

5 RIVERS TRIBUTARY

Winter 2007

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

518-475-0291

www.dec.state.ny.us/website/education/5rivers.html

5rivers@dec.state.ny.us

Pack Baskets

Adirondack pack baskets have a long history of utility and beauty. Their distinctive shape is easily recognized and their service valued far beyond the limits of New York State's Forest Preserve. The Center is offering a one-day basket-making workshop, during which participants will be instructed by a guest basketweaver. See the last page for more information.

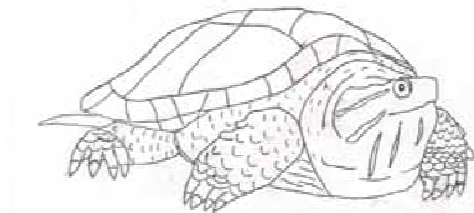
Talking About Turtles

Many of us are familiar with the turtles seen at Five Rivers. Painted turtles are known for lounging around in the sun, stacked up on the logs at the Beaver Pond. Snapping turtles can be spotted hungrily circling the bridge. Musk and wood turtles can also be found at Five Rivers. These turtles are, in my opinion, one of the main attractions here at Five Rivers!

A turtle's shell is extremely hard, and practically invincible against any predators the turtle may come across. However, this armor offers no defense against cars. Turtles are often seen trying to cross a busy highway. One question always asked is "Why did the turtle cross the road?"

Box turtles live on land, so when we see one on a highway, we can assume it's just walking to the woods across the street. But what about snapping and painted turtles? They cross roads. Where are they going? A female turtle will cross a road to look for a nice spot lay her eggs. Aquatic turtles will also cross roads traveling from one body of water to another. Turtles are able to find water, they don't just wander around aimlessly until they spot a pond by accident. Road mortality is probably the biggest threat to turtles. Next time you see a turtle crawling near the road, please slow down, for the turtles' sake!

--Lauren Niedbalec



Painted turtle

Lauren is a local high school student who was awarded a Student Fellowship and who gave a week of service to the Center this summer.

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center Winter Program Schedule 2007

Programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Dress for the weather! We regret that we cannot accommodate organized youth groups at these programs. Call to make special arrangements.

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 best serve you.

For further information or for pre-registration, call Five Rivers at 518-475-0291. In the event of severe weather, programs may be canceled. Please call the Center to confirm.

Monday, January 1 27th ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD COUNT 9:00 AM

Come help us ring out our old annual bird list and ring in the new as we search high and low for our fine feathered friends. In the 26 years of this annual site survey, 68 different species have been recorded. Bring binoculars and dress warmly.

Saturday, January 13 Watchable Wildlife: CARDINALS 9:00 AM

"What cheer! What cheer!" proclaims the redbird from his apical perch, as if reading our minds. But it is only recently that we have enjoyed the company of this most striking songbird. Join us for a field study of the cardinal as we discuss how favorable influences such as habitat change, climate moderation and bird-feeding have affected bird ranges.

Saturday, January 27 TREES IN WINTER 2:00 PM

An outdoor program to learn the basics of tree identification, enjoy the beauty of winter greenery, and discover how trees survive weather that could freeze an animal solid.

Sunday, January 28 SNOWSHOE STROLL 2:00 PM

An introduction to the basics of snowshoeing. Learn snowshoeing basics, turns and steps, and then try them out on a short hike! Call the Center to pre-register if you wish to use our snowshoes. We also have a limited number of children's snowshoes available.

Friday, February 16 NIGHT WALK 7:00 PM

An exploration of a cold winter night, using all our senses to explore the darkness. We'll look for stars and listen to the sounds of the night. Dress for the outdoors!

Saturday, February 17 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 9:00 AM

This weekend, birders all over North America will count birds in their yard or local park as part of the *Great Backyard Bird Count*. Join us as we count birds at our feeder, and show how you can help the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon Society track the distribution and abundance of winter birds from the comfort of your own window.



Astronomy Workshop for teachers

Saturday, February 10 1-4 PM and 6-8 PM

Join us and the astronomers from the Dudley Observatory and the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers for an afternoon and evening workshop about the stars. We will have Starlab, sunscopes and telescopes set up. There will be star stories and activities to bring back to your classrooms. In-service credit is available through the Greater Capital District Teachers' Center. Call to pre-register by Feb. 7. There is a \$10 materials fee, \$7 for FOFR Members. Families are welcome at the evening program.

Tuesday, February 20 HOOT OWLS--A Family Program 10:00 AM

An indoor program about owls: books, crafts, pellets, calls. Aries the owl will make a special appearance. Pre-register by February 18. Materials fee: FOFR Members \$2.00/family. Non-members \$1.00/family. Repeated on **Thursday, February 22.**

Saturday, February 24 SNOWSHOEING 2:00 PM

An introduction to the basics of snowshoeing. Learn snowshoeing basics, turns and steps, and then try them out on a short hike! Call the Center to pre-register if you wish to use our snowshoes. We also have a limited number of children's snowshoes available.

Saturday, March 3 BERENSTAIN BEARS READ-A-THON 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Come enjoy readings of classic Berenstain Bears nature books at this parent-and-child celebration of *Read Across America Day*. The program, part of the National Education Association's annual nationwide reading initiative, will feature annotated commentary from Professor Actual Factual Bear, and prizes for anyone with a Bears book, doll or garb.

Monday, March 19 Home School Program; MAPLE SUGARING 10:00 AM

From the tree to the jar: the science, skill, art and fun of maple sugaring. This family-oriented program will be hands-on learning. Of course, tasting will be included. Materials fee: FOFR Members \$1.00/family. Non-members \$2.00/family.

MAPLE SUGAR OPEN HOUSES

Saturdays and Sundays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

March 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 and April 1

At our Maple Sugar Open Houses, watch sap drip from the tapped trees, and smell the syrup boiling in the evaporator. You'll learn to twirl a drill and pound a spile, and use your taste buds to sample maple syrup. The Maple Sugar Open Houses are open to the public. Scout and other youth groups are welcome; call the Center to pre-register a group.

Visit our exhibit "**Maple Sugaring Though Time**" featuring antique maple equipment, for a fascinating glimpse into the history of maple sugaring.

Staff: Nancy Payne, Anita Sanchez, Dee Strnisa, Craig D. Thompson, Lori Whiting

Adirondack Pack Basket Making Workshop

Saturday, March 10

10:00am to 5:00pm

Weaver Sandy Miller, of Lake Clear Weavers, will facilitate this hands-on workshop.

Participants will make an Adirondack Pack Basket. Registration is limited.

To register bring or send this form with your check to arrive by **February 10, 2007**.

Adirondack Pack Basket Workshop

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

		Member	Non-Member	#	Cost
Full ADK Basket	24in H	\$65.00	\$70.00		
Day Basket	16in. H	55.00	60.00		

Harnesses will be available that day; \$18.00 & \$12.00

Bring a lunch. Hot drinks will be available

Total _____