



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 2008

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

June - July - August

Rogers Environmental Education Center

2721 State Highway 80
Sherburne, NY 13460-4507
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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 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.

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Please recycle this copy.**

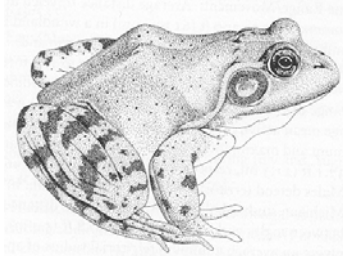
Notes from the Director

by Marsha Guzewich

As we approach the warm, sunny days of summer, I begin to think about outdoor pursuits. The gardening season is upon us. Have you thought about what you can grow in your backyard for your own consumption? This may be one way to reduce your carbon footprint. Growing your own food consumes even less energy than getting to the farmers market. You generally don't have to drive to get to your own backyard! If you've never had a garden before, try growing some of your favorite summer foods—tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce, whatever you might savor. Gardening not an option for you? At least take advantage of our northeastern climate where there is an abundance of locally grown food readily available at this time of year. Farmers' markets and some grocery stores have locally grown items for you to enjoy. There is nothing like the flavor of a local tomato, which has not had the trauma of a long trip to your table.

Another outdoor pursuit which reduces your carbon footprint is hanging your clothes outside to dry. This may strike you as terribly time consuming, but think of it as a respite from the demands on your time within the house. I find it very relaxing to be outside methodically hanging clothes as I smell the clean fresh air, watch for creatures moving in the backyard, and listen to the sounds around me. Two advantages of line drying over dryer drying are the incredible fresh scent of the clothing, and the clothes get folded as you remove them from the line, making it much more likely you'll put them away promptly!

Of course, there are other things to do outside! Make sure you attend a program at Rogers Center this summer. Topics range from nature hikes to a celebration of 40 years at Rogers, from canoe/kayak trips to a campfire. We are again running a children's series and encourage you to get the kids out and learning! This is the time of year when most everyone can find something pleasurable about getting outside. The trails are open from dawn to dusk. If you do happen in to the Visitor Center, be sure to check out the renovations taking place there. Tile floors have been replaced with linoleum, walls painted, and cabinets replaced. In general, things look refreshed and ready for the next 40 years of your enjoyment.



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!
Summer 2008
Issue #40
by naturalist intern Aaron Jennes

Many animals (predators) eat other animals (prey)
in order to live. Can you match the prey with its predator?

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| A. Weasel | 1. Birds |
| B. Fox | 2. Insects |
| C. Peregrine Falcon | 3. Fish |
| D. River Otter | 4. Rabbits |
| E. Wolf Spider | 5. Mice |

CRAFT CORNER

Have you ever wanted to see an insect up close? Here is a simple way to do it while keeping the creature very safe and happy. Have an adult help you with the following project.

What you'll need:

two empty tuna cans of the same size (lids and labels removed, washed thoroughly, no sharp edges), wire screen and scissors

What to do:

- ✿ Cut a piece of wire screen about 6 inches wide and long enough to go around the inside of the can with enough extra length to overlap about an inch
 - ✿ Bend the screen into a tube to fit the inside of the cans
 - ✿ Fasten the long edges of the screen together to form a cylinder. This can be done with staples, safety pins, or by sewing. If pliers are available, prongs from one edge of the screen can be folded inward through the other
 - ✿ Fit cans over each end of the screen tube
 - ✿ Add a little vegetation to your cage (leaves, grass) so it comes a little closer to the insect's natural environment.
- These cages are much better than the standard mayonnaise jar, which can be awfully stuffy and difficult for the insects to climb up the sides. Catch a bug, observe it, and then let it go on its way!

Which Friend Am I?

Greetings! I am an animal that is not often seen during the day. I am special because I am the only mammal with wings! I am a very widespread and abundant species in the country. My coloring ranges from brown to gray, and I have sleek, glossy fur without any markings. I have very long hair on my toes that extends beyond the length of my claws. I have small ears and large feet. I will eat thousands of pesky insects for you, like mosquitoes. I locate them by emitting high-pitched squeaks that humans can't hear. Some of the sounds echo off the insects and I can picture what's in front of me. This is called echolocation. I like to roost in buildings and near people's homes, especially if they are near water.

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 July 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: _____

Answers: A-5, B-4, C-1, D-3, E-2



Friends of Rogers Update

by Randy Muth

Earth Fest has come and gone, and we want to thank the businesses who contributed to this event. Financial support from Procter & Gamble and Golden Artist Colors was used for activities and for giveaways to participants. We also want to thank the many volunteers who helped make this day run smoothly. Without this type of support, we could never carry out these kinds of events.

We are sending four young people to Teenage Ecology Workshop at Pack Forest this summer and look forward to hearing how their week at camp goes.

We are making progress with our plans to install a solar powered lighting system on the *Welcome to Rogers Center* sign located near State Highway 80. The sign itself was created by a former Friends of Rogers board member, Doug Glass, and the equipment was purchased using a donation from another Friends of Rogers board member, Thurston Packer.

We are looking for a few new board members to become part of the advisory board which keeps Friends of Rogers functioning. This board meets every other month, on the first Tuesday, typically for two hours. With this not-so-huge commitment, you can share your energy and ideas with Rogers. Contact Rogers Center to say you are interested in joining the board today!

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.
 Golden Artist Colors
 Procter & Gamble
 Westmoreland CSD
 Boy Scout Troop 51
 Oneida BOCES
 Forestport Elementary (Adirondack CSD)

Three volumes of Grzimek's *Animal Life Encyclopedia* have been donated to Rogers Center by Arnie and Dorothy Sio of Hamilton. The volumes are all on birds and cover birds of the world. It is an exceptional addition to our library, and one of the few books at Rogers Center that covers birds worldwide. Thanks Arnie and Dorothy for thinking of us!

Volunteer Spotlight

– Marjorie Bates –

by Laura Carey

Marjorie Bates has been volunteering at Rogers Center for two years and came to us through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Norwich. With her warm, friendly way and openness, it feels like she's been here for many years. Marge enjoys a great variety of crafts and hobbies and is always working on something when she arrives at Rogers to cover the reception area.

Marge says that what she likes most about volunteering at Rogers is learning about nature. She has been bringing her younger grandchildren to programs and says she is more aware of the natural world now because of the things she has learned at the Center. She very much enjoys bringing her grand and great-grandchildren to Rogers. Now, when people call with questions, she finds herself very curious and looks up the answers herself to learn more.

We are not the only ones to benefit from Marge's generous nature. When not here, she may be volunteering at the Earlville Opera House or teaching the four and five year-olds at her church; visiting the Preston Manor or making quilts for new babies or burned out families with her Ladies Outreach church group. She is also the leader for TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) and babysits for her younger grandchildren twice a week.

Marge is no newcomer to Rogers Center. She has been bringing her family here for many years. We are very grateful to be able to call Marge one of the Rogers Family.



Marjorie at the Visitor Center desk

Help the Bees! -- And Other Native Pollinators --

by Chris DeCesare

The crisis

By now, most people have heard of the great bee crisis—colony collapse disorder—and the potential reasons for it, ranging from cell phones to diseases, parasites, and pesticide poisoning. So far, researchers have not been able to pinpoint the cause, but have been able to eliminate cell phones from the list. Most feel that it is likely a combination of things rather than any one thing. The bad news of the crisis is that we rely on honeybees to pollinate many commercial crops, roughly 35% of the nation's food supply. The good news is that, while honeybees get all the credit, there are many other pollinators out there doing the job, too. In fact, native bees do most of the pollination in our own backyards. Tomatoes, melons, squashes, eggplant and berries, such as strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries, are all pollinated by native bees. (Honeybees arrived with European settlers.)

What are native bees?

Tiny sweat bees, leafcutters, masons, carpenters, and many bumble bees are native to our area. There are actually 4,000 different species of native bees in the U.S. Some of them are even better than honeybees at pollinating certain crops. For example, squash bees are out first thing in the morning before honeybees and are better adapted for pollinating these blooms. Some plants like blueberries have their pollen encased in tubular flowers and must be “buzz pollinated” to effectively release the pollen. A robust bee like a bumblebee is able to do this by vibrating its whole body and the flower. Honeybees can't do this.

You can help!

If you have a lawn or gardens of vegetables or flowers, you can provide habitat for bees and other pollinators like butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, and beetles. A variety of flowers is important, including those dandelions and clovers on your lawn. Different types, colors and scents will attract a greater diversity of pollinators. Plant flowers in clumps in your gardens. If plants are spread out too much, they may not be attractive enough for insects. Try to have blooms for all the seasons. Different insect species are at different stages of their life cycle and have varying food requirements through the growing season. Spring can be especially tough, but flowering shrubs and trees can fill this need. Shelter and nesting sites are also important. Most native bees live alone in the ground. They need bare ground that is well-drained and sunny for nesting. If you can refrain from using mulch and underground weed barriers, it helps them. Other bees nest in hollow plant stems and will use bundles of straws or blocks drilled with holes as substitute sites. Lastly, be careful when using pesticides. Use the smallest amount needed and apply it during the cool part of the day when bees are less active. If you don't have to use it, don't! Pollinators will thank you for it.



Exciting Sightings

by Fred von Mechow

Spring came early, and there were many signs to enjoy: robins flocking north, red-wings claiming their territory, and many of our winter birds singing up a storm, including cardinals, chickadees and juncos!

My first robin flocks were in Hamilton on March 1. There were two flocks of 20 or more birds on Johnnycake Hill Rd.

Among the exciting mammals, Rogers staff have seen several mink, and our resident deer regularly walk through the Visitor Center viewshed.

Bald eagle sightings have steadily increased over the years since DEC's successful release program in the 1980s.

A snowy owl was reported from Pharsalia March 18. I had a screech owl visit me at home while boiling sap on March 19.

At Adams Farm we've seen lots of coyote scat and significant beaver activity along the river.

At Cush Hill, some staff members called in a barred owl on April 8 and intern Bobby saw a goshawk on April 12.



Bald eagle photographed by Rogers maintenance worker Tony Mitros' daughter in New Jersey

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:

Kimie Romeo
Gail Tooker
Geri Kobryn-Blatter
Chanda Vincent
Mort Stein
Meghan Dye

Charlie Hall
Jen Conrad
Diann Jackson
Maggie Vescio
Tom Tasber
Doug Borzynski

Robin Hill
John Lancos
Brendan Herlihy
Susan O'Handley
Anna Kinney

**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 people with disabilities to all of our programs. If you call ahead to let us know your specific needs,
we will be happy to learn how we can best serve you.**

JUNE

- June 7**
Saturday
8:00 PM
- BAT BOX BUILDING/BAT WATCHING**
Bats are very efficient insect eaters and fun to watch. You can attract them to your home if you live in suitable habitat by providing a roosting box. Come and build a bat box and then journey outdoors to watch bats swoop over Cunningham Ice Pond. **Bring a hammer and \$8.00 for every box you take home.**
- June 14**
Saturday
1:00 PM to
4:00 PM
- 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
It's a celebration! Help commemorate our 40 years as Rogers Environmental Education Center with lots of fun activities! Take part in owl pellet dissections, try out our canoes and kayaks, check out our collection of furs and skulls. A great day for the whole family!
- June 17**
Tuesday
9:00 AM to
Noon
- Active Seniors Series:**
BIKE BROOKFIELD STATE LAND
Bring your mountain bike and get your legs moving as we explore the bike-friendly trails of Brookfield State Land. This highly acclaimed 130-mile trail system traverses over 13,000 acres of state forests in southeastern Madison County. **Please call for details and to register.**
- June 21**
Saturday
5:30 PM to
8:30 PM
- EVENING PADDLE ON BEAVER CREEK**
Beaver Creek is a beautiful, slow-moving stream where signs of wildlife are sure to crop up everywhere. It's the perfect outdoor adventure for experienced and novice paddlers alike. Bring your own picnic dinner, and join us for an evening paddle as the sun goes down. **Registration is required. \$5.00 non-refundable fee per paddler using our equipment. Meet in Rogers Center's main parking lot.**
- June 28**
Saturday
10:00 AM to
Noon
- FAMILY FISHING DAY**
Learn the basics of fishing and fish identification with members of Trout Unlimited. They will guide you in rods, reels, knots and bait. Catch-and-release only, and if you don't have a pole, borrow one of ours!

JULY

- July 5**
Saturday
8:30 PM
- FLICKERING FIREFLIES**
There is nothing like the magic of the twinkling of fireflies on a warm summer's evening. Join us to learn about how and why these little beetles blink in the night. We will go out to catch some, too!
- July 9**
Wednesday
8:30 AM to
12:30 PM
- Active Seniors Series: JAM POND BOG WALK**
Bogs are unique places of carnivorous plants, rare wildflowers and sphagnum moss. On this trip, we will explore the wonders of Jam Pond and learn what makes a bog what it is. We will see the many interesting adaptations needed to survive in a bog environment and see pitcher plants, sundews and bog rosemary. **Wear shoes that can get wet and long pants.**
- July 12**
Saturday
9:00 AM to
Noon
- STATE FOREST HIKE WITH A FORESTER**
Join us for a hike through Earlville State Forest. We'll explore a working forest to discuss biodiversity conservation, timber production and public recreation. **Please call to register and for trip details.**
- July 12**
Saturday
7:00 PM
- CAMPFIRE WITH GEORGE STEELE**
George Steele will entertain, delight and inform you in an evening of firelight, s'mores and songs. Bring the whole family for a true treat with this seasoned educator doing what he does best. *Campfire made possible with funding from Chenango County Council of the Arts.*
- July 19**
Saturday
8:30 AM to
12:30 PM
- LONG POND PADDLE**
Long Pond is a 117-acre pond in the 3,254-acre Long Pond State Forest in the town of Smithville. The land also includes a Bird Conservation Area with habitat for Henslow's, grasshopper, and savannah sparrows, eastern meadowlarks and bobolinks. Join us for a leisurely paddle to explore the calm waters and shoreline. **Registration is required. \$5.00 non-refundable fee per paddler using our equipment. Meet in the Rogers Center main parking lot.**
- July 26**
Saturday
10:00 AM
- HERONS AND KINGFISHERS**
Heron and kingfishers are masters of fish spearing in our area. The heron stands and waits, while the kingfisher perches and dives. Both great blue and green herons and kingfishers are readily seen at Rogers Center. Learn about their adaptations and strategies for survival, and join us for a walk to see some in action.

AUGUST

August 2
Saturday
8:30 AM to Noon
PADDLE NINEMILE SWAMP
 This slow-moving river is a gem. It has an assortment of summer flowers and birds to enjoy and a fascinating cultural history. **Registration is required. \$5.00 non-refundable fee per paddler using our equipment. Meet in the Rogers Center main parking lot.**

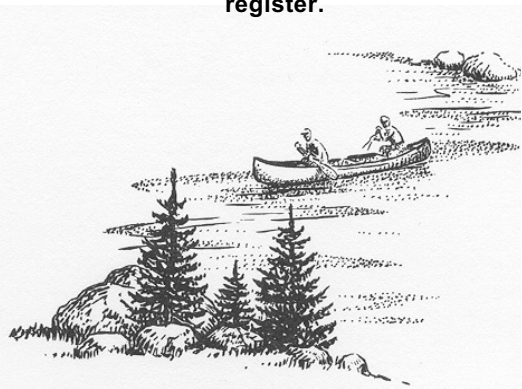
August 9
Saturday
8:30 PM
NIGHT SKY
 Have you looked up at the night sky and its abundance of stars and wondered how to find constellations and where to look for shooting stars? Join us for a tour of the night sky. **David Terrazas of the Central New York Astronomy Club will have some large telescopes for exciting viewing. Bring binoculars if you have them. Rain or clear!**

August 14
Thursday
8:30 AM to Noon
Active Seniors Series: FINGER LAKES TRAIL (FLT) HIKE AT PARADISE HILL
 This section of trail near DeRuyter offers woodland scenery, field edges, stone walls and a chance to stretch your legs. **Meet in Rogers Center’s main parking lot to carpool. Please call to register.**

August 16
Saturday
10:00 AM
Children’s Program: BUG BONANZA
 The warm days of summer are prime time for finding insects and spiders. Kids can make their own bug- collecting container and then catch some creatures for observation with Rogers staff. **Please call to register.**

August 23
Saturday
11:00 AM
WHITE-TAILED DEER IN NEW YORK
 You see them in fields and find signs of them in the forest. You may even have them munching on plants in your yard. What is the deal with deer in NY? Find out more about deer biology and population status.

August 30
Saturday
10:00 AM
GORGE EXPLORATION
 Explore Sherburne’s Rexford Falls and learn about gorge geology and ecology by taking a look at plants, fossils, micro-climates and the power of water. Some steep trail sections. Sturdy footwear required. **Please call to register.**



Summer Children’s Series

The summer children’s series will focus on exploration of little-known areas of Rogers Center and getting outside!

<p>July 11 Friday ADAMS FARM From field to forest to stream, we will look at the various wildlife habitats of Adams Farm. If we’re quiet, we might even get to see birds—because Adams Farm is one of the best bird-watching areas in the region.</p>	<p>July 25 Friday BOICE POND A unique opportunity for a guided tour of mysterious Boice Pond. Join us in exploring this crystal clear, spring fed pond and surrounding forest.</p>
<p>July 18 Friday CUSH HILL Owls love Cush Hill’s spruce, larch, and pine trees. Help us explore the area for signs of owls and other wildlife.</p>	<p>August 1 Friday FARM TOWER Have you ever wondered what Sherburne looks like from the air? Join us in hiking to the climbable Farm Tower where we will observe the entire valley from that vantage point.</p>

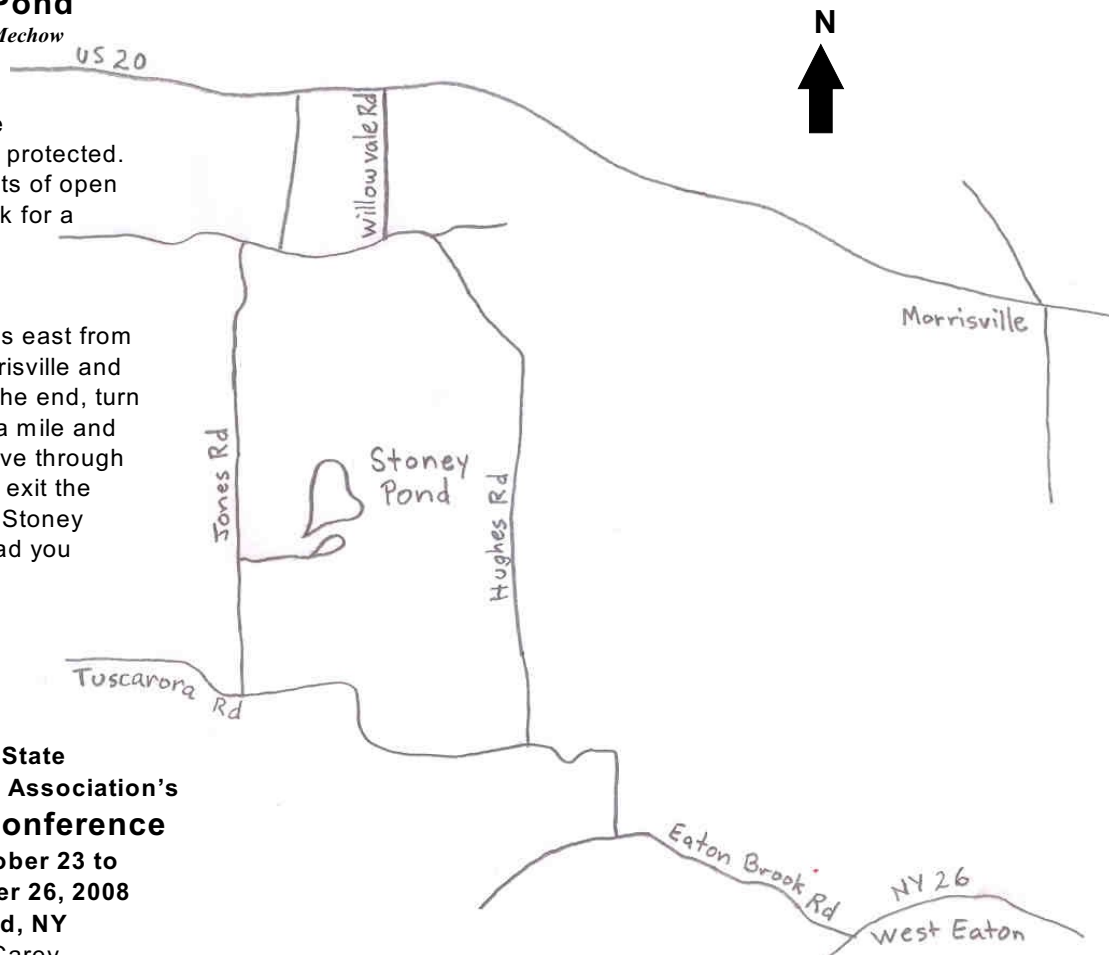
Programs are for 4- to 10-year-olds and begin at 10:30 AM
Please call to register as supplies may be limited: 607-674-4017 Ext. 623.

Places to Paddle Stoney Pond

by Fred von Mechow

Stoney Pond in the Town of Nelson is entirely within NY State forest land and, therefore, is well protected. There is an island, marsh, and lots of open water to paddle on. In spring, look for a variety of waterfowl and other migrating birds.

On U.S. Hwy 20, go either 5 miles east from Nelson or 5 miles west from Morrisville and turn south on Willowvale Rd. At the end, turn right on Old State Rd. Go about a mile and turn left (south) on Jones Rd. Drive through Stony Pond State Forest. As you exit the forest on the south side, look for Stoney Pond Rd on your left. This will lead you to the pond.



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

Thursday, October 23 to
Sunday, October 26, 2008
Lake Placid, NY

by Laura Carey



"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 physician 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

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
- David Terrazas – astronomy programming
- Sophie Belanger – Eat Local program
- Tigers Cubs of Pack 66 – spreading wood chips on trails, Paula Howard, leader

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 to view the Rogers Center's quarterly newsletter on the DEC website.

To be notified by email when the newsletter is posted online, sign up for our new 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/43766.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!

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 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 Fenner 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: **Fee:** \$50.00

In-service Credit
Great Classroom Resources
Fun Outdoor Experiences

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!

Green Alternative

by Laura Carey

Gardening in pots

Maybe you don't have a yard or you don't feel you have the time or energy to till an area for a garden.

Did you ever consider growing some tomatoes, peppers, lettuce or any variety of vegetables in pots?

It's easy and low maintenance. All you need are a few good-sized pots, potting soil, and six hours of sunshine a day. Follow the planting instructions on the seed packet or get advice from the nursery where you purchase your seedlings.

Enjoy fresh, organic vegetables at home with very little effort or weeding.



Sherburne NY 13460-4507
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