



# 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!

Summer 2006

[www.dec.state.ny.us/website/education/rogrctr.html](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/education/rogrctr.html)

June - July - August

### Rogers Environmental Education Center

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

#### Staff:

Marsha Guzewich, Director  
Fred von Mechow, Program Coordinator  
Laura Carey, Project WILD Coordinator  
Chris DeCesare, Educator  
Amy Smith, Water Education Specialist  
Darlene Miller, Office Manager

#### Visitor Center 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 Sunrise to Sunset

#### Friends of Rogers Board of Directors:

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

#### 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.*

### Notes from the Director

*by Marsha Guzewich*

Summer suddenly is upon us. We have been busy at Rogers over the winter and spring and look forward to lots of activity this summer as well. Our Operations crew spent the winter completing work on the Stone House addition and renovating the interior of the stone portion of the house. It is beautiful and will serve its purpose well for years to come. The space is easy to live in, handicap accessible, much more energy-efficient and should be easy to maintain. The main purpose is to house our naturalist interns. Without our intern program we could not get nearly as much accomplished.

Spring, of course, brings bus after bus full of children eager to learn about the wonders of nature. Summer brings smaller groups from such places as summer recreation programs, summer school and of course, lots of families. We offer guided lessons, a series of children's programs, and a wide variety of offerings for adults and families. Make sure to attend a program this summer! We have Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps lined up to work on trail maintenance and habitat restoration. Another project expected to be completed is a universal access trail along the Cunningham Ice Pond. A crushed stone surface and a dock out into the pond should make fishing accessible in that area. We will have a ribbon-cutting when that project is completed! The dock component of this project is a collaborative effort with support from DEC, money donated from Sportsfishing and Aquatic Resources Education Program when they disbanded and input from Trout Unlimited and DEC fisheries division. We are hoping to enhance the quality of the fishing at Rogers ponds for the times when fishing is allowed. The dock site on land is being enhanced with a donation from a local family to supply such amenities as accessible benches.

All of this stuff going on just means that it is time to plan a visit to Rogers. Attend a program or come on your own to walk a trail - there are over seven miles of trails when you add up the mileage of trails on the Adams Farm, Cush Hill and Visitor Center parcels.



### Friends of Rogers Update

*by Byron Harrington*

Friends of Rogers received a donation from the Sportsfishing and Aquatic Resources Education Program before it closed down and is planning to use this money toward an accessible fishing dock near the Cunningham Ice Pond. This is part of a bigger universal access project which will include an accessible trail developed by Operations staff at Rogers. Another donation will help enhance this same area with benches. This area will be called "Muriel's Nook" in memory of Muriel Valerio.

The annual meeting of Friends of Rogers will coincide with a volunteer recognition event in October. If you are interested in learning more about Friends of Rogers and would like to attend a board meeting please call Rogers Center for more information.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
George E. Pataki, Governor  
Denise M. Sheehan, 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!

Summer 2006

Issue #33

by naturalist intern,  
Lisa White

**TURTLE WORD SEARCH**

Find these words hidden in the letters to the right

1. **Herpetology** (the study of amphibians and reptiles)
2. **Reptile** (cold-blooded, scaly skin, adapted for life on land)
3. **Carapace** (top shell)
4. **Plastron** (bottom shell)
5. **Scute** (plates on shell, made of same material as fingernails)
6. **Wood Turtle**
7. **Painted Turtle**
8. **Snapping Turtle**
9. **Eggs**
10. **Brumate** (hibernation for ectothermic, or cold-blooded animals)

E L S W W Y H S R L R E L  
 L T R T O G L S P M I P A  
 T E Y T T O I C U A E S A  
 R O L Y T L D E P E R T O  
 U O N L N O R T S A L P T  
 T C U G L T P E U I O N E  
 G C G R E E D R P R E T R  
 N A T E O P R L D T T R C  
 I R U E O R E I O L I L L  
 P A I N T E D T U R T L E  
 P P N R S H B R U M A T E  
 A A R G A U E L C C O D E  
 N C G R T N N O E P S U S  
 S E W C N A U R O E E T P

**CRAFT CORNER**

**TUNA CAN TURTLE**

Materials: washed and dried tuna can, paint, construction paper, buttons or beads, glue

What to do:

1. Paint the outside of the tuna can
2. Cut out a turtle body shape from the construction paper
3. Turn the can upside down and glue the turtle body to the bottom of the can. Now the can resembles a turtle shell.
4. Decorate your tuna can turtle shell with buttons, beads, or different shapes cut out of construction paper

Make a model of a real turtle that you look up, or create your own design!

**Which Friend Am I?**

I live in shallow, slow-moving freshwater. I have strong legs, and webbed feet and claws. I need my muscular legs to support my dark brown shell, but some humans find them tasty in soup. My shell has small peaks on the scutes that smooth as I age, like mountains eroding. I am an omnivore eating both plants, like algae, and meat, such as insects, fish and frogs. I have a short temper when I am handled, especially by my long tail. When I am disturbed I release an odor and occasionally bite. When I am left alone I am really quite nice, though you wouldn't guess it from my name.

**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 SH 80, Sherburne, NY 13460, by July 15, 2006. One name will be drawn from all the correct responses received, and the winner will receive a Friends of Rogers t-shirt.

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



## Not All Bees and Wasps Are Created Alike

by Chris DeCesare

Summer is a time when many bees and wasps are noticeable and a lot of people have questions about their behaviors. It is sometimes hard to answer questions, though, because most people call all buzzing, stinging insects “bees.” Though bees and wasps belong to the same order of insects, called Hymenoptera, there are some noticeable differences among members of the two groups. When observing bees or wasps, look for colors and patterns on their bodies, what they are feeding on and where they are nesting or hanging out. Here are some things that you might observe.

Bees tend to look hairy and have flattened areas on their hind legs to collect pollen. They feed their young both honey and pollen and have chewing-sucking mouthparts. Wasps do not look hairy and do not have flattened areas on their legs. They generally feed their young spiders or insects and have chewing mouthparts.

Most bees are solitary, living alone and building nests of single cells in the ground or in plant stems or wood. Honeybees and bumblebees are examples of social bees that live in a colony of many others. Most wasps also live solitary lives, building nest cells out of mud or leaves or laying eggs directly into plants or caterpillars or in the ground. Some wasps such as paper wasps, yellowjackets, and hornets live in colonies.

Honeybees can only sting once. This is because their stinger is barbed and often catches in an animal’s flesh when the bee attempts to pull the stinger out. Inner organs are attached to the stinger and are ripped out when their stinger is dislodged, killing the bee. Other bees have stingers with smaller barbs, which may or may not become dislodged while stinging. Wasps can sting many times because their stingers are smooth.

Of all the animals that pollinate, bees are the most important. Since many wasps are predators or parasites of other insects, they are also quite beneficial to have around. Unless you are allergic to bees or wasps, or they build a nest in a high-traffic area, it is best to leave them be.

For more information, come to the Bees Wasps and Hornets program on July 8 at 11:00 AM.

## Exciting Sightings

by Fred von Mechow

I challenge all visitors to spot a carp in the Rogers Ponds. From being the most obvious fish in Rogers Center’s Cunningham Ice Pond and Channels Marsh, our carp have all but disappeared.

Thanks go to Eric Morse and Gary Williams of Hamilton, who have been diligently bowfishing them out over the past year and a half. The “Exciting Sighting” part of this is going to be the northern pike, largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, and, hopefully brown bullheads that reappear and begin to thrive. A quote from the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department states: (carp) “have wreaked havoc by muddying waters, destroying aquatic vegetation, eating fish eggs and competing for food and space.” By removing this non-native species, we hope for a much healthier aquatic ecosystem at Rogers.

While on an owl walk with Norwich Brownies on April 10, we came across a pair of cottontail rabbits near the Visitor Parking Lot. In all my 18-plus years at Rogers Center I’ve never gotten so close to rabbits. They were remarkably unafraid and we all had a great look at them (no owls, though we did find some pellets).

The spring bird migration has seemed slower and later than usual. We noticed the first real wave of warblers during the last week of April. Also spotted that week were turkey vulture, sharp-shinned hawk, and osprey.

The first goslings appeared April 21, the earliest sighting except for April 20 a few years ago. The SUNY Morrisville wildlife students have effectively reduced our goose population by oiling eggs (under proper permits). This spring, they have located only about 20 nests around the Channels Marsh, down from about 60 just three years ago. No longer is there goose scat all over the lawn and walkways, and the geese are much less bothersome to visitors. There are still some geese vehemently defending nest sites and caution is advised when approaching them.

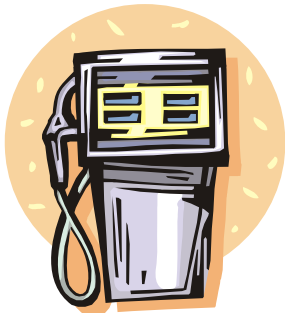


**Bumblebee**  
By Jean Gawalt

## 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:

Jen Conrad	Obed Fulcar
Gail Tooker	Patti von Mechow
Christine Taylor	Marnie Rockmill
Rob Bennaton	Anthony Nino
Brenda Olshan	Patty Lent
Griz Caudel	Liz McCheyne
Jill Maskulinski	



### Green Alternatives

#### How to Use Less Gas No Matter What You Drive!

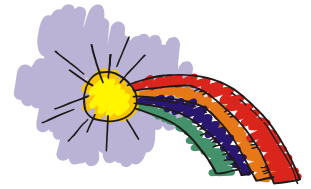
By Laura Carey

Here are four easy tips for fuel conservation. Adapted from *Consumer Reports* annual auto issue (April 2006)

1. Slow down. By slowing from 75 to 55 mph you can increase your fuel efficiency 6 to 10 mpg, depending on the vehicle.
2. Drive smoothly. Use gradual, easy acceleration and deceleration and maintain a steady pace on the highway. This can improve fuel efficiency by 1 to 3 mpg.
3. Reduce unnecessary drag. Avoid using a car-top carrier if you can-on some usually aerodynamic models as many as 6 mpg can be lost. Even an empty roof rack reduces efficiency.
4. Avoid driving with a cold engine. Cold engines are less efficient and pollute more. Combine short trips so that your engine gets warm and stays warm.

## Earth Fest 2006

by Laura Carey



As volunteers and exhibitors arrived and set up for our celebration of the Earth, the skies darkened, temperatures dropped and the rains came. But just like the Who's in Whoville no spirits were dampened.

Early arrivals were treated to the delightful Tracy Kane who read from her book *Fairy Houses*, then lead children and their families outdoors to create fairy houses of their own on the trails. Be sure to look for them along the beginning of the Channels Trail.

Afterwards, many visitors were entertained by Dan Duggan and Peggy Lynn who played music for the dance around the maypole. Visitors then spent their time talking with exhibitors and artists and doing activities including kayaking and canoeing on the Cunningham Ice Pond, Backyard Bass Casting, and making crafts from recycled or reused materials, among many other fun things.

Of course none of this is possible without the help of our wonderful volunteers. We thank all who helped.

## Seeking Participants for "My Yard Counts!"

From *BirdScope* Spring 2006 -  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Yards and parks can be important areas for wild birds. What features around your residence are most helpful to them?

Help researchers learn more about how birds use rural, suburban, and urban landscapes by participating in a new citizen-science project, "My Yard Counts!" It's easy – just record all the birds you see around your residence for 20 minutes every week from April to August and fill out a one-time questionnaire about the environment around your home. All the information you need is at:

[www.birds.cornell.edu/MyYardCounts](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/MyYardCounts)

Visit the web site today and make your yard count for birds.

*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. Call 607-674-4017 to register. In the event of severe weather, modified programs will still be held. Please call the center for more information.*

## JUNE

- June 3**  
**Saturday**  
**10:00 AM**
- COVERING CUSH HILL**  
Enjoy a guided low-impact hike on Cush Hill, where you are sure to find wildlife traces, different kinds of plants, and listen to birdcalls. While exploring the animal activity in this natural land, don't forget to admire the view!
- June 10**  
**Saturday**  
**9:00 AM**
- BEGINNING BIRDING**  
Join us for a walk among the birds. An experienced guide will help you to recognize many feathered friends along the way. Bring along binoculars or borrow some from us.
- June 17**  
**Saturday**  
**8:30 AM to Noon**
- CANOE/KAYAK BEAVER CREEK**  
Beaver Creek is a beautiful, slow-moving stream where signs of wildlife are sure to crop up everywhere. It is the perfect outdoor adventure for experienced and novice paddlers alike. Water crafts provided or bring your own. **Registration is required. There is a \$5.00 fee per paddler. Meet in the Rogers Center main parking lot.**
- June 24**  
**Saturday**  
**10:00 AM to Noon**
- FAMILY FISHING DAY**  
Learn the basics of fishing, fish identification, and even make your own lure. Catch-and-release only, and if you don't have a pole, come and borrow one of ours! Trout Unlimited volunteers will be helping with the program.
- June 28**  
**Wednesday**  
**7:00 PM**
- GEORGE STEELE CAMPFIRE**  
Storyteller, environmental educator and camp song leader *extraordinaire*, George Steele puts on a production you won't want to miss! Gather with friends and family round a warm campfire and be prepared to sing along. Made possible with public funds from Chenango County Council of the Arts.

## JULY

- July 1**  
**Saturday**  
**8:30 PM**
- FIREFLIES**  
Has anyone ever told you that your smile lights up a room? If you were a firefly in the room of the night sky, the statement would hold true. Join us for this evening light show and learn what makes a firefly glow.
- July 8**  
**Saturday**  
**11:00 AM**
- BEEES, WASPS AND HORNETS**  
Have you ever put honey on your toast or in your tea? Ever jumped about shouting after having been stung? Then you have crossed paths with bees and their relatives. Learn about the similarities and differences in habits, habitats and life cycles. So much fun you won't know what stung you.
- July 15**  
**Saturday**  
**8:30 AM to Noon**
- CANOE/KAYAK CHENANGO LAKE**  
Whether you are a beginner or expert paddler this trip is sure to excite. Take in the beauty of Chenango Lake by boat. Look for fish and turtles at your side and spot birds soaring overhead. Exercise, explore, and relax all in one serene setting. Water crafts provided or bring your own. **Registration is required. There is a \$5.00 fee per paddler. Meet in the Rogers Center main parking lot.**

**July 22**  
**Saturday**  
**9:00 AM to**  
**Noon**

### GETTING AROUND

You can't get there from here? Perhaps you could, if you knew your directions better. Many of us have been lost at one time or another. Learn how to navigate with a GPS overview and compass training.

**July 25**  
**Tuesday**  
**7:00 PM**

### EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANT WALK with Barb Collins and Jane Swingle

Explore our natural environment and become more knowledgeable about its plants. Herbologists will help you learn to identify plants used throughout history by Native Americans and settlers. You never know when this information may come in handy.

**July 29**  
**Saturday**  
**11:00 AM**

### SIGNS OF ANIMALS

We know that our animal friends exist, but they're not usually around waiting to greet us. Put on your detective hat and help us track down evidence of their presence. The number of signs you observe will surely surprise you. You will be a super species sleuth in no time.

## AUGUST

**August 5**  
**Saturday**  
**10:00 AM**

### WILDFLOWERS AT ADAMS FARM

Indulge your inner butterfly and enjoy the beautiful colors and smells of wildflowers. You may even learn new things along the way.

**August 12**  
**Saturday**  
**9:00 AM to**  
**Noon**

### EARLVILLE STATE FOREST

Explore Earlville State Forest! The forest has diverse habitats and cultural sites including old hemlock groves, constructed wetlands, the ruins of a water-powered mill and a graveyard tucked deep in the woods. We'll look at how modern forestry contributes to biodiversity and visit three nineteenth-century human sites to discuss opportunities for historic preservation.

**August 19**  
**Saturday**  
**8:30 AM to**  
**Noon**

### CANOE/KAYAK CHITTING POND

Hit the water bright and early for a morning of peaceful paddling. Water crafts provided or bring your own. **Registration is required. There is a \$5.00 fee per paddler. Meet in the Rogers Center main parking lot.**

**August 26**  
**Saturday**  
**8:00 PM**

### NIGHT WALK

Do you love summer evenings, the way the warm breeze, loaded with soft sounds and earthy smells, is so alive? Well then, you will surely enjoy a guided night walk.



### Donations

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

Golden Artist Colors, Inc.  
 Wakefield Association for Traditional Arts  
 Vance Valerio Family and Friends  
 for "Muriel's Nook"  
 Greene Garden Club  
 Alice and William Bowman  
 Dave and Karen Hall  
 Troop 99 Sidney

## Summer Children's Series

The summer children's series will focus on nature through story books. Each week's activities will be inspired by books such as: *Fairy Houses*, *The Salamander Room*, *Night Letters*, *I'm In Charge of Celebrations*, *Water Dance*, *Sky Tree* and more.

<p><b>July 7 Friday</b></p> <p><b>WHAT DO ANIMALS NEED?</b> After reading <i>The Salamander Room</i> and <i>Fairy Houses</i>, children will explore the things that make great habitat for animals and then will build fairy houses out of natural materials.</p>	<p><b>July 21 Friday</b></p> <p><b>WATER IS WHERE IT'S AT!</b> In celebration of water, we will read <i>Crawdad Creek</i>, <i>Water Dance</i> and <i>Waterfall's Gift</i>, then explore the waters of Rogers Center - from pond to river.</p>
<p><b>July 14 Friday</b></p> <p><b>WHO'S BEEN HERE?</b> Guided by the books <i>Animal Tracks</i>, <i>In The Woods: Who's Been Here?</i>, <i>The Other Way to Listen</i> and <i>What Joe Saw</i>, children will look for wildlife and signs of wildlife by careful observation.</p>	<p><b>July 28 Friday</b></p> <p><b>CELEBRATE NATURE</b> Nature is full of things to celebrate – rainbows, wind in the trees, green clouds "...Some of my best celebrations are sudden surprises like that. If you weren't outside at that exact moment, you'd miss them. I spend a lot of time outside myself, looking around." Quoted from book we will read, <i>I'm in Charge of Celebrations</i>. Then we will spend time looking for surprises.</p>

**Programs for 4- to 6- year-olds are at 10:30 AM, and programs for 7- to 10- year-olds are at 12:30 PM.  
Please call to register as supplies may be limited: 607-674-4017.**

### Some Fall Dates to Remember:

September 9 and 10 - Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival - Downtown Norwich - Rogers Center will be on hand for nature crafts  
 September 23 - Annual River Cleanup and David Fischer Magic Mushroom Show  
 October 7 - Fall Foliage Hike on Finger Lakes Trail System (Berry Hill Fire Tower - 9:00 AM to Noon)  
 October 21 - Children's Leaf Art - 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
 October 27 - Animals of Halloween - 6:30 PM  
 November 11 - Gourd Creations with Jane Hough - 10:00 AM

### 11th Annual River CleanUp September 23, 2006

This year's annual river cleanup co-sponsored by Rogers Environmental Education Center and the Chenango County Environmental Management Council is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2006. Over the years, volunteers have pulled tons of tires, plastic litter, car parts, batteries, metal drums, clothing, bottles, cans and a multitude of other items from the rivers and streams of our neighborhoods. This work not only improves the beauty of our area, but improves the quality of the water and saves wildlife from entanglement and ingestion of dangerous materials.

Sadly, fewer and fewer volunteer for this important work. Why not consider getting involved and helping to clean up an area near you or join with another group to help them?

For more information call Laura Carey at Rogers Environmental Education Center at (607) 674-4017.

### Volunteer Recognition

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

- Wells Horton – photography
- Jean Dewey – office receptionist
- Marjorie Bates – office receptionist (RSVP Program)
- Barbara Meeks – press release mailings, roller of quarters and library assistance
- Audrey Wakefield – library cataloging
- Gary Williams – carp busting
- Eric Morse – carp busting
- Earth Fest – May Faulk, Lisa White, The Mahardy Family, Jodie Beach, Nate Bemis, Josh Teeter, Angela Rought, David Hoffman, Marilyn Hamstra, Marge Nezelek, Ben Werner, The Horton-Guzewich Family, Morrisville Outdoors Club, 2 kids from the High School, Robert Brown and Aaron Black (HYCC), Kyle McDaniel, Phil Clement, Shauna Goggin, Steph Deuel,
- Envirothon – Jack Meeks, Randy Muth, Patti von Mechow, Jeni Elliott, Gay Smith, Lisa White and Elana Casscles

**New York State  
Outdoor Education Association  
39th Annual Conference  
October 19-22, 2006**

***Tradition With A Future: Vision, Focus, Dreams***

Be a part of the NYSOEA's biggest event of the year.

This year's conference will be at Beaver Hollow Conference Center in Java Center (45 minutes southeast of Buffalo). The conference is for teachers, outdoor educators and anyone interested in the outdoors and environmental education.

Workshop topics span a wide range including insects, trees, storytelling, photography, orienteering, climate change, sustainability, watersheds, puppetry, diversity and burn barrels. There will be speakers, entertainment, great food and the best group of people you'd ever want to meet.

To learn more about NYSOEA and this year's conference, go to: [www.nysoea.org](http://www.nysoea.org)

To check out the facility where this year's conference will be held, go to: [www.beaverhollow.com](http://www.beaverhollow.com)

***Summer Teacher Institute  
on the Environment  
July 31-August 4, 2006  
9:00 AM to 2:30 PM Daily***

We invite you to join us for our 4th Annual Summer Teacher Institute on the Environment July 31 - August 4, 2006, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM daily. This week of field trips and activities is designed to provide teachers with background knowledge in basic natural history and ecology through visits to several habitat types of New York. Participants will explore each site, learn about its inhabitants and experience supporting activities designed to address NYS MST Learning Standards 4, 6 and 7. We will visit a quaking bog, woodland stream, gorge, lake and field with discussion of geology, soils, climate, topography and micro-climate to understand why plant and animal species occur where they do. The last day will be spent at Summer Hill Retreat Center. This includes a tour of the owners' off-the-grid solar and wind-powered home and farm, a delicious lunch and an opportunity to reflect on the week and walk the stone labyrinth.

Institute Fee: \$35.00. In-service credit may be available; contact Rogers Center for details.

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

