



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!

Spring 2008

www.dec.ny.gov (Search for Rogers)

March - April - May

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

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 Book Store 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 that hard-to-find nature title!

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

If there is one thing I've learned from this winter, it is to get outside and enjoy it when you can! It has been a chaotic winter, both weather-wise and work-wise. We had lots of snow, then no snow, then lots of snow, then no snow, then more snow . . . You will know the rest of this story when you read this newsletter and have witnessed how the weather trends have persisted this winter!

Inside the Visitor Center, chaos reigns. In December, floors in the classroom and upper hallway were replaced. Cabinets were removed and the contents moved. Our new cabinets are slated to be installed in February. Before that happens, however, there are electrical work and wall painting to be done, along with taking care of any other problems that are uncovered. In the meantime, we want to replace the ceiling, but that cannot happen until we get a design for a heating and cooling system. When this is all done and the dust has settled, we will heave a big sigh of relief!

In doing all of this work on the visitor center, we are trying to make the building more environmentally friendly. Vinyl flooring is replaced with linoleum, low VOC paint covers the walls, and work will be done using the most environmentally friendly materials available. Make sure you visit the center to see all of the changes.

Rogers Visitor Center 40th Anniversary

By Marsha Guzewich

June 10 marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Visitor Center. We will be celebrating this event in a variety of ways, including an afternoon of fun-filled activities on Saturday, June 14, between 1:00 and 4:00 PM.

In 1966, before the Visitor Center was completed, the Conservation Department (which became DEC in 1970), hired John Weeks as director to get the concept off the ground. He felt that programs should get established right away. Herm Weiskotten, a Conservation Department wildlife biologist, became the first conservation educator. Two years later, when the Visitor Center was complete, an audience was already established. Our staffing levels have varied over the years, but they peaked in 1978 when the center had eight staff.

Creative approaches to staffing have always been employed here. We have used government employment program workers, Youth Conservation Corps, Green Thumb workers, county youth employment programs and Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps. The number of DEC paid staff has been stable at six for the last five years. Our staff members have remained constant since then, with our longest standing staff member, Laura Carey, working here continuously since 1981. Starting in 1973, Herm Weiskotten invited students and others interested in the field to become interns. They experienced the world of an environmental educator and provided assistance to Rogers staff. Since then, approximately 250 interns have left their mark at Rogers. Many of our former interns have stayed in the environmental education field.

Continued on page 3

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Eliot Spitzer, 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!
 Spring 2008
 Issue #39
 by naturalist intern Aaron Jennes

Springtime Jumble Jubilee - Unscramble the words below. Then use the letters inside each square to make another word that will complete the statement below.

- 1) U S B D =
- 2) O X Q E I N U =
- 3) K R S A T C =
- 4) R I B N O =
- 5) S T C N I E S =
- 6) U M D =
- 7) E N I U S U N H S =

Go _____ and play!

CRAFT CORNER

Create a Waterscope

There's a world of life below the surface of streams and ponds, but it's hard to get a good look at it. With a waterscope, you can see under water. Waterscopes are easy to build. Here's how to make your own (with adult supervision, of course).

Things you'll need:

- An adult
- Clear plastic container
- Duct tape or rubber bands
- Clear plastic food wrap
- Sharp knife or scissors



Steps:

- Get a tall plastic container; a large juice bottle or milk jug is perfect.
- Thoroughly clean the container inside and out.
- Use scissors or a sharp knife to remove the bottom of the container about an inch from the bottom. Make a smooth cut so you don't tear the plastic wrap. Leaving the handle, if there is one, cut off the top of the container so you have a big hole to look through.
- Stretch a piece of clear plastic food wrap tightly over the hole at the bottom of the container. Make sure the piece of plastic is big enough to completely cover the bottom of the container, as you want it to seal the bottom and to stretch several inches up the sides of the container.
- Rubber band or tape the plastic wrap to the sides of the container. Go forth and (carefully) explore nearby lakes and streams! Remember to bring an adult with you for safety and to help answer questions. Have fun!

To use your waterscope, wade into a creek and stick the bottom of the scope into the water and check out the magnificent underwater world by looking through the hole at the top.

Which Friend Am I?

Hey kids! Isn't spring great? We have not seen each other in quite a while. Finding me in the winter is rather difficult. Although my home is always with me, I must bury myself beneath the mud at the bottom of a pond in order to survive the cold. While in the mud, I lie dormant and my skin absorbs oxygen from the surrounding water, allowing me to breathe!

I was born with lungs and must come up for air except when I'm sleeping in winter. I have yellow and red stripes on my legs, neck, face and head.

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 April 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: _____

Go OUT
 6) MUD
 1) BUDS
 Answers

Rogers Visitor Center 40th Anniversary

By Marsha Guzewich

Continued from front page...

An important component of the success at Rogers Center has been the support offered by a group originally called Mid-York Conservation Fund. The Mid-York Conservation Fund has since changed its name to Friends of Rogers so that people better understand their connection to Rogers Center. This group purchased a collection of birds from George Lesser and helped the first director make connections to the community.

The Sherburne Rotary Club supported the idea of converting the game farm to a DEC education center. They called in the National Audubon Society's Nature Center Division to study the game farm site and determine if it would be appropriate for educational purposes. The study was very positive about creating a nature center and helped persuade DEC to move forward with the idea. Because the Rogers Center "took over" the land holdings of the Rogers Game Farm, the site consists of separate parcels: the Visitor Center; the Adams Farm and Cush Hill parcels which were part of the original game farm; and the Boise Pond parcel, which was purchased soon after Rogers was established as an education center, in the hope that it would be developed into a conference center.

The facility has been improved, added to, and in some cases subtracted from. In the 1970s, the pheasant hatchery was converted to a dormitory, but in 1989, it was officially closed due to the presence of asbestos in the wallboards. To meet health department standards, the work needed in the dorm would have required that the wallboard be cut, potentially creating an asbestos hazard. The old pheasant hatchery/ dormitory is currently used only for storage. A number of buildings on the parcels have been taken down because they were no longer useful and needed maintenance to keep them safe.

In the 1990s, the high water table at the Visitor Center parcel created a problem with the picnic pavilion bathrooms. To solve this issue, Rogers Center complex was connected to the Village of Sherburne sewer system. At that time, a new freestanding building was constructed to house bathrooms, old bathrooms were removed, and the picnic pavilion was expanded.

The Outdoor Classroom was erected in 2004 and has since housed many educational programs. This was partially funded through money given to Friends of Rogers through a member item grant from State Senator James L. Seward.

Because the internship program is so critical to the work of Rogers, DEC renovated the Stone House for intern housing. This investment has made the building more efficient, safe, pleasant and useful.

Staff have established many working relationships with agencies and other professionals to spread the environmental word and get more accomplished. Staff are leaders in the field of environmental education in New York State.

In summary, the foundation of the work done at Rogers remains much the same. We remain convinced that teaching people about New York's natural resources is best done outdoors, using natural objects as teaching tools. We have not installed banks of computers to have children come to Rogers to manipulate a game or even do a computer simulation. We are more likely to teach using a participatory simulation or action-oriented activity from Project WILD or WET.

Staff use the tools of a modern office for communicating with audiences and accessing the information highway. I remember when the first computer used at Rogers was purchased by the Friends of Rogers board of directors and shared by all staff brave enough to try using it. We have come a long way since then. Exhibits were once all constructed by staff, sometimes consisting of cut-up pages of magazines! We now take advantage of advances in exhibit-making, map-making, communicating and connecting.

Watch our schedule of events for summer and come celebrate what we do today and what has happened here for the past 40 years.

Donations

Friends of Rogers wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions in the form of much-needed items, services and money:

Thurston Packer
 NYS United Teachers
 Ann Harrison
 I.L. Richer Co., Inc.
 Stewart's Shops Corp.
 Wakefield Association for Traditional Arts
 Oneida Savings
 Kerry Bio-Science
 Preferred Mutual Insurance Co.



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
- Jean Smith – office reception
- Jane Hough – office reception
- Russ Howard – wood duck nest box checking

Winter Living Celebration Notes

by *Chris DeCesare*

This year was the 30th Winter Living Celebration (WLC) and the 10th that I have coordinated. Each year, I send letters to exhibitors and volunteers and create grounds maps and schedules for the ideal event, complete with just the right amount of snow. In the end, I have seen it happen on days that bring all kinds of weather, from the freezing rain of 1999 to the perfect snow of 2001, and the frigid zero degrees of 2004 to the balmy 60 degrees of last year. No matter the weather, the WLC continues to draw families from near and far to enjoy activities, demonstrations and exhibits. I always see smiling, laughing kids riding on horse-drawn wagons, running under the colorful parachute, and looking intently at live animals. Older kids concentrate on tying a fly and learning to throw a spear with an atlatl. People of all ages gather to watch the Environmental Conservation Officer work with his K-9 partner and see the rangers show off their search and rescue equipment. Music and storytelling draw people indoors for interactive entertainment and to warm up. Some things change while others stay the same. The outcome is always good.

Many groups have been a part of WLC for a very long time: the Chenango Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been to all 30 celebrations; the Mulligan family has brought their horses for about 25 years; the Susquehanna String Band and John Porcino have each come for 20 years. Sherburne Rotary has been involved with Rogers Center since our inception. It amazes me that there are people who continue to maintain these partnerships and come back again and again to help out. One of our veteran volunteers, a former intern, reminds me each year of the times when all the signs were posters colored with markers. I smile thinking of how she got hooked and remember how it is that I became hooked, too. This core group of volunteers and exhibitors is what makes WLC go so smoothly. New volunteers join the ranks each year and we hope that they feel the connection as well. The bottom line is that we always have a lot of help when it's really needed and I am sincerely thankful to all of you for your help.

If you are reading this newsletter, but are not a volunteer yet, why not give it a try? It can be just as fun on this side of the celebration, and you get free refreshments! If you have ideas for new exhibitors or a great snow dance that will bring the white stuff when it's needed, let me know. I am always open to new suggestions and help! Don't forget to save the date for next year: January 10, 2009!

Exciting Sightings

by *Fred von Mechow*

Beware of irrupting birds! Irruption is the term applied to bird migration in which birds of certain species move to an area not normally visited as part of the yearly cycle, in response to a scarcity of food in the normal range. Owls and finches are our most notable irrupting birds.

This winter, bird watchers have enjoyed seeing birds which visit here only occasionally, most notably pine grosbeaks. I hadn't seen a pine grosbeak in about eight years. They vary in color from reddish pink and black (males) to yellow-olive and gray (females), and are robin-sized, with short thick beaks. They have been frequenting Rogers Center late December through January (including Winter Living Celebration day), mostly eating crabapples.

Evening grosbeaks (the yellow and black birds about cardinal-size) can make a serious dent in your birdseed in short order. Good thing they don't come so often, or you'd spend a lot more on seed!

Common redpolls are sparrow-size and have breast streaks and a small red cap on top of their head. They are often seen in flocks of 20 up to several hundred feeding on seeds in fields or at feeders.

Pine siskins are also sparrow-size and look a lot like sparrows except for the yellow wing bars and sharp-pointed beak. They are mostly seen at feeders.

Sherburne Christmas Bird Counters saw all these on December 15. Other notable Christmas Count birds were a pair of rusty blackbirds and a bald eagle. Participants also recorded flocks of 18 bluebirds and 70 brown-headed cowbirds (both of which are usually south by then).

Other unusual birds observed this winter in the Sherburne area include Carolina wren, hooded merganser and kestrel.

On December 16, while dumping the compost, I came upon a roost of 8 ruffed grouse in a hemlock tree behind my barn. They flew away one or two at a time so I could count them. Yet another reason to compost! Were they eating the compost? I don't know.

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:

Mike Jabot
Jill Maskulinski
Robin Harris

Robin Hill
Christina Taylor

Charlie Hall
Sara Kempton

Kimie Romeo
John Lancos

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.

MARCH

**March 1
Saturday
10:00 AM to
Noon**

Global Cooling by Local Shopping
We have a wealth of local products that are good for your health and the health of the environment. Join us to sample some local fare, from maple products and honey to yogurt and cheese, and learn why buying locally-grown products is such a great idea. Have fun taking part in the Locally Grown Scavenger Hunt and get your own "Chenango County Guide to Locally Grown Products."

**March 5
Wednesday
10:00 AM to
2:00 PM**

Active Seniors Series: SNOWSHOEING
Have you ever wanted to try snowshoes? Join us as we explore the trails of Highland Forest – the oldest Onondaga County Park-also known as the "Adirondacks of Central New York."
Please call to register and for trip details. Young folks are welcome too!

**March 8
Saturday
11:00 AM**

BLUEBIRD NEST BOXES
Bluebirds are a delight to see and hear. Since nesting cavities are not always available in nature, you can build a nest box and encourage them to reside nearby. **Bring a hammer and \$8.00 for every box you wish to take home. Please call to register.**

**March 15
Saturday
11:00 AM**

SIGNS OF SPRING
Is spring really in the air? Nature gives us many clues to let us know. Walk the trails with us to look for signs of seasonal change. **Dress for the outdoors and possibly muddy conditions.**

**March 22
Saturday
11:00 AM**

Children's Program: EGG PAINTING
Bird eggs come in a variety of sizes and patterns. Learn more about birds and create your very own colorful wooden egg to take home. **Please call to register; supplies are limited.** (Ages 4 to 12)

**March 29
Saturday
11:00 AM**

ANIMAL BABIES
Most animals give birth in spring. Some start out as eggs and others are live-born. Some are able to fend for themselves while others need to learn from their parents. Find out what you can expect to observe from local animals this spring.

APRIL

**April 5
Saturday
7:30 PM**

OWL PROWL
Enjoy a nighttime walk in the woods hooting for owls. If we're lucky, we may hear a great horned owl, a screech owl or, maybe a barred owl. You are sure to have a delightful evening stroll.

**April 12
Saturday
8:30 AM to
Noon**

CAZENOVIA HIKE
Join us as we hike a section of the Cazenovia Preservation Foundation's trail system in Madison County. We will explore a wealth of beautiful landscape features. **Please call to register and for trip details.**

**April 17
Thursday
10:00 AM to
1:00 PM**

**Active Seniors Series:
VERNAL POOLS AT STONY POND**
Come to Stony Pond to explore its vernal pools. Vernal pools are temporary small bodies of water that are home to some very interesting amphibians and invertebrates because predatory fish cannot live there. **Please call to register. Young folks are welcome too!**

**April 19
Saturday
10:00 AM to
Noon**

ENERGY DAY ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES
Bring the family to focus on energy by making pinwheels, flying a kite and racing solar cars. Take home lots of ideas for saving energy and money, too!

**April 26
Saturday
7:30 PM**

FROGS OF SPRING
Peep, quack, snore! What's all that noise at night? Find out which local amphibians are serenading us through the night. Then we'll go out to look for our local residents along the trails. Wear boots and bring a flashlight!

MAY

**May 3
Saturday
Noon to
4:00 PM**

EARTH FEST
Celebrate the Earth with a fun day of music, games, maypole dancing, exhibits and demonstrations. Take home a tree or shrub to landscape your yard.

**May 10
Saturday
10:00 AM**

WILDFLOWERS AT CUSH HILL
Wander the forest hillside of Cush Hill admiring nature's beauties. Don't miss the short-lived display of wildflowers from squirrel-corn to blue cohosh.

**May 17
Saturday
8:30 AM to
Noon**

BEAR CREEK FINGER LAKES TRAIL HIKE
Walk a beautiful section of the Finger Lakes Trail. This great system of trails runs across the state, providing short or longer hikes. **Please call to register and for trip details.**

**May 24
Saturday
10:00 AM to
Noon**

SALAMANDERS AT CUSH HILL
Explore the rocks, logs and crevices of Cush Hill while searching for salamanders. Discover the secrets of these shy creatures.

**May 27
Tuesday
10:00 AM to
1:00 PM**

**Active Seniors Series:
LOOKING FOR LADY'S SLIPPERS**
We will walk a flat trail for about a half hour through lovely forest to a site where the orchids called lady's slippers grow. Find out what makes them special and fun to find. **Please call to register. Young folks are welcome too!**

**May 31
Saturday
8:30 AM to
Noon**

CANOE/KAYAK HUNTS POND
Paddle leisurely along the wild edges of Hunts Pond while observing wildlife and plants. **Registration is required. There is a \$5.00 non-refundable fee per paddler. Meet in Rogers Center's main parking lot.**

NYSOEA
New York State
Outdoor Education Association's
41st Annual Conference

Thursday, October 23 to
Sunday, October 26, 2008
Lake Placid, NY
by Laura Carey



Friends of Rogers Update

by Randy Muth

"Thinking Like A Mountain" will highlight the wildlife and natural history of the Adirondacks. Keynote speaker, David Sobel, is author of *Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education* and has brought his ideas on place-based education to classrooms throughout the country. Featured speakers include Dr. Ken Kamler, a doctor and climber on many Everest expeditions and Carl Heilman II, an Adirondack nature photographer and author/photographer of *Adirondacks: Views of an American Wilderness*.

Join us in Lake Placid from October 23 to 26, for the 41st annual conference, "Thinking Like a Mountain." For more information, visit www.nysoea.org



Skunk Cabbage

by Amy Smith

Skunk cabbage is easily recognized by its bright green leaves, which come up in late spring and grow quickly to a couple of feet in size. The flowers get an even earlier start, usually in March or early April, giving us the first wild blossoms of spring!

Skunk cabbage is well adapted for the shady environment of most swamps. With its large leaves, it soaks up as much sunlight as possible while also shading out competing plants. Since the plant grows so predictably in wet areas, it is known as a wetland indicator. Look for it growing in wetlands, ditches and low-lying wet areas. The flowers of this unique plant are located inside a fleshy, mottled reddish-brown pointed hood poking up from the mud. Sheltered inside each hood is an egg-shaped knob covered with many tiny flowers.

When stepped on or broken, skunk cabbage gives off a foul odor much like the pungent aroma of skunk or the stench of rotting meat. As is the case with the scents of other flowers, this odor attracts insect pollinators to the plant. Drawn by the scent of carrion, flies visit the plant and then, tricked by the scent, they crawl around inside the hood, picking up pollen as they search for a place to lay their eggs. The pollen can then be transported to another skunk cabbage plant that the fly visits.

This remarkable plant can also produce its own heat as it grows up from the earth. The heat generated helps the hooded flowers melt snow as they push their way up in spring. The heat created also helps to give this first flower of spring its early start, creating warmth that helps pollen and other reproductive parts to mature.

So get out and look for skunk cabbage and the many other signs of spring that delight us!

The Winter Living Celebration was a great success with over 1000 people attending. The weather was quite nice even if there was a shortage of snow for some of the activities. On behalf of the Friends of Rogers organization, I would like to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers and DEC staff for their hard work and support in ensuring that one of the Center's highlights of the year was yet again a great success.

At our December board meeting the slate of nominations for officers was approved and accepted by the board of directors. Thus, the following members will be serving as officers for 2008: President - Randy Muth, Vice President - Laurie Trotta, Treasurer - Rose Cole, and Secretary - Carol Smith. I would like to thank my fellow officers for their ongoing commitment in supporting Friends of Rogers.

Friends of Rogers (FOR) is currently seeking several new board members. FOR is a volunteer organization that supports the efforts of the Center by assisting in the funding and organization of special events such as the Winter Living Celebration, Earth Day, and Animals of Halloween. The FOR board of directors currently meets six times a year. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact Rogers Center for more information.

Outstanding Workshops for Teachers

by Fred von Mechow

Rogers Center staff are offering and participating in several week-long nature and environmental workshops for teachers this summer. We have our annual Summer Teacher Institute (see information below at right) at Rogers for Central New York teachers. We are also cosponsoring, along with the New York State Outdoor Education Association, a residential workshop in the Mid-Hudson Valley targeting elementary teachers from the New York metropolitan and Long Island area. We are also leading some activities at a week-long workshop in the Adirondacks sponsored by NYSOEA.

Adirondack Teacher Ecology Workshop July 13-18

SUNY Cortland's Antlers Camp on Raquette Lake, NY

The focus of this workshop is providing activities to teach students about the natural world and humans' role in conserving natural resources. We'll have the group divided to provide appropriate activities for both secondary and elementary level teachers. We'll also take advantage of the surroundings for various habitat explorations, including hiking scenic trails and paddling in some beautiful meandering streams.

Cost: \$300

Includes food, on-site lodging, instruction and all materials.

To Register: Contact Darleen Lieber at SUNY Cortland, Department of Recreation and Leisure, PO Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045, email at: nysoea@gmail.com or call 607-591-6422

Mid-Hudson Nature and Environment Teacher Workshop July 21-25

Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation, Fishkill, NY

Targeting the downstate regions of New York State, we will give elementary teachers lots of ideas and materials to help teach nature and ecology and some to address climate change as well. We'll spend time in a variety of beautiful forests, explore the inhabitants of ponds, paddle in the Hudson River, and participate in activities teachers can use in the classroom to help students learn about these habitats and how we can protect them.

Cost: \$250

Includes food, on-site lodging, instruction and all materials.

To Register: Contact Darleen Lieber at SUNY Cortland, Department of Recreation and Leisure, PO Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045, email at: nysoea@gmail.com or call 607-591-6422

Save a Tree

Read The Rogers Center Journal online!

Do you have internet access? Are you able to view and print PDF files? Help us reduce mailing costs and conserve resources by viewing The Rogers Center Journal online! See: www.dec.ny.gov/education/1841.html to view the Rogers Center's quarterly newsletter on the DEC website.

To be notified by email when the newsletter is posted online, you can sign up for our new listserve. Go to <http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/rogerscenterjournal> and follow the directions to sign up. 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!

Teacher Institute on the Environment

August 4-8

Rogers Center, Sherburne, NY

We invite you to join us for our 7th Annual Summer Teacher Institute on the Environment, August 4 to August 8, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM daily. The week focuses on teaching about basic orienteering and map reading skills, lake ecology, tree identification and uses, native survival skills, wastewater treatment, climate change and sustainable living. Field trips to the Sherburne Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Madison Wind Farm are included. Interdisciplinary classroom activities conducted throughout the week will provide teachers with background knowledge about basic natural history and environmental issues. An optional evening astronomy activity/night hike will be offered during the week, weather permitting.

Benefits: In-service Credit

Great Classroom Resources

Fun Outdoor Experiences

Fee: \$50.00

For more information, contact: Laura Carey lacarey@gw.dec.state.ny.us or Amy Smith aesmith@gw.dec.state.ny.us at Rogers Center, or call 607-674-4017 ext. 626 or 628. We look forward to learning and having fun with you this summer!

"As more and more people understand what's at stake, they become a part of the solution, and share both in the challenges and opportunities presented by the climate crisis."

Al Gore

Earth Fest 2008

Saturday, May 3

Noon to 4:00 PM

by Laura Carey

Celebrate the Earth with us by enjoying a day of fun activities, exhibits, canoeing/kayaking, a live performance and dancing around the maypole.

Exhibits will include hybrid cars, Trout Unlimited creatures of the deep, NYSERDA Energy Bicycle, nature artists, wood lathe demonstrations, tips for saving energy and more. Activities for the family include the maypole dance, weed walk, tree and shrub give-away, green games, pinwheels and more.

Try out a canoe or kayak on the Cunningham Ice Pond and enjoy the talented Compost Theater performing their funny skits on recycling and composting.

We'll have local food products from Gilligan's, Garf's and Evans Farm.



Green Alternative

by Laura Carey

Do you ever wonder where your food comes from?

Do you ever wonder how many miles your tomato, potato, strawberry or yogurt travels? Most of us don't give it much thought as we peruse the grocery aisles.

Why does it matter?

Every gallon of gasoline needed to ship your food adds 20 pounds of carbon to the atmosphere. The longer your food has to last between harvest and purchase, the more preservatives it needs. Fresh food is more nutritious.

Why not consider purchasing more of your food from local growers? When you buy at the local farmers' market, you are actually investing in your own community and neighbors. You might also consider local cooperative or community supported agriculture (CSA). You can pay a certain amount at the beginning of the season and get fresh, local produce throughout the growing season. It's good for you, your family, your community and the environment.

For a listing of local growers, pick up a copy of the **Chenango County Guide to Locally Grown Products** at Rogers Center or the Chenango County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office at 99 North Broad St., Norwich.

