing is needed. Previous newsletter and newsletter template experience would be useful but not necessary. Suggestions for improvement of newsletter format and other template styles welcomed. Time involved is 3-4hrs per quarter. Newsletter is published every three months. If interested, contact GVAS for more information.

Staff GVAS Table at local events Volunteer

Do you like meeting and interacting with new people? Have the gift of gab? This volunteer position may be of interest to you. A volunteer in this position would work with another member to represent GVAS at local events such as Festival of Inclusion at Nazareth, GLT Bridging Communities at Driving Park Bridge and Birds of Prey weekend. This is our opportunity to share with the public the mission of Audubon as a conservation group with a focus on birding. What is good for birds and their habitats is good for people who live there too. We provide educational information on how to begin birding, basic bird identification and the use of binoculars. In addition, share information on some GVAS conservation projects such as

Lights Out and Bird Collision. It is a great opportunity to interact with people. *Training will be provided.* Time varies by month as it is depended upon how many events a person attends. Commitment is typically 2hrs per event.

Chimney Swift Nesting Observer

Would you like to participate in Citizen Science programs? Chimney Swifts numbers are in decline and their habitat is shrinking. Volunteers will learn to identify chimney swifts and enter the number of birds observed in a stack or chimney during breeding season into eBird. If you don't know what a chimney swift looks like we will teach you. We will also train you in the use of eBird. Time involved 4 hrs. to be trained then as much time as you want to put in searching for chimneys with swifts living in them during the months of June and July.

Speaker Program Identifier

Do enjoy attending lectures and informational presentations? Share your appreciation of the presenter with us. A person in this position would identify and recommend a speaker to the Program Chair for consideration at a future monthly speaker meeting. Name, summary of why you recommend this person and their contact information is all that is needed. No experience needed but exposure to a variety of potential topics/lectures would be useful. Time spent is minor.

Braddock Bay Barrier Island Weed Pull volunteer.

If you enjoy working outside, birding and participating in maintaining a bird habitat, this is an experience for you! We partner up with one of the local campus chapters to pull weed trees on the barrier island at the mouth of Braddock Bay. This is a major stopover location for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. We do this at least once a year in September to keep the beach area open for birds to rest and eat while on their migration journey. We are also hopeful that the Plovers in the area would stay here to nest. No special skills needed except for the love of nature. All tools are supplied plus snacks and a lunch. Time involved is a Saturday morning in September, date to be announced in August.