

C H A U T A U Q U A



BIRD  
TREE  
&  
GARDEN  
CLUB



## **Remembering Jane Buch**

Please join me in remembering Jane Buch, who died in January. Jane was known to her family and close friends as "Nonnie" and to almost all Chautauquans as the friendly owner of Park Place, the lovely white cottage on the brick walk with the whimsical front garden. But she also wore another hat and held another title - "The BTG Tree Lady."

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Jane was responsible for the planting of hundreds of trees around Chautauqua. She walked around Chautauqua with stakes to identify potential spots for a tree planting and then made that planting happen in the fall. We all owe her our gratitude for the health of our canopy, which is now a healthy mix of old and young trees.

Jack Gulvin introduced me to Jane one day last summer in front of Park Place. Our encounter was well-timed because Jack and I had just been talking about a young English oak on Bestor Plaza. He had told me the story before - about how Jane Buch had found a tiny sapling growing among the flowers and realized that it must have grown up from an acorn dropped by the old English oak in the parking lot. That old oak had been planted in 1876 as part of a Centennial Celebration and Tree Planting. One hundred and twenty-five years later, Jane called Jack to tell him that she had found this little sapling, which had only two leaves on it. Jack built a protective cage around it that day and has tended it for 20 years now.

Last summer on the brick walk, I told Jane that we were in the process of writing a self-guided nature tour app and that I had just written a bit about the English oak that she saved from what would have surely been death-by-weed-whacker. I asked her whether she would be willing to let me audio tape her telling the story of her finding the tree. She agreed to the taping, but unfortunately we were both busy that day and she was ill and we didn't manage to do it before we left for the season. I will always regret that. Nonetheless, her memory will live on in our hearts and the story will live on in the tree tour.

- Leslie Renjilian

- Photo by Angela James

(A note to our brilliant readers about the photo: I'm sure some of you noted that the beautiful photo by Angela is a closeup of leucothoe and not actually drooping lilies. Please forgive the artistic license. - Leslie)

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[Click for photos of the English oaks and Jane Buch](#)

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## Honoring Angela James



We would like to honor and thank Angela James, who served as BTG President from 2017-2021, guiding us through the busy years of 2017-19 and the rough years of the pandemic. Her energy is boundless and the things she accomplished during her tenure will certainly inform the shape of the club moving forward. I hope you will click below to read the letter I wrote in appreciation of Angela and her contributions to the BTG.

- Leslie Renjilian

[Read More about Angela](#)

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## Meet the BTG Drill Team!



Meet the Drill Team (*No, not the kind of drill team that wears frilly skirts on a football field, but the kind who carry cordless drills around grounds installing tree markers on trees.*)

In 1972, the BTG installed markers on 1,000 trees around the grounds of Chautauqua. Some of those old markers are still around (see photo below), but most of the labels have disappeared.

This January - fifty years later - the BTG unanimously voted to match the efforts of our predecessors with a campaign to buy and install 1,000 markers in 2022. We got a little head start in 2021 by installing about 100, but look for 900 more this year (see photo below of the new markers which link via QR code to a description of the tree and its history if known).

The current Drill Team includes Cathy Clark, Leslie Renjilian, Jerry O'Connor and Dennis McNair. (Dennis is not in the photo above, but please know that Dennis wields a very fancy DeWalt cordless.)

If you own any kind of cordless drill or would like to serve as a Driller's Assistant (sterilizing bits and untangling springs), please consider joining our team. We've got 900 more markers to install....

Click on the envelope icon at the very bottom to volunteer.

- Leslie Renjilian
- Photo by Rosemary Rappole





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## The 2022 House and Garden Tour



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Tickets on Sale Now!

Tour Date: July 14, 2022

Canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic, the tour has been rescheduled for this summer.

If you bought a ticket in 2020 and rolled it over, you're all set - your 2022 ticket will be mailed to you on June 1. All others, click below to purchase tickets online or print an order form to mail in with a check. Ticket sales are limited this year to reduce crowding so it will sell out quickly.

Our next newsletter will feature sneak peek photos by Angela of the 12 houses and 7 gardens on tour.

Proof of vaccination and indoor masking will be required on tour day.

- Leslie Renjilian

- Photo by Angela James of "The Teacup Cottage" and the gorgeous Maritza Morgan mural painted on the side of the cottage. This cottage is one of many homes and gardens that will be on this year's tour.

[Click to Purchase Tickets to the 2022 House and Garden Tour](#)

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## Welcome Charter Members to the Henrietta Ord Jones Society!

Suzanne Aldrich  
Elaine Arciszewski  
Caroline Van Kirk Bissell  
Margie Buxbaum  
Barbara Brady  
Kristen Doebler  
Bob Jeffrey  
Jennifer and Kent Francois  
Marjorie Gingell  
Elizabeth Goodwin  
Cheryl Gorelick  
Susan Hughes  
Jeannette Kahlenberg  
Liz Keough  
Nancy Kyler

Susan McKee  
Alan Nelson  
Linda Nelson  
Jerry O'Connor  
Janine Obee  
Mary Lou Parlato  
Rosemary Rappole  
Leslie and Tim Renjilian  
Joan Smith  
Sydelle Sonkin  
Nick Stupianski  
Sharon Thawley  
Meg Viehe  
Susy Warren  
Katherine White  
Vince Zaleski

Add your name to the list! Charter Membership is still open for the Henrietta Ord Jones Society.

Known as "The Little General," Henrietta Ord Jones founded the Bird and Tree Club in 1913 and donated the land for the Arboretum two years later.

Membership in the Henrietta Ord Jones Society is \$150. Members of the HOJ Society will receive a ticket to the 2022 House and Garden Tour and an invitation to a special event this summer. The names of those who sign up by April 1 will be published in the 2022 House and Garden Tour Ticket Booklet and will be thanked by name in the Chautauquan Daily. We are so grateful for your additional support.

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## Cold Feet

At the time of this writing, the Lake Chautauqua webcam shows a still, wintery scene completely devoid of birds. Unblemished snow blankets the surface of the lake. Where are the wintering birds?

Winter waterfowl will have sought unfrozen bodies of water, and will return to the lake once it has thawed. A few steps away from the lake, however, bird activity abounds. Small songbirds, such as the black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) will be flitting around searching for food. What could they possibly find to eat, and how do they keep warm?

Chickadees hide seeds throughout the fall, so they have backup food supplies during the winter. To remember their hiding spots, they can add neurons to their brains, increasing brain volume as much as 30%. When those neurons are no longer needed, they shed them.



They don't only eat seeds, however. As it turns out, there is a broad range of overwintering insects, including spiders and their eggs. Some caterpillars survive the winter in a completely frozen state. A cache of frozen caterpillars attached to the crevices of a tree makes the perfect meal for a group of chickadees.

But as you can see in the photo below, this lucky chickadee has found a feeder full of seeds stocked by Jeanne Wiebenga (who is also the photographer). February is National Bird Feeding Month, established by Congress in 1994 to encourage people to help out wild birds in this most difficult month for them. It's important to put your feeder away in spring though. While adult cardinals love seeds, their young cannot eat seeds and must be fed insects and worms. However, some cardinal parents try to feed their chicks seeds if they are readily available and put the chicks at risk for starvation.

Why don't the bird's tiny feet get frozen? They do, evidently. Chickadees keep their feet at about 30°F; heat is transferred from the warm blood on its way to the toes to the cold blood that is on its way back. This recycling of heat minimizes loss from the bird's core.

-Jennifer Francois with credit to [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

- Photos of a female cardinal and a chickadee at her feeder by Jeanne Wiebenga.

~psst~

If you are a BTG Life Member and didn't get to see Jeanne's Osprey Photo exhibit last summer at the Roger Tory Institute, you are in for a treat this summer.... More on that in our next newsletter!







## Historical Tidbit

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In 1917, the BTG sent \$13,000 to France to replace fruit trees that had been destroyed during the war. In today's dollars, that would be a \$290,000 donation.

- Photo on loan from Chautauqua Archives. It is actually a photo of a BTG tree planting in the Arboretum taken in 1915 and not the gifted trees being planted two years later in France, but the dates are close and the outfits are amazing, so we went with this photo. Plus, the smiling woman in the middle is thought to be Henrietta Ord Jones herself.

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## What's New?

Me! Your editor and the incoming President of the BTG, Leslie Renjilian. All mistakes in the newsletter are mine. (Please send an email if you find egregious mistakes and forgive the small ones.)

And! Two other new members of the Executive Committee - Jennifer Francois as Vice President and Nick Stupiansky as Assistant Treasurer.

And! A whole lot of new programming, events, and special projects. More info to come in monthly newsletters.

For more information about our board, [please see our website.](#)

Our board is amazing and strong and we have a lot planned for the 2022 season. Stay tuned and thank you for your continued support and love. Please stay in touch!

Sincerely,  
Leslie Renjilian

