

The logo features a black circle on the left containing the text "5 RIVERS" in white. To the right of the circle, the word "TRIBUTARY" is written in a large, black, serif font. The "T" in "TRIBUTARY" is partially overlaid by the circle.

5 RIVERS TRIBUTARY

Spring 2009

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
518-475-0291

www.dec.ny.gov (search for Five Rivers)

5rivers@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Attention *Tributary* Readers—*Tributary* Now Available Online

We are moving toward an online-only newsletter format to reduce mailing costs and conserve resources. See www.dec.ny.gov/education/1841.html to read or download and print a PDF of the *Tributary* from DEC's website. You only need to sign up once to receive an e-mail notification when each new issue of the *Tributary* is available, as well as program announcements from Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. To sign up for e-mail notices, go to <http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/fiverivertributary> and follow the easy instructions. Paper copies of the *Tributary* will be discontinued, except for pickup at the center and at selected locations in the community.

Scouting Opportunities

Scout and youth group leaders, are you looking for a way to go green? Five Rivers offers many opportunities to youth groups of all types. We have developed programs to meet several scouting requirements. Programs are most often free of charge, but some do require a small fee to cover materials or snowshoe rentals.

We can sometimes accommodate youth groups at our public programs. Leaders should call well in advance with an approximate head count. Our most popular program is our guided outdoor lesson for the current season, which we offer to groups of five or more youths. We introduce participants to some of the plants and signs of animals we encounter along the way. This program is offered on weekends during the school year and throughout the week in the summer.

We have several Daisy, Brownie and Girl Scout programs we offer through the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York. A list of these programs is available in your 2008-09 *Discover Guide* and online at www.gsny.org.

Register for these Girl Scout classes through GSNENY at 518-489-8110. These programs include a

monthly night walk to introduce children to the fascinating world of nature at night. Several fun programs related to badge requirements are also available.

We have exciting outdoor programs designed to meet Cub Scout requirements as well. Some of the most popular include the Webelos Naturalist activity badge and the Bear Trail Achievement 5. Please call well in advance for these programs.

If you have any questions about these programs or would like to schedule one for your group, please contact us. We hope to see you here.

Online Family Newsletter – DEC *Outdoor Discovery*

Visit www.dec.ny.gov/public/43355.html to read DEC's biweekly, online newsletter for families. Each issue introduces readers to a seasonal, environmental or nature topic, suggests a related activity and lists family-friendly events at DEC's environmental education centers. Subscribe for free, and have the newsletter e-mailed to you.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Pete Grannis, Commissioner **David A. Paterson, Governor**

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Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

Spring 2009 Program Schedule

Programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Participants should dress for the weather. We regret that we cannot accommodate organized youth groups at these programs. In the event of severe weather, programs may be cancelled. **We welcome people with disabilities to all of our programs; call ahead to let us know your needs.** For further information, contact Five Rivers at 518-475-0291 or send an e-mail to 5rivers@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

MAPLE SUGAR OPEN HOUSES—last of the season!

Saturday and Sunday, April 4 and 5, 1:30-3:30 PM

Learn about the ancient craft of maple sugaring, including Native American methods. Youth groups are welcome. All groups must call ahead to register.

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 AM *I Love Trees: FAMILY FOREST FUN*
A family program about trees, with outdoor, participatory games and activities.

Saturday, April 11, 10:00 AM **WILDLIFE BABIES**
Join us for a walk to look for signs of wildlife nests and dens and new life at Five Rivers.

Thursday, April 16, 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM **EARTH SCIENCE**
Fun experiments, activities and a walk to look at geological landmarks. Register by April 14.

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 AM **BIRDING for BEGINNERS**
Tips on using binoculars, where to go, birding guides and local birding groups. Bring binoculars, or use ours.

Saturday, April 18, 2:00 PM *Family Fun: FOR the BIRDS*
For kids and their families, this program includes a guided walk and a craft. Bring binoculars, or use ours.

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 PM *Bird Club Outing: WOODCOCK WATCH*
The Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's annual survey. Changing land-use practices have had a significant effect on woodcock, but they're doing well at Five Rivers. Come see for yourself.

Friday, April 24, 7:00 PM **PEEPERS and FROG WATCHING**
Trek to the wetlands to find those tiny frogs with the big voices. Bring a flashlight. No nets, please.

Saturday, April 25, 10:00 AM *Arbor Day Work Project: ORCHARD MAINTENANCE*
Celebrate Arbor Day by sprucing up our conservation plantations. We'll replant crab-apples in the historic scion orchard, plant new hawthorns and continue our rejuvenation of wild apple trees.

Saturday, April 25, 2:00 PM *Earth Day Fun: GROW YOUR OWN BIRD FOOD*
An indoor/outdoor clinic on wildlife gardening tips and savvy landscaping techniques sure to feed our fine feathered friends in summer and fall.

Friday, May 1, 7:00 PM **SNIPE HUNT**
Join us as we search field and fen for a rumor of snipe, the whisper of woodcock and other things that go bump in the night. Bring your own "snipe trap." (Use your imagination.)

Saturday, May 2, 10:00 AM **OPOSSUMS and THEIR RELATIVES**
Join us outdoors for a walk and talk about the habits and habitats of opossums and other animals.

Saturday, May 2, 2:00 PM **ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE**
A surprising level of intelligence has been discovered in elephants and dolphins. An indoor presentation on these amazing findings and a walk to discover intelligence in local wildlife.

THE EARLY BIRDER

Thursday mornings: May 7, 14, 21, 28

Meet at 7:00 AM for refreshments and birds at the feeder. Outdoor walk begins at 7:30 AM.

Beginners always welcome. Bring binoculars and bird guides if you have them, or borrow ours.

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 AM

Cheep Thrills: BIRDING by EAR

Come celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on an auditory tour of the grounds as we engage in “sound science” at the height of the annual spring migration.

Saturday, May 9, 2:00 PM

Family Fun: BIRDING for KIDS

Birds at the feeder and beyond: concepts in bird anatomy, behavior, identification and conservation. Parent and child must accompany each other. Register by Wednesday, May 6.

Friday, May 15, 7:00 PM

FROGWATCH, USA

We’ll monitor our amphibian population by listening for their calls. Bring flashlights. No nets, please.

Saturday, May 23, 10:00 AM

PROJECT BUDBURST

Your reports as citizen scientists can help track the changes in the seasons. Come and learn how.

Saturday, May 23, 2:00 PM

WORLD TURTLE DAY

Come and meet some captive turtles, and then go for a walk to see Five Rivers’ wild turtles.

Saturday, May 30, 10:00 AM

WILDFLOWER IDENTIFICATION

Learn some of the basics of identifying flowers using field guides and hand lenses.

Saturday, May 30, 2:00 PM

FLOWERS AFIELD

A walk to search out the flowers of spring and discuss their folklore and natural history.

Saturday, June 6, 10:00 AM

Family Fun: OH, DEER!

Fun activities for the whole family to learn about New York State wildlife.

Saturday, June 6, 2:00 PM

FUNGUS AMONG US

A walk on a forest trail to study the fungi that are such an important part of the forest ecosystem.

Friday, June 12, 7:00 PM

FIREFLY WATCH

An evening walk to take a census of fireflies and learn about how we can help these magical beetles.

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 AM

SNAKES INSIDE

Come and meet some snakes up close, both non-venomous and venomous (in locked boxes). We’ll also tell you about some of the research being done to help these magnificent animals.

Saturday, June 13, 2:00 PM

SNAKES OUTSIDE

A walk to look for non-venomous snakes at Five Rivers and learn their habits and about their habitats.

Friday, June 19, 7:00 PM

SOLSTICE FLOWERS

Flowers that bloom around the summer solstice are steeped in ancient traditions and lore. On this evening walk, we will explore some of these blooms and their history.

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 AM

POISONOUS PLANTS

We’ll look for some poisonous but beautiful plants, including the most feared of all—poison ivy.

Saturday, June 20, 2:00 PM

EDIBLE PLANTS

A walk to forage for and munch on greenery that’s nutritious, if not delicious.

Wednesday, June 24, 2:00 PM HOME SCHOOLERS STREAM STUDY

A stream science program designed for home schoolers. Come prepared to wade.

Friday, June 26, 7:00 PM WONDERS of WETLANDS

Experience the rich diversity of wetlands, and listen for one of the first voices of summer, the bullfrog.

Saturday, June 27, 10:00 AM *Family Fun:* INSECTS

A walk to find, catch and learn about the insects of the season. Materials fee: Members - \$1.00 per family. Non-members - \$1.75 per family.

Saturday, June 27, 2:00 PM DRAGONS and DAMSELS

A walk to observe and identify dragonflies and damselflies using binoculars and catch and release.

Tuesday, June 30, 7:00 PM FIREFLY WATCH

Help us monitor fireflies and collect valuable data on firefly activity at Five Rivers.

Friday, July 3, 2:00 PM 12th ANNUAL BUTTERFLY COUNT

A close look at common butterflies of the Capital District as we continue our annual catch-and-release census. Nets and binoculars are welcome. Register by Wednesday, July 1.



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Environmental Education
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