

Volunteer & Internship Opportunities

Internship: applications are accepted on a rolling basis. We offer undergraduate students the opportunity to work alongside our staff in three positions: animal care/museum, environmental education, and non-profit management. Internships are unpaid but can usually be used for college credits. Please email your application and a cover letter to Maggie, Volunteer Coordinator (volunteer.tanglewood@gmail.com).

Animal Care and Museum Curator internship:

This position has duties including cleaning, maintaining and designing museum exhibits, feeding and healthcare for animals, and handling/socializing animals.

Environmental Education internship:

Position involves assisting with or conducting educational workshops and programs, guided tours, and hikes.

Non-Profit Management internship:

This position involves assisting our staff with marketing, fundraising and event planning, participating in membership and other committees as applicable, operating the gift shop and aiding visitors.

Committee Members: Committee opportunities are available for: Fundraising, Facilities and Trails, Community Relations, Human Resources and Nominating and Board Development.

Contact Us:


Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum
443 Coleman Ave. Elmira NY 14903
Phone: 607-732-6060
www.tanglewoodnaturecenter.com


Nature Center Hours of Operation:
Tuesday-Friday 9am-4pm
Saturday 10am-4pm
Trails open dawn-dusk 365 days/year

Nature Center Holiday Closures:
New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



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Summer Camp Recap; Wish List; and Board & Staff

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Guest Article; Upcoming Events



Tanglewood Talk

The newsletter of Tanglewood
September-December 2023

Curators Corner: Miraculous Mimics

By Ryan Donnelly

In nature, mimicry is often the sincerest form of flattery. Mimicry is the evolutionary adaptation in which one species develops a resemblance of another species. When successful, mimicry prevents predation in the mimic species. The two most common forms of mimicry is Müllerian and Batesian mimicry.

Müllerian mimicry occurs when two or more species with harmful ((or unpalatable)) characteristics evolve to resemble each other, enhancing their collective survival by reinforcing a shared warning signal to potential predators. A prime example is how many species of bees, wasps, and hornets share conspicuous yellow and black banding patterns. Müllerian mimicry is usually seen as a mutualistic behavior where all species benefit.

Batesian mimicry is an adaptation in which harmless species imitates the warning signals of a dangerous or venomous species to protect itself. Our newest animal ambassador, Chobani the eastern milk snake, is a perfect example of this form of mimicry. Milk snakes (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) are a member of the kingsnake genus and can be found throughout the United States. All milk snakes are non-venomous and primarily feed on small rodents and other snakes. Milk snakes (though non-venomous and harmless) display a strikingly similar color pattern to Coral Snakes, one of the most venomous snakes found in the United States. Although rare in the US, their range extends from North Carolina to Arizona and south to Argentina.

By adopting the appearance of Coral Snakes, Milk snakes deter potential predators, as they are mistaken for their venomous counterparts. The easiest way to tell the difference between these two snakes is to look at the banding. The common rhyme is red on yellow, kill a fellow (coral snake), red on black, you're OK jack (milk snake). **IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE** that this rhyme only works in the United States. In South America, both milks snakes and coral snakes can have different banding patterns. In that case, listen to the wise words of Steve Irwin, "If you see a multi-colored snake, leave it alone!"



Chobani the non-venomous milk snake



Venomous coral snake photo by ncwildlife.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
443 Coleman Avenue Elmira, NY 14903



A Summer Spent Exploring-Summer Camp 2023 Recap

By Maggie Groce, Summer Camp Co-Director



It feels insane to say, but we have just completed Tanglewood's 21st year of Summer Day Camp! As usual, I feel the bittersweet feelings of the ending of the summer season here at Tanglewood. While it is my busiest and most stressful time of year, I'm always a little sad to see Summer Camp end. I start to miss the hustle and bustle, but being able to look back on a great season helps me get into the "slow" season a little easier.

This year, we had four amazing counselors. We were fortunate enough to have two counselors returning this year (one from 2022 and one from 2021). Lou and Caroline really stepped up into a leadership role by helping new counselors Emily and Ryan feel confident working with our rambunctious campers and making the whole counselor staff more independent. As someone who worked with both of these counselors their first seasons, it has been amazing to watch them grow and flourish, both here at Tanglewood and in their academic careers. We wish all our counselors a great school year and hope to see them back next year.

On to the campers themselves: this season saw roughly 200 kids. This year we saw slightly smaller groups some weeks than we have in the past, but our campers didn't seem to mind. If anything, these smaller groups gave the camps a chance to get to know everyone quicker and form amazing friendships. What shocked me the most this year was watching what activities the kids enjoyed most this year. As always, they love building forts and looking for frogs in the ponds. However, this year, there was a new activity that seemed to enchant all of our campers: birdwatching. The kids loved going out on hikes with a pair of binoculars in tow to see and identify as many birds as they could. One group of campers even went so far as calling themselves "The Birding Boys". Lucky for our campers, the counselors seemed to love this activity too!

It is refreshing to have the kids enjoying an activity that doesn't require any technology. It seems like that is what this summer was all about for our campers: getting outside and being in nature. They loved hiking and looking for frogs and newts on the trails. They often brought them back to the lodge to build the perfect habitat for them (and would release them at the end of the week). Listening to how excited they were to find and explore makes all my months of prep work worth it. With this in mind as I sit in my office, adorned with new art work from this year's campers, I can't help but imagine all the adventures our campers will have in summer 2024.



Upcoming Events at Tanglewood!

Clear your calendars and get ready for these festivities

TWILIGHT AT TANGLEWOOD

Saturday 9/16/23 4-7pm

Tickets \$45 each in advance and \$50 at the door. Must be 21+ to enter.

Twilight is back this year on Saturday, September 16th. Enjoy sunset tastings from: Wagner Vineyards, Lakewood Vineyard, Horseheads Brewing, Liquid Shoes Brewing, Iron Flamingo Brewery and Four Fights Distilling. You can also enjoy live music from the band the Sweats and flame working demos by glass blower Jen Kuhn. Tastings, desserts and one raffle ticket included in ticket price. Food available for purchase from Stone Age BBQ and Taste of Jamaica. Visit www.tanglewoodnaturecenter.com to purchase your ticket!

HAUNTED HAPPENINGS

Saturday 10/21/23 11am-3pm

Admission is free; tickets for food and activities available for purchase at the door. Tickets: 1 for \$1, 12 for \$10, or 25 for \$20. If you're not yet a member of Tanglewood, you can sign up for a membership and get 20 free tickets!

Stop by for a day filled with hay rides, pumpkin and face painting, kids games, a chili cook off, bake sale and so much more! Check out our event page at www.tanglewoodnaturecenter.com for updates and additions.

ADULT TRIVIA

Friday 11/17/23 7pm-9pm.

Pre-registration is required for teams; max of 10 teams allowed. \$7 per person; max of 6 people per team.

Put your nature knowledge to the test with your friends in our adult trivia night! BYOB and we'll provide water, snacks, and questions. This year's theme is 50 years of nature, celebrating our 50 years of serving the community. Topics can include: nature history including the history of Tanglewood and local and global animal fun facts.

AMAZING ANIMALS

Saturday 11/25/23 11am-12pm Free

Join us for a free animal presentation given by one of our talented educators. This program covers a wide variety of animal ambassadors from our insects to our birds of prey! Come learn about how these animals survive in nature and how we care for them here at Tanglewood. Guests will have an opportunity to interact with our animal ambassadors.

HOP INTO THE HOLIDAYS

Saturday 12/2/23 11am-12pm

Fee- Bring a gift for our animals!

All are welcome for this family program.

You will meet animals that hop- frog, toad, bunny, chinchilla and Furby, the Ferret.

Gifts for our animals:

Fresh fruit & veggies: Non-iceberg lettuce, carrots, cherry or grape tomatoes, oranges, strawberries, and squash.

Gift Cards from: Petco, PetSmart, Amazon, Minier's and Sondra's City Zoo.

Other items: Chinchilla dust, Zoo Med ReptiSun 10.0 UVB light or equivalent, Aspen Bedding, Timothy Hay, EcoEarth compressed substrate blocks or equivalent



Autumn may be the perfect season for a walk in the woods

By Robert Recotta

It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating Memorial Day and the beginning of summer. But there's no denying it. The days are shorter. The evenings are cooler. Stores are starting to put out their Christmas displays. We'll get a few more summer-like days, but autumn, and the Season That Shall Not Be Named, are coming.

I don't know about you, but the impending approach of colder weather makes it feel even more imperative to enjoy every minute that the temperature is above freezing.

One of the best ways of enjoying everything that fall has to offer is a stroll in the woods. Whether you're traversing the miles of trails that Tanglewood has to offer or walking in the woods in your backyard, fall might be the best time to get out into nature.

Here are four reasons why autumn is the perfect time to go exploring:

Fewer bugs - As the temperatures drop, you're much less likely to run into annoying insects like mosquitoes and gnats. That doesn't mean you won't encounter any bugs, just fewer.

You should still take the same precautions whether it's July or October, including wearing clothes that cover your arms and legs, using insect repellent and doing a visual inspection for ticks after the hike.

You might want to bring an epi-pen as well, because you might still encounter a bee or two during your walk, especially during warmer fall days. Bees will continue to collect nectar until daytime temperatures are below 50 degrees.

In our area, bees will still be feasting on buckwheat, asters, clover, thistles and my sworn enemy, Japanese knotweed.

Cooler weather - Speaking of fashion, (and believe me, there's nobody who knows fashion like I do. I have an elaborate and extensive collection of concert t-shirts and cargo pants), I find it challenging to hike in the height of summer. Don't get me wrong, walking in the woods is a great way to escape the hot summer sun, but in order to be safe, you really should wear long sleeves and pants. And nothing ruins a lovely walk in the woods like pants.

It's much easier to protect yourselves from ticks in the fall, when wearing jeans and flannels makes much more sense.

It might even be cool enough to wear those chunky sweaters and perpetual scarves or whatever the kids are calling them these days. (Told you, #fashionista).

Fall foliage - Obviously one of the biggest attractions of autumn in the Northeast is the changing leaves. In our area, the leaves usually start changing in mid to late September and peaks around mid-October.

According to the [Smithsonian](#), both weather and the length of daylight impact the changing leaves. As the days get shorter, the chlorophyll in deciduous leaves starts to break down. As a result, the red, yellow and orange pigments that were crowded out by the chlorophyll get their time to shine.

And shine they do.

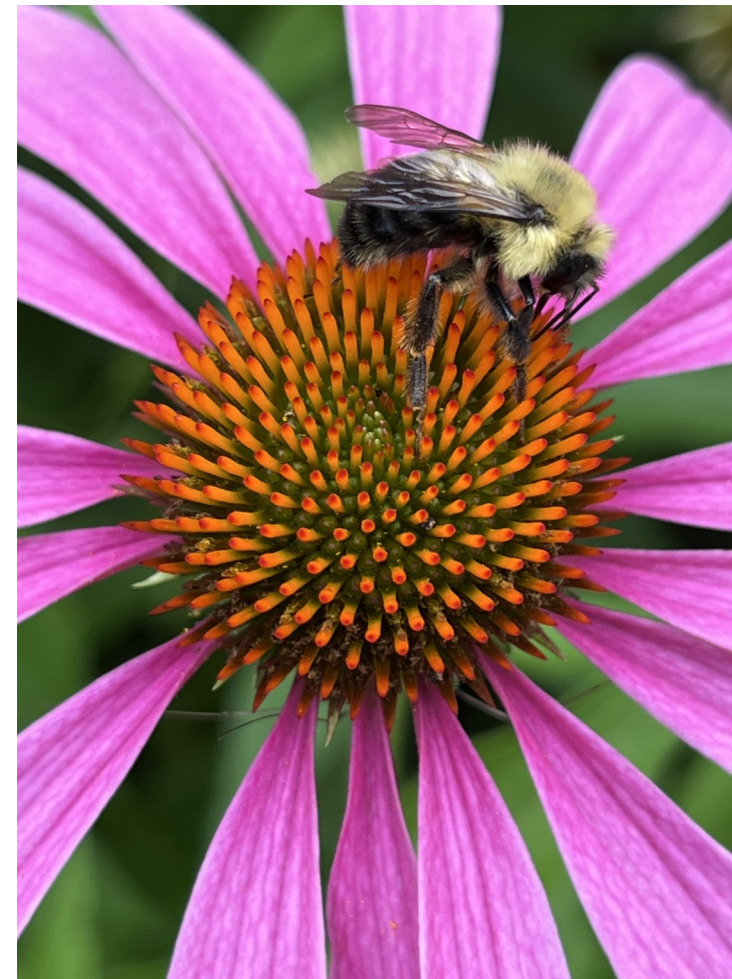
According to the [U.S. Forest Service](#), warm, sunny days and cool nights generally produce the most brilliant colors.

The forest does not smell like pumpkin spice - This really needs no other explanation. By mid-October I am so sick of allspice, cinnamon and nutmeg.

Autumn is the perfect time to become reacquainted with everything there is to enjoy about the great outdoors in the Twin Tiers. Before we know it, we'll be housebound for weeks at a time, staring out the window at the snow that just keeps piling up.

And you just shoveled two hours ago, but now you can't see the sidewalk and your car is buried and your feet are always wet because you tried to walk the dog in sneakers again.

Your car won't start and your pipes are frozen and school is canceled tomorrow and who's going to watch the kids and will someone please stop with the holiday songs?



Board & Staff

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Deanna O'Brian- Office Manager
Maggie Groce- Volunteer Coordinator/Educator
Ryan Donnelly- Marketing/Educator/Curator
Bob Kurcoba- Facilities & Grounds
Megan Walters- Curator/Educator

Wish List

For the Animals

Fresh fruit & veggies (esp. non-iceberg lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, broccoli, asparagus, sweet potatoes, strawberries, melon, corn on the cob, blueberries, asparagus)

Gift Cards from: Petco, PetSmart, Grocery Stores (esp. Miniers)

For the Office/Building

White or colored office paper and/or card stock, Drink cups (paper, compostable- packs of 25 or more), Coffee cups (paper, compostable-packs of 25 or more), Paper towels, toilet paper (Scott only), Kleenex, Decaf and regular coffee, creamer (dry, liquid in cups), Gift Cards from: Staples, Sam's

For Programs/Camp/Exhibits/Trails

Crayons, Construction Paper, Glue Sticks, Washable Markers, Scotch tape, Duct tape, Pencils, Lined paper, Children's nature books for Little Free Library. Gift Certificates to anywhere for our fundraisers, Bamboo Silverware, Plates (paper, compostable- packs of 25 or more), Recycled napkins

For Fundraisers/Facility Rental

Gift Certificates to anywhere for our fundraisers. Bamboo Silverware. Plates (paper, compostable- packs of 25 or more) Recycled napkins

New Members & Donations

As of August 23, 2023

New Members

Individual \$40

Mei Chapman
Janeen Sheehe

Senior Family \$45

Kurt & Cara Groeger
Tim & Pam Newton

Family \$50

Rachel & Joseph Allison
William & Anne Brooks Bacon
Danielle Bailey
Danielle Baldwin
Tirzah & Shaylan Barlow
Karrie Black
Shane Clark
Genie Connel
Margaret & Matt Coseo
Jake & Brooke Davenport
Emily Desisti
Katelyn Dillon
Craig Duddy
Cassandra Dunlap
Kyleigh Farmelo
Carrie & Brandon Foley
Katherine Furtoss
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Cheryl Galvani
Adam & Melanie Gehl
Erin Green
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Becca Johnson
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Elizabeth Musselman
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Tom & Anna Marie Schilke
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Mikki & Christopher Snyder

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Bluebird \$100-499

Marty & Mary Baldwin
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Mary Anne & William Perks
Thomas & Katherine Roehlke
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Animal Sponsors

Sarah Valley
In Memory of Katherine Mekos
FROM
Judy Welliver

Monetary Donations

AmazonSmile
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Grants

Anderson Foundation
Chemung County Room Tax
The Corning Foundation
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Run for the Hills Sponsors

Cameron Manufacturing
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Vulcraft of New York, Inc.
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Twilight at Tanglewood Sponsors

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Our deepest gratitude for thoughtful gifts in memory of

Barbara Butterfield

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Keith & Kathy Willes
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Robert McKinnon

FROM
Lynda Brand
Scott Cook
Margaret Streeter

Peter VanBrunt

FROM
Bill & Charlotte Winkky

Carl Berry

FROM
Friends at Chemung Canal Trust Company

Our appreciation for gifts in honor of

In Honor of Amie Lester

FROM
Roberta Hoffman

In Honor of Merle Cratsley

FROM
April Cook

Happy Retirement to Dawn Bush

FROM
Friends at the Chemung County Health Department

Happy Birthday to Jenn Vaughn

FROM
Stacey Edwards

Happy 90th Birthday to Muriel Friend

FROM
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Donation to the Canopy Walkway in Honor of Bill Bishop

FROM
Colby Bishop
Shannon Harrison

In Kind Donations

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Duke & Wendy Carroll
Evelyn Davilla
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Bulletin board and push pins
Membership supplies
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Two credenzas
Coco husk for snakes
The Arbornaut books for Meg
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