



# The Rogers Center Journal



Rogers Environmental Education Center

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Public Affairs and Education  
in conjunction with the not-for-profit  
Friends of Rogers Environmental Education Center, Inc.

See Schedule of Events Inside!

Fall 2008

[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) (Search for Rogers)

September - October - November

## Rogers Environmental Education Center

2721 State Highway 80  
Sherburne, NY 13460-4507  
607-674-4017; press 1 for Education  
FAX: 607-674-2655  
E-mail: [rogers@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:rogers@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

### Staff

Marsha Guzewich, Director - Ext 624  
Fred von Mechow, Program Coord. - Ext 625  
Laura Carey, Project WILD Coord. - Ext 626  
Chris DeCesare, Educator - Ext 627  
Amy Smith, Water Ed. Specialist - Ext 628  
Darlene Miller, Office Manager - Ext 623

## Visitor Center and Bookstore Hours

Monday-Friday  
8:30 AM to 4:45 PM  
Saturday 1:00 to 4:45 PM  
Sunday (*June-August only*)  
1:00 - 4:45 PM  
Closed State Holidays

## Grounds Open Daily Sunrise to Sunset

## Friends of Rogers Board of Directors

Randy Muth, President  
Laurie Trotta, Vice President  
Rose Cole, Treasurer  
Carol Smith, Secretary  
John Novak  
Frank Lee  
Thurston Packer  
Byron Harrington

## Friends of Rogers Store

Friends of Rogers operates a bookstore in the Visitor Center. Come in and look through the many field guides and natural history books for all ages - all at 20 percent off retail prices!

We can also special order hard-to-find nature titles!

The Rogers Center Journal is published quarterly and produced by Darlene Miller. If you wish to subscribe, please contact Rogers Center - Ext 623.

Printed on recycled paper.  
Please recycle this copy.

## Notes from the Director

by Marsha Guzewich

We celebrated 40 years as an education center in June. Attendees at the celebration spanned the 40-year period and included the first director, John Weeks, and his wife; members of the late Herm Weiskotten's family who grew up with their father working at Rogers; a couple who worked on one of the first interactive exhibits for the center; Randy Muth, Friends of Rogers's current president; current Rotary Club member Mary Hill, representing John Borst, who was one of the founding fathers of Rogers and a critical connection between Rotary and Rogers; current staff, interns and members of Rogers Environmental Interpretation Institute. It was a nice opportunity to revisit the past and connect with the future. Next year will be the site's 100<sup>th</sup> year as the location of Rogers Game Farm.

As gas prices rise, we are monitoring visitation at the center. As we read that visits to national parks are down, attendance at our programs remains steady. Perhaps this is a reflection of people staying closer to home and visiting local sites.

Here are a few fuel-saving tips for drivers: travel at or below the speed limit, accelerate slowly, keep tires inflated to the proper pressure, and walk or ride a bike and leave the car parked when possible.

Gas prices are just one of the things we pay attention to as we try to conserve the resources we have. Our mission is to connect people to nature, and that involves meeting people where they are. We will continue to go to schools and other sites to teach audiences as requested, but will be very aware of ensuring that there will be an adequate audience. We will combine trips as appropriate and possible, using the most fuel-efficient vehicle we have available and making the most of the time spent with each audience. We are looking at everything we do to determine if we are making the best use of our resources. We can save paper if you subscribe to this newsletter online. What else can you personally do to save valuable resources?



Environmental Education Bureau Chief Ann Harrison presents a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary poster to Rogers Center Director Marsha Guzewich

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

"Kids in Nature Daily"
The quarterly newsletter with fun
and stimulating activities that teach
about nature.

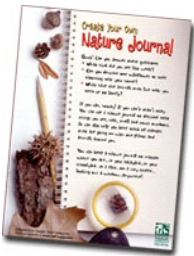


Be K.I.N.D. to your world!
Fall 2008
Issue #41
by naturalist interns
Bobby Jamison and Monika Wood

Nature Quiz: TO SLEEP OR NOT TO SLEEP

Fall is the time of year when some animals are busy putting on weight so they can sleep through the winter. We call this sleep hibernation. Don't be fooled-not all animals are deep sleepers. Do you know the light sleepers from the deep sleepers?

- 1. BLACK BEAR Light sleeper or True hibernator
2. SKUNK Light sleeper or True hibernator
3. WOODCHUCK Light sleeper or True hibernator
4. BAT Light sleeper or True hibernator
5. JUMPING MOUSE Light sleeper or True hibernator
(see answers at the bottom of this page)



CRAFT CORNER

CREATE YOUR OWN NATURE JOURNAL

You can keep a nature journal no matter where you are: in your backyard...in a park...on a city street... looking out a window...anywhere!

Use a nature journal to describe neat things you see, hear, smell and touch outdoors. It can also help you to keep track of changes that are going on with the plants and animals around you.

- x What you'll need: notebook, paper, colored pens and pencils.
x How to begin: go outdoors, ask questions, look and describe, tape and glue stuff and look up the names of plants and animals you find.

Here's an example of how your journal might look:



Record what you are observing using sketches, pictures, words, seeds, leaves...anything! But please be careful not to remove or disturb any natural items that might be useful to the critters you are observing, like nests, feathers or wildflowers.

Adapted from Ranger Rick magazine www.nwf.org/gowild

Which Friend Am I?

Hi friends. Is it really fall already? I love the fall. Trees are one of my favorite places to hang out since I love to eat bark. I also like to eat a lot of different types of plants. I am a herbivore. I'll probably mostly hang out by myself this winter, which is okay with me! I have to eat a lot since I'll need lots of fat to survive the winter. I have three different kinds of hair on my body. I am shy and gentle but can still protect myself with sharp hairs if threatened. Next time you're in the woods, look up in a tree and maybe we'll meet.

Which Friend Am I? - Entry Form

To learn what the described animal is, visit your local library or the library and other resources at Rogers Center. Mail your answer to: Rogers Center, 2721 State Highway 80, Sherburne, NY 13460 by October 15, 2008. One name will be drawn from all the correct responses received, and the winner will receive a Friends of Rogers t-shirt.

Which Friend Am I? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 \_\_\_\_\_
Answers to Nature Quiz:

1. Light 2. Light 3. True 4. True 5. True



## Volunteer Recognition

We are very grateful for the many hours of service contributed by the following volunteers at Rogers Center:

- Barbara Meeks – office and library assistance
- Marjorie Bates (RSVP Program) – office reception
- Wells Horton – event photography
- Melissa Kocak – gardening and weeding
- Eaton IRA (UCP) – stamping teacher workshop books

We wish to acknowledge the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program work crew for their efforts in sprucing up and helping to eradicate garlic mustard from the grounds and trails.

## Winter Living Celebration Notes

*by Chris DeCesare*

Have you noticed that monarch butterflies and geese are heading south already? Kids are just beginning the new year at school. Warm afternoons still linger, but nights bring more than just a chill. Do you know what that means? It means that winter is just around the corner, and we are getting ready to C-E-L-E-B-R-A-T-E! No, we aren't crazy. We are just super-excited about the season and all the unique things that it brings. To experience what we mean, you will have to come to our 31st annual Winter Living Celebration on Saturday, January 10 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

As always, we gather to celebrate whatever Mother Nature brings us: snow, rain, cold or warm temperatures. We've seen it all and always have fun. There are horse-drawn sleighs or wagons, exhibits highlighting local resources, demonstrations, food and entertainment. It is a family-oriented day with activities occurring both indoors and outdoors. There is something for everyone to see or do. Snowshoes and cross-country skis are welcome, but please leave your ice skates at home. Bring your Christmas tree to our drop-off spot and we'll chip them for use on our trails. We are looking forward to a great day, and that includes YOU!

### Rogers Bookstore

Are you at a loss for what to buy for that special someone? The Friends of Rogers store may have what you need. We have an assortment of field guides, nature books and children's books. We carry t-shirts and sweatshirts, canvas tote bags, compact florescent lightbulbs, shade-grown coffee and bluebird

and bat nest box kits. You might choose one special item or pick up a few related things to make a nice "themed" gift. You are sure to find something you like. Prices on most things are generally 20% off retail price. Your gift will be twofold since purchases support programs at Rogers Center and you will be doing your part to shop locally. Happy Holidays!

## Get Out and Get Hiking!

*By Chris DeCesare*

Autumn is probably the best time to take a hike. The forest is full of many interesting things that you can experience using all your senses. Visually, you easily notice various nuts and berries adorning trees and shrubs and littering the ground.



There are many signs that animals have been feasting on them: empty shells, berry stains on logs, and scat piles containing seeds of the berries that have been eaten. As you walk, mushrooms and other fungi seem to suddenly pop out of the ground and out of every stump you come across. Colorful foliage lights up the forest canopy and covers the trail when the leaves begin to fall. Bright orange newts boldly walk across the trail, tempting you to give them your undivided attention. Seeing all these things is enough to delight anyone, and there are still your other senses to consider.

Take a deep breath; the scents in the air are so rich that you can almost taste them. At no other season are the acute smells of the earth so noticeable as in autumn. Daytime temperatures are often very nice—not too hot or cold—and perfect for hiking. That sweatshirt that kept you warm in the car ends up around your waist while walking. On cool days, rocks that heat in the autumn sun offer warmth that draws you to them. Somehow, peanut butter sandwiches and little snacks always taste better when you are resting on a warm rock. Sometimes, the warmth feels so good that you close your eyes and take a quick nap. It is while your eyes are shut that your ears pick up the sounds of the forest. It seems quieter than spring and summer—fewer birds are calling and the buzzing of insects is scarce. The wind blows the leaves and carries a gentle shushing to your ears. The sound of a cawing crow is welcome because you know she is a sign of this season and belongs here. At this point, you may find yourself smiling. All feels right in the world for a few moments, and it is good.

So, gather up your maps and brush off your walking shoes. Stop by our office to pick up local state land maps or buy some Finger Lakes Trail maps from the Friends of Rogers store. The wonders of the forest are there if you take the time to look, smell, feel and listen.



## Please Don't Feed the Waterfowl!

By Chris DeCesare

One of the things that many visitors comment about is the opportunity to feed the fish in the trout ponds. Unfortunately, other animals are also fed in the process. This is a problem, particularly with geese. So what is the difference between feeding fish and feeding waterfowl? The trout are brought to Rogers from the South Otselic Fish Hatchery, where they hatch in captivity. They live in our contained cement pond environment for the remainder of their lives. They have access to insects that fall naturally into the water but can't leave this location to find other food. Feeding them food pellets isn't harmful to them. The geese, on the other hand, are free range and can access the whole property of Rogers Center and beyond. They are able to eat water plants, grass, corn in the adjacent farm fields, and many other things they find naturally.

Bread and fish food are not good for geese. These foods are very high in protein and may cause their wings to develop improperly. You may have seen some geese who are afflicted with this problem, called "angel wing," walking around the grounds. These birds are unable to fly well, if at all. This affects their ability to evade predators and to migrate seasonally. Feeding the geese causes other problems too. Geese learn to associate people with food and will approach them on a regular basis. Being wild animals, they may bite. The birds also gather in flocks around a person with food and can become aggressive while competing for food. Flocking also helps spread diseases among geese. So we discourage people from feeding the geese. It may be fun for kids to do, but it isn't in the best interest of the animals.

We have begun to put fencing around the trout ponds in an attempt to keep geese and ducks out of these areas so that they are not fed accidentally. We have signs discouraging feeding the geese, and we are relying on people to "do the right thing." Please obey the signs. You can further educate yourself about the dangers of feeding waterfowl at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7001.html>  
Tell your friends. Thanks!

## Exciting Sightings

by Fred von Mechow

Seems like lots to report this time! Beavers are back at Rogers. Until this summer, it had been 12 years since we last saw beaver activity at Rogers. We've seen them swimming in the ice pond and found evidence of chewing at several locations. We haven't found any lodges at Rogers, but some may well be built along a stream bank or along the Chenango River.

Bald eagles are everywhere. There is a nest in Oxford and people have reported seeing adults all along the Chenango River. Look up every once in a while and you may see one!

Our SUNY Morrisville wildlife students did another great job finding and oiling goose eggs this spring to help control the population. They identified about 45 nests and we had our lowest total gosling hatch in more than 15 years: 20 young. Thanks for keeping us with a reasonable number of geese.

Spring interns Bobby and Monika watched white-crowned sparrows hanging around the Stone House for several weeks. It was quite a treat, as white-crowned sparrows normally pass through only during migration. We never spotted any nests, though. Bobby and Monika also saw a goshawk on Cush Hill several times.

Speaking of Cush Hill, bluebirds appear to be nesting there—we've seen them on almost every visit. We've seen porcupine, too! Staff members noticed a large scat deposit in April and have since seen more scat. Most exciting was when Bobby, Monika and Katie, our summer intern, saw a porcupine in a tree on Cush Hill.



Adams Farm has yielded some exciting sightings, too. Several staff members observed a long-tailed weasel prowling along the gravel roadway next to the second pond for about five minutes while birdwatching in early June.

## A BIG "Thank You" to Facilitators!

A huge "thank you" to Project WET and Project WILD teacher workshop facilitators who are committed to protecting our natural resources. They enable other educators to incorporate even more environmental education into their teaching and are an essential part of the program's success:

Melani Baker  
Meghan Dye  
Robin Hill  
John Lancos  
Annie O'Reilly  
Tom Tasber

Doug Borzynski  
Charlie Hall  
Mike Jabot  
Patty Lent  
Kimie Romeo  
Gail Tooker

Griz Caudle  
Bob Hazen  
Sara Kempton  
Sheila Myers  
Ann-Marie Runfola  
Maggie Vescio

Dara Dorsey  
Brendan Herlihy  
Anna Kinney  
Susan O'Handley  
Mort Stein  
Chanda Vincent

Call 607-674-4017 to register. In the event of severe weather, modified programs will be held.  
Please call the center for more information. All programs are free and meet at the Visitor Center unless stated otherwise.  
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 can better serve you.

## September

- September 6 and 7  
Saturday and Sunday**     **COLORSCAPE ARTS FESTIVAL IN DOWNTOWN NORWICH**– See you at the Rogers Center Table!  
Saturday: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Sunday: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- September 6  
Saturday  
8:30 AM to Noon**     **CANOE/KAYAK LAKE MORaine**  
Paddle around this sizable body of water near Hamilton, rich in plant and animal life.  
**Registration required. \$5.00 non-refundable fee per paddler is due at registration. Meet in the main parking lot to carpool.**
- September 13  
Saturday  
9:00 AM to Noon**     **PHARSALIA–10 YEARS LATER**  
Ten years after a tornado ripped through this site in 1998, there are still signs left behind by its passing. See how the forest is healing the scar and compare it to past years. **Wear sturdy pants for protection against brushy/prickly undergrowth. Please call to register and for trip details. Meet in the main parking lot.**
- September 17  
Wednesday  
9:00 AM to Noon**     **ACTIVE SENIORS SERIES: BIKE BROOKFIELD**  
Take out your mountain bike and explore the enjoyable trails of Brookfield state land: 130 miles of trail on hilly terrain in beautiful state forest. **Please call to register and for trip details. Bring your own bike.**
- September 20  
Saturday  
10:00 AM**     **FALL FLOWERS AT CUSH HILL**  
Explore Cush Hill's wide variety of autumn flowers as we walk the trails and field edges for some blooming beauties. **Meet in the main parking lot.**
- September 27  
Saturday  
10:00 AM to Noon**     **MUSHROOMS WITH SALLY REYMERS**  
Venture among the trees in search of something that has spines, gills, tubes and teeth. No, you're not tracking a bizarre kind of animal...you're looking for fungi! **Meet in the main parking lot. Please call to register.**

## October

- October 4  
Saturday  
11:00 AM**     **COMPOSTING**  
Learn the basics of composting and how you can help the environment and save money doing it. Led by guest speaker, Judy Sellers, Master Gardener of Cooperative Extension.
- October 7  
Tuesday  
10:00 AM to Noon**     **ACTIVE SENIORS SERIES: FALL FOLIAGE WALK AT ADAMS FARM**  
Admire the exquisite colors of nature on a brisk autumn morning. Walk and learn about this striking transformation at Adam's Farm. **Please call to register. Meet in the main parking lot.**

### **Notice:**

*There will be no U-Pick Sunflowers this year due to crop failure.*

- October 11  
Saturday  
10:00 AM to Noon**     **LEAF PEEPING AT FARM TOWER**  
One of the most wonderful things about fall is being able to enjoy the array of colors all around us. Join us as we walk the Farm Tower Trail, soaking up the beauty that is fall.
- October 17  
Friday  
6:30 PM**     **ANIMALS OF HALLOWEEN**  
Tricks, treats and...animals? Meet some incredible costumed animals along the trails at Rogers! Meet at the amphitheater right outside the Visitor Center. **Please call to register.**
- October 25  
Saturday  
11:00 AM**     **CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: LEAF ART**  
Join us at Rogers and make all sorts of creatures out of the colorful leaves you see on the ground while we learn a little bit about fall trees. **Please call to register.**
- October 25  
Saturday  
7:00 PM**     **FALL CONSTELLATIONS**  
Join guest speaker, David Terrazas, as he takes us on a journey far, far away to the awesome constellations of our galaxy while staying right here at Rogers.

## November

- November 1  
Saturday  
11:00 AM**     **FALL FRUITS**  
Take a look around for nature's autumn bounty during this walk. You might be able to spot the wild foods that will help all kinds of animals survive the winter, and maybe you'll even catch a glimpse of the animals themselves!
- November 8  
Saturday  
11:00 AM**     **TRAIL TREKKING**  
Time to hit the trail! We will be searching for animal signs and keeping a careful eye out for other interesting sightings along the way.
- November 15  
Saturday  
10:00 AM**     **GOURD ART CREATIONS**  
Local gourd cultivator and artist, Jane Hough, will relate her techniques for making bird feeders and bird houses out of gourds. Gourds and supplies will be provided. **Registration is required; supplies limited. Cost \$8 for each gourd used.** (Ages 7 and up)
- November 22  
Saturday  
10:00 AM**     **PORCUPINES AT CUSH HILL**  
Find the traces of the elusive porcupine in its habitat at Cush Hill. You will learn about its remarkable system of defense and life history. **Please call to register. Meet in the main parking lot.**
- November 29  
Saturday  
11:00 AM**     **BLUEBIRD AND BAT BOXES**  
Put a roof over the head of a bat or bluebird by building a box for the animal of your choice. A whole variety of other creatures may call these boxes home, such as house wrens, tree swallows, chickadees or possibly even mice! **Please bring a hammer. There is an \$8.00 fee for each box that you take home.**



**New York State  
Outdoor Education Association's  
41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference**  
**Thursday, October 23 to**  
**Sunday, October 26, 2008**  
**Lake Placid, NY**  
*by Laura Carey*

You don't need to be an educator, naturalist or biologist to attend this conference and enjoy it! Come for one day or all four days, if you like. If you enjoy the outdoors, you will find something of interest at this conference.

Topics include dragonflies, maple sugaring, butterflies, making ulus (native Alaskan knives) and slate pendants, digital photography, writing and paddling the Chubb River. In addition, there are sessions on alpine flora, Bicknell's thrush, lake ecology, urban ecology, place-based education, schoolyard ecology, map-making with children, solar car kits and using podcasts to enhance environmental education experiences. There is a wide range of offerings for anyone interested in the outdoors. For a full listing of workshops, visit [www.nysoea.org](http://www.nysoea.org) and click on conference and booklet. You can register online too.

We'll see you in Lake Placid this fall!



**12th Annual  
Chenango County River Cleanup**  
**Saturday, September 20, 2008**  
*by Amy Smith*

Get out and do something to help protect your community's waterways by volunteering to take part in this year's river cleanup efforts on Saturday, September 20! This is a great opportunity to be part of the effort and feel a sense of satisfaction in contributing to the health and beauty of our local environment. Commit for an hour, for the whole morning or for as long as you'd like.

The Chenango County Environmental Management Council and DEC's Rogers Environmental Education Center coordinate a county-wide cleanup of the rivers, streams, lakes and ponds in our area. Each year, hundreds of pounds of plastic, metal, glass and litter are removed from our waterways and disposed of properly.

Be part of this year's cleanup. Call Amy Smith at 607-674-4017 ext. 628 or Bob McNitt at 607-334-6087 to sign up.



**Friends of Rogers Update**  
*by Randy Muth*

On June 14th, the Rogers Environmental center celebrated its 40th anniversary in the outdoor classroom. Rogers was the first environmental education center operated by DEC and the first center to establish a partnership between New York State and a local citizens group, the Friends of Rogers, to provide funding for special programs and projects. This historic event was commemorated with highlighted talks by John Weeks, the center's first director, and Kurt Weiskotten, the son of Herman Weiskotten, the center's first educator. Of course, no Roger's event would be complete without refreshments, which were all produced locally! I'd like to thank all those who attended this truly historic event.



*From left, Friends of Rogers President Randy Muth, Rogers Center Director Marsha Guzewish, DEC Environmental Education Bureau Chief Ann Harrison, Kurt Weiskotten and John Weeks, the Rogers Center's first director*

Friends of Rogers will be holding its annual meeting on September 21 at the Outdoor Classroom. Once again there will be a free ice cream social and all members, volunteers and their families are invited. We are also planning some entertainment for this event. More information will be sent out as it becomes available.

We continue to seek new board members for the Friends of Rogers. The board meets once every other month and is vital to the ongoing funding and operation of special programs at the center. If you or a friend are interested, please contact the Rogers Center today!

*"Autumn is a second spring when  
every leaf is a flower"*  
*- Albert Camus*

## Fall is Fun with Fungi

by Christina DeCesare

The fall season brings interesting changes to the natural world. Animals either leave for warmer places or prepare to stay and endure the tough winter conditions. Plants prepare for winter by storing food and shedding tender foliage.

For fungi, fall is the season to shine. You can't take a walk in the forest in fall without seeing mushrooms and other fungi growing on the ground, logs and trees. Though you might see old fungi still growing at other times of the year, it's fall that provides the necessary conditions for new fungi growth and reproduction.

Fungi reproduce through spores, which develop in a number of places: on the gills of the fungus and inside the body, in pores or tubes beneath the mushroom cap or in pits on the surface of the cap. Wind and rain disperse the spores. When a ripe spore falls in a place where there is moisture and decayed material or where there is a break in bark or wood, the spore sends out tiny, delicate, root-like threads called mycelium. The mycelium spread in the ground or within the tree. Hidden from view, the fungi develops tiny white buds-- embryonic mushrooms. When just the right amount of warmth and moisture is available, the buds absorb a tremendous amount of water and swell until they appear as mushrooms. To us, mushrooms often seem to have developed entirely overnight. In reality, they had already formed just beneath the surface and were just waiting for the right conditions to burst forth. It is really rather amazing when you think about it. Soon, more spores ripen and scatter, the mushroom fades and the process begins again.

I had a hard time being interested in fungi at first, when I thought the idea was to identify each one. It seemed difficult. When I decided to look at them simply for their shapes, colors, textures and other differences, it was a lot more fun for me. I recently found a great description of mushrooms in a bulletin published by the Illinois State Museum in 1970, called *Exploring for Mushrooms*. It says, "Mushroom flesh has the coolness of an early summer morning, a freshness of things newly created, an odor which is that of damp shadowy woods." Mushroom colors "may be orange as an oriole, green as moss, blue as lake water, brown as autumn oak leaves, red as coral, golden as butter, white as Indian pipe." Learning to "see" mushrooms with all your senses is tremendously helpful for appreciating them. **We are offering a mushroom foray on**

**Saturday, September 20 at 10:00 AM.** Why not come along?



## Read *The Rogers Center Journal* Online

Help us reduce mailing costs and conserve resources by viewing *The Rogers Center Journal* online! See [www.dec.ny.gov/education/1841.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1841.html) to view the Rogers Center's quarterly newsletter.

To be notified by email when the newsletter is posted online, sign up for our listserve. Go to <http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/rogerscenterjournal> and follow the directions. If you currently receive a paper copy in the mail, let us know to remove your name from our mailing list. Thank you for your concern for the environment.

## New Online Family Newsletter *DEC Outdoor Discovery*

Visit [www.dec.ny.gov/public/43355.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/43355.html) to read DEC's new biweekly online outdoor 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 directly to you!

## Animals of Halloween Friday, October 17 6:30 PM

Learn about different organisms and things that relate to our environment in a fun way: take a guided walk to "meet" them along the trail. Groups of people rotate through stations along a special trail and interact with costumed creatures to find out more about their specific characteristics and roles in nature. This year's program focuses on a flying squirrel, a crow, a luna moth and a compact fluorescent light bulb. A fifth station features a Halloween-inspired campfire story. Cider and donuts are provided. Families and individuals are welcome. The program is not intended to be scary.

**Please call Rogers Center to register at 607-674-4017 x623.** Meet on the lawn outside the Rogers Visitor Center. The program is free.



## New Green Living Page on DEC's Website

*by Laura Carey*

DEC's website has a new page, updated quarterly, called *Green Living: Ideas, tips and resources for making environmentally responsible choices in your daily life.*

Each update has ten tips for helping the environment, plus a "myth buster." Tips for the fall include ways to limit your gasoline consumption, cut your energy use, and get rid of yard waste using environmentally friendly methods. For more details, visit [www.dec.ny.gov/public/337.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/337.html)

Check this site seasonally for more ideas.

## Green Alternatives

*by Laura Carey*

Did you know that televisions and other electronic devices contain heavy metals and other contaminants that could be dangerous if disposed of improperly? One television can leak eight pounds of lead into the environment. In addition, many of the materials used in electronics are becoming scarce, and mining for them can be very harmful to the environment. You can recycle these items. To find out where, check the website of the Consumer Electronics Association at [www.mygreenelectronics.org](http://www.mygreenelectronics.org), or contact the U.S. Environmental Recycling Hotline at 1-800-253-2687.

You can also check with retailers and manufacturers to see if they have recycling plans for products they sell.

Information taken from AARP Bulletin, May 2008.

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Sherburne, NY  
2721 State High  
Conservation  
New York State  
Rogers Environ

