



Meadowlark

The Newsletter of Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Summer 2026

Vol. 53, No. 3



THE EXTRAORDINARY CATERPILLAR



Photo by Sam Jaffe

A FILM BY JEFF MCKAY

A peek into the dazzling world of nature's
tiniest and mightiest superheroes!

Featuring Doug Tallamy, Sam Jaffe and Dana Buchbinder

Proceeds to benefit Saunders Finger Lakes Museum

DATE: Monday, June 29

TIME: 6 PM (Museum opens 5 PM)

LOCATION: Dryden Theatre, George Eastman Museum

PRESENTED BY: B-Friendly Farm & Gardens
A Broccolo Company

Tickets \$25 Online pre-purchase only

<https://broccololawnandlandscape.com/caterpillar-movie/>



EDGELAND FILMS INC.



media
education
group



MANITOBA | MUSIQUE
FILM & TV | FILM
MUSIC | MANITOBA

Manitoba



Canada

**Genesee Valley Audubon Society Members and Friends are invited to:
B-Friendly Farm and Gardens (A Broccolo Company) Presents:**

The Extraordinary Caterpillar: a Homegrown National Park Film

Followed by a panel discussion with Dana Buchbinder of EcoSpark, Toronto

Monday, June 29, 6:00PM

Dryden Theatre, George Eastman Museum

“**The Extraordinary Caterpillar** follows scientists and community activists with a peek into the dazzling world of nature’s tiniest superheroes.” The film by Jeff McKay features Dr. Doug Tallamy, founder of the Homegrown National Park, Sam Jaffee, and Dana Buchbinder. It shines a spotlight on the vital—but often overlooked—role caterpillars play in biodiversity, acting as a tremendous engine of life.

A panel will follow the film including **Dana Buchbinder** of **EcoSpark** in Toronto, who is featured in the film; **Kyra Stevenson**, **The Nature Based Learning** Coach for the Rochester City School District; **Kevin Farrell**, **Genesee Land Trust** Senior Director of Conservation Programs; and **Laurie Broccolo**, **Environmental Leader** in Landscape and Construction. The panel will address the acute need and variety of ways to help restore caterpillars to our backyards and community spaces with native plants.

5:00 PM George Eastman Museum and gardens will be open to ticket holders

6:00 PM Dryden Theatre Doors Open

6:15 PM Welcome by Doug Emblidge, trustee of Saunders Finger Lakes Museum

*and Screening of **The Extraordinary Caterpillar***

7:15 PM Panel with Q & A with a focus on successful community projects that can be replicated to benefit biodiversity, social justice, environment, and climate action

Extraordinary Caterpillar Tickets or <https://broccololawnandlandscape.com/caterpillar-movie/>
Individual tickets \$25 (Blocks of 10 tickets available for \$250) Tickets are pre-purchase only
This event’s proceeds will benefit Saunders Finger Lakes Museum.

The Extraordinary Caterpillar explores how caterpillars and the moths they become, as prey in the food web, are a true pillar of the web.

Especially for birds, 95% of songbird species hatchlings are fed insects exclusively until they fledge. Juicy caterpillars are particularly good protein for hatchlings. There are so many more moth species than butterflies— they are everywhere or would be if we would stop killing them. If we stop using pesticides and leaving bright lights on all night, more moths would survive the night. Bright lights in white or bluish hues attract moths to their death. They can’t leave. Try putting your lights on a timers, use motion-sensor lights, or just put in a yellow light bulb to save the lives of moths and leave more for birds to eat. Take the pledge below to help caterpillars, moths, and birds. See you at the movie.

If you miss this showing of **The Extraordinary Caterpillar** on June 29, GVAS will be showing it on Oct. 27 as our membership meeting at 7:00 pm.

Pledge to Protect Caterpillars and Moths

I, _____
pledge to help moths and caterpillars by turning off outdoor lights, use timers, or change to yellow light bulbs, and refrain from using pesticides particularly in spring, summer, and fall. These two simple things will save millions of moths in the Rochester area.

Signature _____

More I can do and reasons why:

- Billions of moths die each year fluttering around outdoor lights. They are attracted to the bright light and can’t leave to feed or mate and lay eggs.
- By turning off the lights from dusk till dawn or using yellow lights, we will release moths and other insects from these light traps.
- Plant native plants to feed native moths and insects, which then become food for native birds.

Field Trips

Saturday, June 6, Bird Sanctuary Trail Parking at 1225 Orchard Road Webster, 9:00am. Register by Thursday, June 4 at <https://mobilize.us/s/EWy7Sr>

GVAS would like to invite everyone to see and hear what birds might be spending their summer in our region. Nesting and raising of young will be in full swing. No binoculars? No problem. We have options for you to borrow adaptive equipment for the duration of this field trip. You will also want to bring along a hat, sunscreen and water. We suggest that you wear enclosed footwear that may get wet, and long sleeves and pants and socks to protect against ticks. Staying on the trail will also help. Our outings are rain or shine unless report of dangerous conditions.

Parking and Meet Up: The parking lot is on the side of 1225 Orchard Road just east of Holt Road. The Bird Sanctuary Trail is accessed off the Hojack Trail approximately 1/4 mile east of the parking lot. We will meet in the parking lot.

Amenities and Trail Conditions: There is no restroom on this trail. There is a full restroom available on the south end of the Charles E. Sexton Memorial Park accessed off 104, if needed. There is no public transportation to the park. The trail itself is natural or well-packed crushed stone, but can be soft-surfaced through woodland, along Mill Creek, and often near wetlands. There are four benches along the trail. One is at the parking lot. Two are on both sides of the pond on grass, and the fourth one is tucked into the woods off trail. While easy overall, there is one steep grade (5%). It is an out-and-back trail (2 miles).



We will go as far as time allows. The pace will be slow as we look and listen for birds and other wildlife.

We would love to hear from you if you have any specific questions about accessibility or needs we may be able to assist you with. All questions and concerns can be

directed to Cathie Rainwater,
c_m_rainwater@hotmail.com or
loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com.

Saturday and Sunday June 27 and 28, Thomas Creek Wetland, Fairport, Box Factory Parking Lot at 2 Liftbridge Lane, 9:30am -11:00am Register by Thursday, June 25 at <https://mobilize.us/s/3wEbEJ>

In celebration of the 2026 Accessible Adventure Extravaganza on the Erie Canal, we join our partners in offering you an opportunity to meet us and experience a morning of enjoying the birds of Thomas Creek Wetland. Come explore a pocket of nature within a busy village setting. We plan to have you back to the canal and the Extravaganza in plenty of time to enjoy all the activities our partners have planned for you. No binoculars? No problem. We have options for you to borrow adaptive equipment for the duration of this field trip. We also suggest you bring along a hat, sunscreen and water. All our outings are rain or shine unless report of dangerous conditions.



Parking and Meet Up: This is a busy municipal parking lot located behind the Box Factory at 2 Liftbridge Lane. We will park as close to the canal as possible. We will notify participants in advance of what vehicle to be on the lookout for, and signage will be in place. Accessible parking with van access is available. Restrooms are available inside the Box Factory during business hours or on the west side of Main Street near the lift bridge.

Amenities and Trail Conditions: Our outing will begin on the canal footpath. Our route is out and back. Trail length is less than two miles. Thomas Creek Trail is a combination of tarmac, fine crushed stone, and boardwalk. While the boardwalk is relatively flat, the railing will more than likely hinder views for wheelchair users. The boardwalk is 50 inches wide. The pace will be slow as we look and listen for birds and other wildlife. We would love to hear from you if you have any specific questions about accessibility or other needs for which you may need assistance. All questions and concerns can be directed to loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com or Linda Howell h31884@rochester.rr.com

Sunday, August 9, Hidden Sidewalk in Charlotte, 9:00am. Preregister by Friday, August 7 <https://mobilize.us/s/BVAfep>

Join GVAS in exploring one of the worst kept secrets in Rochester. The Hidden or Secret Sidewalk runs

Continued on page 4

Field Trips, continued from page 3

between several beautiful homes and the shore of Lake Ontario. If we are lucky the winds will be calm and we could enjoy butterflies taking advantage of several private pollinator gardens. Purple Martins should be a guarantee, as there has been a successful colony in more than one previously established Martin house. All of our outings are rain or shine.

Parking and Meet Up: We will meet up at the Abbott's parking lot across from the Roger Robach Community Center, 180 Beach Avenue.

Amenities and Trail Conditions: There are facilities available in the community center or off to the east side of the building. The full duration of the outing is on municipal sidewalk or tarmac. Sidewalks are uneven in places. We will be crossing Beach Avenue at the crosswalk at the beginning and end of the walk. Traffic is relatively light in the morning. Trail details are listed on the Birdability website (birdability.org) for full assessments. Hidden Sidewalk: <http://tinyurl.com/2rzuf3pt>

Hat, sunscreen and a water bottle are recommended. There is limited shade most of the distance, and none along the Hidden Sidewalk itself. No binoculars? No problem. We have options for you to borrow adaptive equipment for the duration of this field trip. Parking options are available for this walk. We would love to hear from you if you have any specific questions about accessibility or other needs for which you may need assistance. All questions and concerns can be directed to loretta.morrell.gvas@gmail.com.

Board of Directors

Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

Officers: *President*, June Summers; *Vice President*, vacant; *Secretary*, Joni Dubner; *Treasurer*, Karen Curtis.

Committee Chairpersons: *Field Trips*, vacant; *Fundraising*, vacant; *Publications*, Joanne Mitchell; *Programs*, vacant; *Publicity*, vacant; *Conservation*, June Summers; *Membership*, Loretta Morrell; *Education*, vacant; *Hospitality*, vacant; *Directors-at-Large*, Nancy Strong, Linda Howell, and Catherine Rainwater; *Webmaster*, vacant; *Web Host*, vacant.

The Meadowlark is published online the first week of March, June, September, and December. If you are interested in receiving a reminder when the new Meadowlark is released, send an email to contact@gvaudubon.org.

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



Nova and Corazon welcomed their three eyases into the world in early May. Nova has been doing most of the feeding but Corazon is eager to help and has been diligently hunting to bring food to his little family. You can follow their activities on rfalconcam.com.

TOWN OF GREECE WATER CHESTNUT HAND PULL CALENDAR 2026 • ALL EVENTS 10AM-1PM



WEDNESDAYS

SATURDAYS

24 JUNE

SALMON CREEK

Host: Finger Lakes PRISM

1 JULY

BRADDOCK BAY

Host: Finger Lakes PRISM

8 JULY

BUCK POND

Host: NYS DEC

15 JULY

BUCK POND

Host: NYS DEC

22 JULY

BRADDOCK BAY

Host: NYS DEC

29 JULY

CRANBERRY POND

Host: Genesee Land Trust

27 JUNE

LONG POND

Host: Finger Lakes PRISM

4 JULY

HOLIDAY - SKIP

11 JULY

SALMON CREEK

Host: Genesee Valley Audubon

18 JULY

SALMON CREEK

Host: Genesee Valley Audubon

25 JULY

BRADDOCK BAY

Host: Seneca Park Zoo Society

1 AUGUST

LONG POND

Host: Genesee Land Trust

Events are subject to cancellation in the case of adverse weather.

RSVP REQUIRED: Email mmorris@greeceny.gov for parking & event info.
What to bring: kayak/canoe, water shoes or chest waders, life jacket, hat, sunscreen, snacks, and lots of water.