

FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Summer 2018 Program Schedule

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center is your gateway to the outdoors. Our grounds are open every day from sunrise to sunset. Our new visitor center is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, except state holidays.

Programs listed below are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Dress for the weather! Organized youth/civic groups are asked to call ahead to ensure we can accommodate your group at these programs. If we cannot accommodate your group, we are happy to make alternate arrangements for your organization. For further information, call us at 518-475-0291.

We welcome those who have any type of physical challenge to all of our programs. If you call ahead to let us know your needs, we will be happy to learn how we can serve you.

Five Rivers Electronic Newsletter: Sign up for e-mail notifications about upcoming programs at Five Rivers at www.dec.ny.gov. Look for the blue "DEC Delivers" box and follow the instructions.

Friends of Five Rivers: The Friends of Five Rivers (FOFR/Friends) is the citizen's support group for Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. Members receive a 20% discount on purchases at the FOFR bookstore, free snowshoe rentals, reduced fees for selected programs, and a subscription to the newsletter *River Ramblings*. Membership fees and donations support programs and activities at Five Rivers throughout the year. Many members volunteer their time as greeters, as volunteer instructors and for special events. Membership levels are available at www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org or call the Friends at 518-475-0295 for more information.

Dogs and other pets are not permitted at Five Rivers. If you are looking for a natural area to walk with your pet, we are happy to recommend other nearby locations. Call us at 518-475-0291.

HELP FIVE RIVERS MONITOR MONARCHS

Wednesdays through October 12, 1:00 to 2:00 PM
Citizen Science: MONARCH LARVA MONITORING PROJECT (MLMP)

Take part in ongoing research on monarch butterflies. For more than 15 years, we have collected data at Five Rivers and have contributed to the University of Minnesota's continent-wide citizen science project. The goal of the MLMP is to better understand how and why monarch populations vary, with a focus on their distribution and abundance during the breeding season in North America. Volunteers in the United States, Canada and Mexico aid in conserving monarchs and advance understanding of butterfly ecology and migration in general. Meet at the Nature's Accessible Backyard Trail kiosk, at the south end of our parking lot. Go to www.mlmp.org to learn about the project.

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Each summer, the Friends of Five Rivers offers outdoor programs to help parents and children grow in their understanding and appreciation of the natural world through shared activities. Parents or caregivers and children must participate together. Registration is required.

Summer Family Fun is a four-morning program for children ages 2-8, which will be offered July 24-27 and repeated July 31 - August 3 and August 7-10. Go to www.friendsoffiverivers.org/node/87 for complete information, including fees and a registration form.

ATTENTION TEACHERS

Living Environment Institute: MARVELOUS MIGRATIONS

Dates: Tuesday, August 14 – Thursday, August 16, 2018

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, with an evening program on Wednesday (light dinner provided)

Location: Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, 56 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY

Cost: \$60.00

To register or for more information, call 518-475-0291 or email 5Rivers@dec.ny.gov

Join us for this summer's Living Environment Institute (LEI), as we explore Marvelous Migrations on land, water and air. Migration is a relevant topic for educators everywhere. It is an exciting topic for students and teachers alike. For three days, LEI participants will explore a wide variety of migrants, including where they live and where they go. We'll even become field scientists as we spend a day participating in ongoing projects at Norrie Point Environmental Center on the Hudson River.

LEI participants will bring home an understanding of the marvels of migration. Participants will gain valuable ideas, standards-based curriculum and activities, and connect with a network of peers. We'll do this with the guidance of experts like nationally recognized Chris Bowser, recipient of US EPA's Environmental Quality Award for his creation of the American Eel Project, as they share expert techniques for engaging students across disciplines and grade levels.

Visit www.dec.ny.gov/education/1905.html for more information.

Saturday, July 7, 2:00 PM

Family Fun: CLOUDSPOTTING

Can't tell a cumulus from a nimbus? A warm summer day just begs us to tip our heads back and enjoy the clouds passing overhead. Join us as we watch for and identify different cloud types, and learn what they can tell us about the weather. Bring a blanket to lie on, if you like.

Saturday, July 14, 10:00 AM

LIVING SIMPLY

In honor of Thoreau's birthday, July 12, we will discuss ways of living a simpler life. With so many options, from community sharing websites to recycling your neighbors' trash, we can all find a

simpler and more sustainable way to live. Come prepared to ask questions and be engaged in the conversation. You will get a to-do list pad to take home as an example of what a little effort can do to decrease waste in landfills and simplify your life.

Saturday, July 14, 2:00 PM

Family Fun: INSECTS ABOUND!

Join us for a guided walk to look for insects and their homes. Insects are essential pollinators and a primary food source for many animals here at Five Rivers. Bring your explorer tools if you have them. You never know what we might find.

Saturday, July 21, 2:00 PM

Guided Walk: VLOMANKILL TRAIL SOUNDSCAPE

We'll take a relaxed ramble along the edges of the Vlomankill, enjoying the many sounds of nature: water spilling over rocks, insects and birds calling, the breeze in the branches. We'll follow the Vlomankill and Fordham's Crossing trails as they meander in concert with the stream.

Saturday, July 28, 10:00 AM

MINERALS, MINERALS, EVERYWHERE

Minerals sustain us as well as plants and animals. This indoor talk will focus on our dependence on minerals and how life on our planet is recorded in some of the fossils you see at Five Rivers. Guest speaker Richard Hartnett has studied geology and paleontology for many years and has collected fossils and minerals from all over the world. He is a former member of the Boston Mineral Club, a past president of the Capital District Mineral Club, and a current member of the Southwest Vermont Mineral Club. He has also led field collecting trips throughout the region.

Saturday, August 4, 10:00 AM

Family Fun: TURTLE TREK

Five Rivers is a great place to watch turtles! Visitors will enjoy a short indoor presentation followed by a guided walk around Beaver Pond, where a variety of turtles are often observed. Appropriate for all ages.

Saturday, August 11, 10:00 AM

FUNGI WITH A FUN GUY

Mushrooms are not just a tasty addition to your dinner – they are some of our most important decomposers and can rival wildflowers in their beauty and diversity. Come out for a walk on our Vlomankill and Big Pine trails where we will talk about these important decomposers and explore their diversity here at Five Rivers.

Saturday, August 18, 10:00 AM

Watchable Wildlife: WILDLIFE WALK

This relaxed outdoor stroll is designed to enhance your knowledge of the natural world. Join us on Five Rivers' trails to look and listen for signs of wildlife. Learn more about the fascinating birds, turtles and mammals we hope to encounter along the way. Binoculars will enhance the experience, so please bring them if you have them.

Saturday, August 25, 10:00 AM

Guided Walk: VLOMANKILL TRAIL

This trail is one of the coolest on the property. In summer, the shade from our giant hemlock trees creates a lovely cooling effect. Join us to walk alongside the Vlomankill stream and look and listen for wildlife along this scenic route. We will stop briefly to check out the Miller Meadow and look and listen for the abundant wildlife that in summer calls this field home.

I BIRD NY

Citizen Science: EARLY BIRDERS

Thursdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27
7:30 AM

Celebrate the dawn chorus as we monitor the progression of fall bird migration. These outdoor surveys begin at 7:30 AM. Meet at the bird-viewing window in the visitor center. After a brief introduction, we'll head out on the trails. Beginners are always welcome. Binoculars are helpful but not necessary. In case of inclement weather, these programs will be canceled. For more information, call 518-475-0291.

Saturday, September 1, 2:00 PM

Interactive Lecture: CREATING OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY: WILDERNESS AND LOCAL ARTS

Enjoy an interactive lecture exploring why the Hudson Valley is credited as the birthplace of American culture and our national identity. European settlers in the northeast had very strong dislikes of nature and in particular, wilderness. Over time, those views changed and became seen as the "...first product of value created by those otherwise cultureless Americans" and the basis for our "pioneering spirit."

Saturday, September 8, 10:00 AM

Family Fun: TOURING THE TERRARIUM

Have you been wondering what's in the terrarium in Five Rivers' visitor center? Join us as we take a closer look at ferns, fungi, and more. Discover the role each plays in a forested habitat.

Saturday, September 8, 2:00 PM

Family Fun: BACK to SCHOOL BLAST

Have you been sitting at a desk this week? Work out your wiggles on a quick-paced walk around the Service Road Loop Trail. Meet at the visitor center.

GET YOUR WIGGLES OUT!

Family Fun: OUTDOORS AFTER SCHOOL

Thursdays, September 13 through October 25
4:30 to 5:30 PM

Hey, kids! Are you tired of sitting at a desk all day? Join us after school to get some fresh air, stretch your legs, and have fun outdoors. Meet at the visitor center to begin our adventure. Each week will have a different theme and will include time to explore outdoors. Come for as many sessions as you'd like, and dress for outdoor activity. For children in grades K-5 and their caregivers.

Saturday, September 22, 10:00 AM

Citizen Science: SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

The northeast has a new alien invader, the spotted lanternfly. Come learn about this destructive critter and its life cycle to help you "spot" it while you are out and about. We will also go over the various signs that are indicators they have made their way into your community. While this critter has not yet been found in New York, early detection by local citizens is a great way to curb their spread and keep our trees and agricultural crops safe.

Saturday, September 22, 2:00 PM

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs: A WINDOW INTO TRUE BUGS

The Western Conifer Seed Bug and the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug are two non-native species that seem to be on the rise in homes across New York. Join us in learning about these pesky bugs and other insects that inhabit your house this time of year and return in the spring.

Saturday, September 29, 10:00 AM

Watchable Wildlife: BIRDS FOR BEGINNERS

If you have always wanted to learn the basics of bird watching come to this hour-and-a-half talk and trek to discover a new and fascinating hobby. We will begin indoors to discover things you never knew about binoculars and bird books. We will then head out on Five Rivers' relatively flat trails to learn how to identify common birds. Please bring binoculars if you have them, or we have a few we can loan.

Saturday, September 29, 2:00 PM

Watchable Wildlife: SEPTEMBER STROLL

This relaxed walk on the Old Field and Wild Turkey trails will feature a discussion on whatever signs of wildlife come our way. Birds, bugs, tracks, scat or reptiles may be among the animals and animal signs we discover. Enjoy the last glimpses of some of these creatures before they head south or underground to wait out the winter.

37TH ANNUAL FIVE RIVERS FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 15, Noon to 4:00 PM

Join us for a family-oriented environmental celebration featuring hands-on educational activities, interactive exhibits, interpretive walks and more. Enjoy opportunities to meet live hawks, owls, snakes and turtles up close and personal. Meet Smokey Bear, cast for "backyard bass," and enjoy staffed exhibits from a wide range of local conservation partners...all absolutely free of charge! There will also be live music from local band Diva and the Dirty Boys, as well as sales of refreshments, plants and birdseed.