

C H A U T A U Q U A



BIRD
TREE
&
GARDEN
CLUB



DAY BY DAY BY THE BTG



Ken Blankenship, pictured above with his scope, is returning to Chautauqua this summer and will lead **four** events for us this week: the Lake Walk on Monday; the Tuesday Brown Bag Lecture; an off-site bird walk on Wednesday; and the Thursday Morning Bird Walk. We are thrilled to have him back.

Ken has an incredible ear for birds and an easy way with humans. I attended every one of his events last summer and plan to do the same this week.

I'd like to share a story about Ken and that scope in the photo above.

Ken led a bird walk last summer which Ruth Lundin (another one of our guides) attended. Quick digression: although I have aspired to be a "real" birder for years, I am still a beginner. But I do go on lots of bird walks—I'm just a slow learner. But one of the things I've learned from going on lots of walks is you can't assume that the leader is one with all the smarts and the followers are all as ignorant as you are. No, no, no. Sometimes the quiet person walking along next to you not saying a word turns out to have been the President of the

Jamestown Audubon Community Center for many years and leads weekly bird walks. In this story, that person is Ruth Lundin. So anyway, our group was walking along and chatting and Ruth noticed a merlin catch something on the wing. She pointed it out to Ken who was able to track and locate the merlin perched in a Norway spruce about 5 blocks away. Ken set up his scope in a grassy spot on the promenade, zoomed in on the merlin in the spruce, and our group took turns watching the merlin eat his breakfast—a purple martin.

I had never seen a merlin up close before that day. And boy-oh-boy—that scope got us right up close to that breakfast situation. Ew.

Have you heard the term "spark bird?" This is the term for the bird that hooks you—the one that makes you want to become a birder (or at least buy that first bird book and intend to become a birder). The merlin was not my spark bird, but it *was* wondrous to see it in sharp focus and hear Ken and the others talk about the merlin and the martin as we stood in the dewy grass that Thursday morning last summer.

Perhaps you saw your spark bird years ago. We'd love to hear the story. Perhaps your spark bird is still in your future. Perhaps your spark bird will be in Ken's scope this week. Why not join us? And if you're not in search of a spark bird, but rather a new friend, you should know that the BTG is a welcoming place. Our events are for rank beginners as well as old pros, and the real beauty of our club is the human relationships that form as you walk along together.

By the way, if you're not in Chautauqua and feeling a little left out that you can't do the bird walks this week, and you have not yet installed the Merlin app on your phone, I'm actually jealous of the joy that lies ahead for you! I have been using the app for a while now but I received this email from Life Member Susan Luehrs and thought I'd pass along her endorsement for the Merlin app:

I have enjoyed reading your information about summer programs! Sounds very interesting!

I am a life member of BT&G and for over 40 years enjoyed summers Chautauqua!

My husband and I now live in a retirement community in St. Petersburg Florida. Recently we attended a virtual program presented by Cornell university which instructed us on using their bird identifying app called Merlin. It is amazing! It has a section that can identify bird songs as well as bird sightings.

It is a free app, something I recommend your birding experts investigate and share.

Best wishes to you all! Our mobility challenges now keep us from traveling but I cherish all my marvelous memories of my time at Chautauqua.

Wherever you are this week, thank you for being a part of the BTG!

Leslie Renjilian
BTG President
Spark Bird - the bluebird c. 1998

P.S. Check out [The Spark Bird Project](#) to gather and share spark stories.

Monday, June 26



4:15 PM [Lake Walk: Birds of the Lakeshore with Ken Blankenship](#)

Location: Meet at Shoreline Wetland Garden by the Pier Building

*Please note the **new time and location** for lake walks this summer!*

Sadly, there is a high chance of thunderstorms tomorrow at 4pm. We will not walk if there is lightning, but probably won't see birds if there is rain. Please check the website for a pop-up reschedule or email us if you'd like to be emailed about a reschedule.

Tuesday, June 27



8:00 AM - 12:00 PM [Native Plant Sale with Jonathan Townsend](#)

Learn more in our June Newsletter or at the link above. The sale will end whenever we sell out—come early if you can!

Location: Farmer's Market @ Bestor Plaza

12:15 PM* [BTG Brown Bag Lecture: "Bird Identification: Tricks to Improve Speed and Accuracy" with Ken Blankenship, owner of East West Birding](#)

* We will hold our first Pinning Ceremony for the Champion Tree Tour immediately prior to the lecture.

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall

2:00 PM Annual Membership Meeting

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall (following the Brown Bag lecture)

4:15 PM [Garden Walk with Horticulturist Joe McMaster](#)

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall - Lakeside

Wednesday, June 28



8:00 - 11:00 AM [Life Members Event: "Birding in the Wetlands" Field Trip with Ken Blankenship](#)

Location: Titus Road / Ralph C. Sheldon Trail - Sherman NY

Limited to 15 participants; \$20 per participant. A half-day birding field trip off-grounds led by Ken Blankenship. More details below and on our website!

12:30 - 2:30 PM [Open Garden: Shipman](#)

[Garden at Miller Cottage](#) The gardens are open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the season with docents in the gardens to answer your questions and provide historical and horticultural information.

4:15 PM [Tree Walk with Naturalist Jack Gulvin](#)

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall - Lakeside

Thursday, June 29



8:00 AM [Bird Walk with Ken Blankenship](#)

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall - Entrance

Bring binoculars if you have them, and please leave dogs at home!

12:30 - 2:30 PM [Open Garden: Shipman](#)

[Garden at Miller Cottage](#) The gardens are open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the season with docents in the gardens to answer your questions and provide historical and horticultural information.

4:15 PM [Purple Martin Talk with Jack Gulvin](#)

Don't put this off. The martins are only around weeks one through four!

Location: Sports Club

Friday, June 30



9:00 AM [Nature Walk with Naturalist Jack Gulvin](#)

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall - Lakeside

12:30 PM [Garden Walk with Betsy Burgeson, Supervisor of Gardens and Landscapes, CHQ](#)

Location: [Fletcher Hall](#) moving to [Kiblin](#) and [LeVan](#) Gardens

Sunday, July 2



12:30 - 3:00 PM [Life Members Event: Guided Tour of Roger Tory Peterson Institute with CEO Arthur Pearson](#)

Location: RTPi Jamestown

Limited to 15 participants; \$10 per person.



**LIFE MEMBER EVENTS THIS
WEEK**

Birding Field Trip with Ken Blankenship

Wednesday, June 28

8:00am - 11:00am

Limited to 15 participants, this will be a half-day birding field trip off-grounds led by Ken Blankenship. We will carpool and caravan about 20 minutes from Chautauqua. \$20 per participant.

Roger Tory Peterson Institute Guided Tour

Sunday, July 2

12:30pm - 3:00pm

A guided tour by CEO Arthur Pearson of the galleries, collections and outdoor trails at the RTPPI Lodge, designed by Robert A.M. Stern. We will caravan and carpool to the Lodge in Jamestown, which is about 25 minutes from grounds. Limited to 15 Participants. \$10 per participant.

Purchase Event Tickets



Tickets will be on sale until July 7. Please remember that the lunch always sells out, so buy your ticket soon to avoid the scramble. You may buy a ticket for a friend if they are also a Life Member, but be sure to give us their name. The check-in list needs to be accurate. Remember, this event is run by volunteers. Please make it easy on those who have volunteered their time to make this event fun for all of us! [Email us](#) if you have difficulties. We are here to help!

Buy Luncheon Tickets (\$45 each) Life Members Only, please!

VOLUNTEER THIS WEEK

Please join the BTG **every Wednesday morning at 8am** to help us remove invasive plants from the ravine adjacent to the Silo Garden with Betsy Burgeson and her team. Bring a water bottle, gloves and clippers if you have them, wear sturdy shoes, and be prepared to get little dirty.

Meet us at the Butterfly Garden at the corner of Massey Avenue and South Avenue by the South Gate.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to contribute your time and effort to the BTG!

You do not need to be member to volunteer!

Jean Fulkerson
Volunteer Coordinator

Below is an example of a page from the laminated flipbook Jean created for the Wednesday Weeders to use to identify the invasive plants we will be removing from the ravine.

GARLIC MUSTARD

Alliaria petiolata

PLANT TYPE: HERBACEOUS BIENNIAL





Need help finding your way? Take a peek at the beautiful map Jane Nelson drew, or use the [interactive version in the BTG app](#), to locate the gardens in Chautauqua Institution!



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

Purchase a Life Membership (\$250)

View Past Newsletters

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