

C H A U T A U Q U A



BIRD
TREE
&
GARDEN
CLUB



The Chautauqua Bird Tree & Garden Club
Brown Bag Lecture Series

**Tuesdays at 12:15
in Smith Wilkes Hall**



We are happy to announce the lineup for our
2023 Brown Bag Lecture Series!

The Programs are Tuesdays at 12:15pm in the [Smith Wilkes Hall Auditorium](#).

As the name suggests, you may bring a brown bag and eat your lunch in the auditorium during the program. The BTG Hospitality Committee will provide chilled lemon water.

New this year! At 12:15 sharp, there will be a Pinning Ceremony onstage for children who have completed the Champion Tree Tour Scavenger Hunt. (See article below with *many* more details about the Scavenger Hunt.)

Following the brief Pinning Ceremony (and of course, a few photos afterwards), we will introduce and welcome our Brown Bag Speaker.

As in past years, the lectures will last about 45 minutes and be followed by a 15-minute Q&A.

The BTG is continuing to grow its partnership with the Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative through collaboration on our Brown Bag Lecture Series, with joint programs this summer in Weeks 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Please note that there will be no Program on the Fourth of July.

- Jennifer Francois, BTG Life Member, Vice President and Program Chair

2023 BROWN BAG SPEAKERS



Week 1 - June 27th

Bird Identification: Tricks to Improve Speed and Accuracy
Ken Blankenship, *owner and lead guide of East West Birding Tours*

Learn more about Ken and East West Birding Tours [here](#).



Week 2 - July 4th
No Brown Bag



Week 3 - July 11th

Beyond Plants: Growing a Greener Botanical Garden
Theresa Augustin, *Norfolk Botanical Garden, VP of Education*

Read more about Norfolk Botanical Garden [here](#).





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Week 4 - July 18th

Garden and Nature Photography

Anne Day, *veteran photojournalist*

Learn more about Anne or view her work [here](#).



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Week 5 - July 25th

"Living Buildings" as Climate-Friendly Infrastructure

Hilary Falk, *President Chesapeake Bay Foundation*

and



Chris Gorri, *Brock Environmental Center Manager, Chesapeake Bay Foundation*

Learn more about the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Brock Environmental Center [here](#).



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Week 6 - August 1st

Nature's Pirates: Invasives in the Landscape

Betsy Burgeson, *Supervisor of Gardens and Landscapes, Chautauqua Institution*

Learn more about Betsy [here](#).



Week 7 - August 8th

The Birds of Our National Parks

Nick Lund, *contributor to Audubon Magazine, runner of The Birdist*

Read articles by Nick [here](#), or visit [The Birdist](#)



Week 8 - August 15th

The Language of Flowers

Mimi Gallo, *art historian and long-time supporter of Visual Arts at Chautauqua Institution*

Learn more about Mimi [here](#).



Week 9 - August 22nd

Trees of Chautauqua and How They Are Impacted by Climate Change

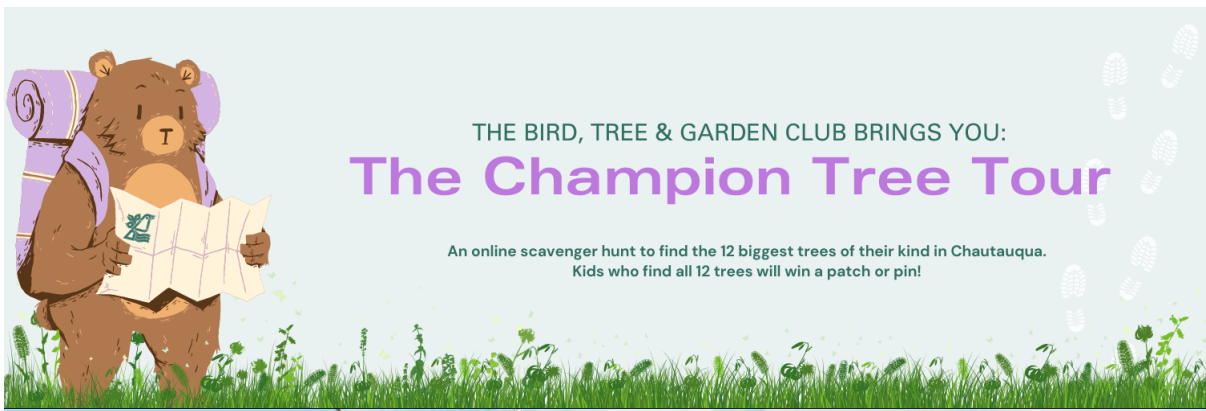
Erik Danielson, *conservationist and forest researcher with the Western New York Land Conservancy*

Learn more [here](#).



Learn More About All Our Speakers Here!





The tour is 2 miles and will take about an hour and a half

The Champion Trees

1. RED OAK AT CHILDREN'S BEACH
2. RED MAPLE NEAR TIMOTHY'S PLAYGROUND
3. CUCUMBERTREE IN MILLER PARK
4. SUGAR MAPLE ON THE ATHENAEUM CIRCLE
5. SILVER MAPLE AT THE BAT LADY'S HOUSE
6. TULIPTREE AT THE CHIPMUNK COTTAGE
7. HEMLOCK AT ON SOUTH AVENUE
8. NORWAY SPRUCE AT ALUMNI HALL
9. AMERICAN ELM ON FOSTER
10. WHITE ASH AT LENNA HALL
11. GRETCHEN'S LINDEN
12. SHAGBARK HICKORY AT THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

QUESTIONS: TEXT OR EMAIL
LESLIE.RENJILIAN@CHAUTAQUA.ORG
OR 408-583-3339



[The Champion Tree Tour Scavenger Hunt](#)

The Champion Tree Tour is an **online scavenger hunt** to find 12 really big trees in Chautauqua using [ExploreCHQ](#), the BTG's free Self-guided Nature Touring app.

We have been building this tour for a long time and last week it was finally time to test it out on some bona fide children. We were thrilled (and frankly a little surprised) that it actually worked!

The tour leads you around Chautauqua on a **2-mile trek to find 12 trees** - each the largest of its species. The map will get you close to the tree, but not all the way there - **the last 20 yards or so is a hunt** using photo and audio clues.

The tour is fun for both kids and adults, but at this point, **the prizes are for kids only**. (And, of course, the kids are much more nimble with the technology so it's more fun to hunt with a child along to help with the mapping!)

There is no cost to play - both the app and the prizes are part of the educational mission of the BTG. We hope you will encourage your children and grandchildren to play the game and learn about the trees of Chautauqua in doing so.

Prizes will be awarded at **Pinning Ceremonies held each Tuesday of the season at 12:15pm just prior to the Brown Bag Lecture**. If kids cannot attend the ceremony, we will mail the prize. Please note that there will be no Brown Bag Program (or Pinning Ceremony) on July 4 - Week Two.

- Leslie Renjilian, someone way too old to be trying to create online games

Special Notes of Thanks

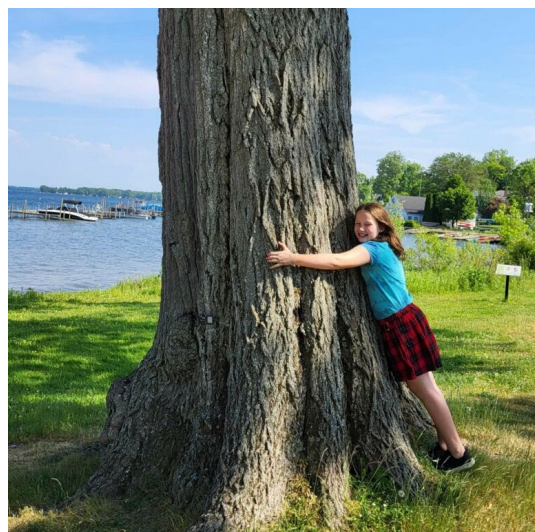
While there are many people who helped to create this fun scavenger hunt for the kids, I would especially like to thank Ro LoBianco. Ro is a biologist who works with Betsy and the Garden Crew during the summers. He helped out the BTG with the app over the winter - especially with the mapping, which was a bugaboo. Ro also came up with the quiz questions and adorable graphics for the scavenger hunt. And I'll just go ahead and pre-thank him for the troubleshooting help that lies ahead (wink-wink). If you see Ro around grounds this summer, please thank him as well!

Galen May is currently working with the BTG as our intern and is doing wonderful work in graphic design. She created the bear mascot as well as all of our Event Cards. Look for much more beauty to come from Galen.

And you probably recognize the hand of artist Jane Nelson in the map above. Jane has drawn a new Garden Map for the BTG which will be on display at Smith Wilkes Hall this summer. Jane's artwork has been the face of the BTG for almost 30 years now. The partnership began when Anne Prezio commissioned a poster for the 1994 House Tour. Jane produced a hand-lettered and illustrated border design that we still use today (and hopefully always will!). Many of you may have versions of her garden maps pinned up in your homes (I do!). Perhaps you also have the 125th Anniversary Plate or a copy of the Sampler Cookbook. The BTG is much richer for the distinctive look that her designs have lent to our club over the last three decades. Thank you, Jane!

It was an absolute delight to work with Jane to develop this map, which we will publish in several forms so that you will get to enjoy every bit of its usefulness, charm and beauty.

~ ~ download scavenger hunt instructions ~ ~ (...not that your child will need or want them!)



Champion Tree Tour Test Day!

Above: Lily and Elsie Burgeson study the map before heading off to find the next tree. Lily Burgeson giving the Red Oak some loving.

Below: Theo and Lila Zellers at the first tree on the tour - the Red Oak at Children's Beach.





Above: Silly Selfies: Lily Burgeson, Elsie Burgeson, Leslie Renjilian and Galen May, and Ollie Burgeson.

Below: The Prize Patch and Pin

The Red Oak beside Children's Beach is the first tree on the Champion Tour. It is also the inspiration for the iron-on patch and the enamel pin, which were modeled after the silver pendant that artist Ginny Stanton made and sells at Gretchen's Gallery.

We are so grateful to Ginny for allowing us to use the silhouette she created from that beloved tree as the graphic for our prize. And kudos and thanks to Galen May for developing the image into these beautiful designs! Although they look to be the same size in these photos, the patch is actually 2.5" and the pin is 1" across.

Once the kids answer all 12 quiz questions correctly, a Winner's Screen will pop up and they can choose their prize (patch or pin) and let us know which week they would like to receive it at the Pinning Ceremony.



NATIVE PLANT SALE



**Tuesday, June 27th
Farmer's Market @ Bestor Plaza
8:00am - 12:00pm (or whenever we sell out*)**

*Come early as we usually sell out in a couple of hours

We are pleased to welcome [Jonathan Townsend](#) of [Royal Fern Nursery](#) to our annual native plant sale.

Every year we try to source our native plants from a different nursery. It helps to promote native plants and gives us a chance to talk with folks who have dedicated their business to growing and promoting native plants.

Why does BTG promote native plants? It's simple when you learn that native species are tuned into our unique weather patterns, soil conditions, and altitude. They are beautiful and fulfill the needs of our beneficial insects, butterflies, and migrating and local birds. Natives provide food, shelter, and a place to raise their young. The beauty and textural variety of natives really make your gardens shine and they require less water and fertilization. They are perennials and will come back year after year.

It's finally raining now, but the past several weeks have been brutally dry in Chautauqua County, causing us to water our non-natives deeply and daily. Natives are deeply-rooted and can withstand drought conditions.

A Partial Listing of Plants Available at the Sale

American Germander

Bergamot

Black Cohosh

Canada Anemone

Cutleaf Coneflower

Golden Alexander

Golden Ragwort

Joe Pye Weed

NY Ironweed

Pointed Blue-eyed Grass

Smooth Blue Aster

Smooth Oxeye

Sneezeweed

Swamp Milkweed

White Turtlehead

- Article and photos by Chris Flanders, BTG Life Member and Board Member, Master Gardener, Retired Nurse Practitioner, Stow Ferry Boat Captain and author.

Photos appear in different layouts on different phones or computers. But we'll give this a go: The Solomon's Seal is the white flower above the article. The Cardinal Flower is the red flower above the article. The White Turtlehead is below the article, and the Swamp Milkweed has a Monarch on it. (I hope that's clear! If not, come to the plant sale and learn all about them. Actually, why not come anyway? ;)





MIGRATION MISSIVES

I received this photo above and text below from our former intern Alix Draper yesterday:

"This ginkgo tree in Shukkeien Gardens survived the A-bomb despite the rest of the garden being totally decimated. It was incredibly powerful to see it in person."

Backstory: Alix worked for the BTG as an intern between high school and college helping with many of the technological issues that confuzzle the olds. Alix is the one who untangled our Apple ID account, for example, so that we could create a developer account and get our app into the app store. Alix also created the spreadsheets that we use to order tree markers and found that somehow typing was faster than cutting and pasting, and so typed many, many Latin (scientific) tree names into that very long spreadsheet... AND LEARNED THEM ALL (this kid is a genius).

Present day: Alix is studying abroad in Japan and visited the Shukkeien Gardens in Hiroshima, Japan, which were built in 1873. When the U.S. bombed

the city in 1945, most of the garden was destroyed, but this ginkgo - along with five others in the city - survived.

The ginkgo is the oldest living tree species on earth. We know from fossil records that there were trees on earth before the ginkgo but none of them survive today. Ground zero of an atomic bomb is just one of the cataclysmic events this species has survived.

For more about ginkgos and photos of Chautauqua's ginkgos, click [here](#).

Please send photos from your travels and your hometown gardens for us to include in the newsletter. We love to learn from our "Migrating Members!"

~ Leslie Renjilian, Alix's friend and former boss



UNDERSTANDING TIME

by Dennis McNair

Before I retired from college teaching, I used to shock my students by telling them that I was born in the first half of the last century (1945). I'm currently told that buildings and cars from the 1980s are "old," even though they seem recent to me. My contemporaries are having joints replaced and heart pacemakers implanted because their original parts are wearing out. Mine are too, even though my brain vividly reminds me that I could once run and jump and hike for miles without excessive pain or fatigue.

But that's just my human perspective on time. Mayflies just live 24 hours as adults, while many species of trees live for centuries, even thousands of years.

When forests are clearcut for human use, the replacement population that's planted is "even aged." It might eventually come to superficially resemble the forest that was removed, but it doesn't contain those trees that we might call Old Ones. Suzanne Simard, in *Finding the Mother Tree*, tells us of the

importance of those old, well-established individuals that nurture the newest trees in the forest population. Jared Farmer, in *Elderflora: A Modern History of Ancient Trees*, reminds us that no healthy human population is made up entirely of adolescents, for lots of reasons (remember *Lord of the Flies*?).

Farmer stresses “chronodiversity,” the richness of tree ages in a population. Every tree population contains a small fraction of extremely old trees, whether it’s a 300-year-old White Oak or a 5000-year-old Bristlecone Pine. The Old Ones could never run or jump, but they’ve weathered many storms and droughts. They are valuable simply because of their longevity – their “experience.” We can’t properly maintain sustainable forests until we stop to consider what “time” means to its inhabitants. The same is likely true for populations of any species.

In the 21st century we human beings are just beginning to understand the importance of considering non-human time scales and the complex interactions of species in living communities. And our understanding may be coming at too late a date. For most of the period that humans have been on the earth, we’ve used nature as a resource for our own convenience or profit. Minerals useful to us have been extracted and incorporated into tools – axes, automobiles, cell phones – and living organisms have been harvested as if they belonged to us rather than being interconnected parts of living systems that evolved over millions of years to exist together. Because we exploited nature before we understood the useful lifetimes of trees and other natural components, we’re now on the verge of destroying the systems that gave rise to, and sustain, us.

Charles Darwin’s most difficult task was convincing people that tiny increments of change could accumulate, over vast periods of time, to change one beetle species into another (never mind changing reptiles into birds). Still, in the century and a half since *The Origin of Species* was published, scientists have convincingly described the mechanisms by which gradual changes occur and are passed on from one generation to the next. Our next step is to recognize that all those species evolved in cooperative communities.

On a field trip many years ago, I was asked by a 3rd grade student whether it saddened me that many female damselflies might only live a week as adults. At first I thought I might skirt the question by saying that they live much longer than that as aquatic larvae, and then I arrived at what I thought was a more satisfying answer: that she lived “an entire damselfly lifetime” and I smugly moved on. Now that I’m older, and have lived almost “an entire human lifetime,” the child’s question returns to me for reflection.

A lifetime may be relative to whether the organism living through it is a damselfly, a human, a Bristlecone Pine or whatever. But what the organism does during its lifetime is more important than how long it lasts in hours or years. How we humans treat other living things during *our* allotted lifetimes requires of us careful thought and consideration of *their* lifetimes. It seems to me that consideration of the lifetimes of all living things is a uniquely human responsibility, because, as far as I know, what separates us humans from other

living things is our ability to understand that all lifetimes are impermanent and most are fleeting.

We humans are just beginning to comprehend that each lifetime is important, no matter how brief or long, and each life has an effect on all of the others.

Dennis M. McNair PhD
BTG Entomologist, Life Member and Board Member

Jeanne Wiebenga took the photo above of the Chautauqua sun shining red through the Canadian wildfire smokescreen on Wednesday, June 7.



Tickets are on sale now for all of the 2023 Life Member Events, including the [Life Member Luncheon on July 14](#). The Luncheon is \$45 per person.

Remember, all of our [Programs](#) are free and open to all Chautauquans.

We do offer a handful of [Events](#) which are limited to Life Members only. These events are limited in size and have registration fees and/or associated costs. For more information about the Life Member Only Events, including the Life Member Luncheon, and to buy tickets, click below.

Look for more info on the Life Member Events in newsletters to come!

[Buy Event Tickets](#)

[Weekly Free Programs](#)



The red poppy in the photo above opened in Jeanne Wiebenga's garden exactly on Memorial Day, making Jeanne think of the famous poem by John McCrea:

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Make a Tax-Deductible Donation to the BTG (any amount)

Purchase a Life Membership for Yourself or Someone Else (\$250)

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