

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.

Schedule of Events Inside!

SUMMER 2003

www.dec.state.ny.us/education/edctr.htm

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

Staff:

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

Visitor Center Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday 1 - 4:45 p.m.
Sunday (**June-August only**)
1 - 4:45 p.m.
Closed State Holidays

Grounds Open Sunrise to Sunset

Friends of Rogers Board of Directors:

Byron Harrington, President
Dan Nielsen, Vice President
Thurston Packer, Treasurer
Susan Connelly, Secretary
Philip Clement
John Novak
Jim McDaniel
Randy Muth
Douglas Glass
Vivian Fulton
Gregory Fuller
Bob McNitt

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% off retail prices!

We can also special order that hard-to-find nature title!

This newsletter is printed quarterly; produced by Darlene Miller.

If you wish to subscribe, please contact Rogers Center.

Notes From The Director

by Marsha Guzewich

Our outdoor classroom building kit has been ordered and we hope that its erection is going smoothly as we approach summer. Hopefully the money from DEC to erect the classroom will be available to use. In the late 1980s, our dormitory was officially closed down for residential use. At this time, members of the Friends of Rogers board worked to see if they could rally outside interest in helping to fund a new residential facility. This took several years and over time Senator Seward gave \$50,000 from a Legislative State Aid Grant toward the residential facility. When the total cost for a residential facility was too great to consider, the use of the \$50,000 was shifted to an outdoor classroom. We will put the outdoor classroom to very good use. It will be used at all of our big events such as Winter Living Celebration and Earth Fest. It will offer shelter from the wind and rain for school classes that take place whatever the weather. We are very pleased and excited at the prospect of this new facility. We hope to officially open the outdoor classroom on September 9, 2003 at the annual meeting of the Friends of Rogers Environmental Education Center.

Attention Educators and Youth and Outdoor Education Leaders!

by Darlene Miller

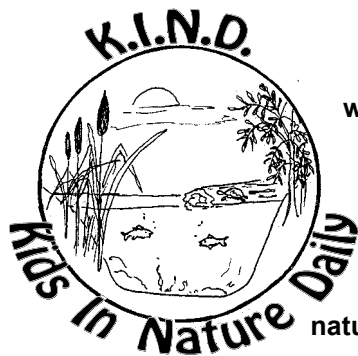
Applications are now available for the week-long NYS Conservation Council's **55th Annual Conservation Education Workshop** held at Raquette Lake, NY in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains! Details and applications for the workshop can be downloaded from the Council's website at www.nyscc.com, or call (315) 894-3302 for additional information. Information and applications are also available at Rogers Center.

Friends of Rogers Update

by Byron Harrington

The annual meeting of the membership of the Friends of Rogers will be held on September 9, 2003. Anyone who has paid their \$15.00 membership fee is encouraged to attend. The FOR board will welcome nominations for the board of directors at the annual meeting. Members should request a board member application form and have it completed before the annual meeting. We hope to be opening our new outdoor classroom at that time also. We are hoping construction will begin as soon as weather allows. The FOR board has agreed to develop a Resource Council to assist the board in meeting its mission. Members of the Council would be called upon by the board when a person's expertise would be helpful. Anyone who is willing to donate their time and energy, according to their own schedule, is encouraged to contact any staff or board person.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
George E. Pataki, Governor ~ Erin M. Crotty, Commissioner



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

Be KIND to your world!
Summer 2003
Issue #21

Written and compiled by
naturalist intern Gretchen Radke

Nature Quiz
Sizzlin' Summer

To find out more about owls, dragonflies, damselflies, fireflies or aquatic ecology check out the Children's Programs in July.

- 1.) This animal's ancient ancestors flew with two pair of wings that were over two feet long.
 a) dragonfly b) owl c) firefly d) moose
- 2.) This animal has extremely soft feathers which helps it to fly almost noiselessly at night.
 a) dragonfly b) owl c) firefly d) moose
- 3.) This animal is a beetle that uses a special glow to attract mates on summer nights.
 a) dragonfly b) owl c) firefly d) moose
- 4.) This animal lays eggs in a nest built in a tree.
 a) dragonfly b) owl c) firefly d) moose
- 5.) This animal hatches from eggs in the water.
 a) dragonfly b) owl c) firefly d) moose

Nature Quiz Answers on Page 3

Which Friend Am I Entry Form

To learn what the animal described at right 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, 2003. A name will be drawn from all the correct responses received, and the winner will receive a Friends of Rogers T-Shirt.

WHAT AM I? _____

YOUR NAME: _____

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER: _____



How Does your Dandelion Grow?

Everyone has seen a dandelion. The word dandelion comes from the French phrase *dent de lion* or *lion's tooth*. Take a look at the dandelion's jagged leaves. Can you see the lion's teeth? What do the yellow flowers remind you of?

Find a young dandelion plant by looking for the lion's tooth leaves. Insert a stick into the ground next to the plant. Each day as the dandelion grows taller make a mark on the stick with the date. Continue to observe the flower and record your observations as the dandelion flower turns from yellow to white.

Want To Do More?

Repeat the activity by measuring more than one dandelion. Compare to see which dandelions are growing faster. Compare some that are in the shade most of the day with those that get lots of sunlight. Discuss the differences. Discuss what dandelions need to grow. How does this compare to what children need to grow? What is a weed? Discuss what makes some flowers weeds and others non-weeds.

Dandelion activities adapted from: Rockwell, Robert E, Elizabeth A. Sherwood, and Robert A. Williams. Bug & Tree. Grosvenor House, Inc. (1983).



Dandelion

Sometimes I migrate. I have a brightly colored body. My ancient ancestors were very similar to me but much larger. I have three body regions: a head, a thorax and an abdomen. I have six legs and my skeleton is on the outside of my body. It is called an exoskeleton. I have a pair of jaws with several teeth but I will not bite you. I also have two pair of wings that allow me to fly very fast and catch other flying insects to eat. My eggs hatch in the water and my young eat small fish, worms and other creatures until they are ready to change into adults. One way to tell me apart from a damselfly is that I land with my two pairs of wings straight out instead of folded. Which friend am I?

Teacher Institute on the Environment

by Amy Smith

Rogers Environmental Education Center is offering a five-day Teacher Institute on the Environment. The institute will be held Monday, July 21 to Friday, July 25 from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm daily. The cost of the Institute is \$25 per person for the week. We will have expert guest presenters each day discussing topics of water quality and management, wildlife and natural resources. Water- and animal-based activities will be conducted as a follow-up to the presentations. Some field investigations and a wastewater treatment plant tour are also part of the institute. The activities are designed to address the elementary and intermediate level New York State Math, Science and Technology Learning Standards. During the week, participants will have the opportunity to share activities and programs that they have found useful.

At the end of the week, participants will receive Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), newly revised Project WILD (Wildlife in Learning Design), and Project WILD Aquatic activity guides. These are international, interdisciplinary, environmental education programs for teachers and youth leaders. The Project WET guide contains 91 activities including water quality, the water cycle, properties of water, etc. Project WILD has 124 activities emphasizing terrestrial wildlife. The Project WILD Aquatic guide has 50 activities designed to teach ecological concepts related to aquatic ecosystems.

All of the guides contain fun, hands-on, easy-to-use activities for grades K through 12. The activities incorporate a variety of formats, such as large and small group learning, whole body activities, laboratory investigations, discussions on local and global topics and involvement in community service projects. Each activity is written in lesson-plan format. The appendices include cross-referencing by topic, subject, time required, grade level, setting and teaching methods. The activities can be used to address the new learning standards in New York State within the scope and sequence of existing education programs.

In addition to receiving the activity guides, participants will receive a packet of information related to each topic covered and other educational materials. Participants should bring a bag lunch each day.

Space is limited. Housing is available but limited, at a cost of \$10.00 per night. Please call Rogers Center at (607) 674-4017 for more details and to register.

1.) c
2.) b
3.) c
4.) b
5.) a

Nature Quiz Answers:

The Summer Solstice

by Laura Carey

We mark the beginning of summer this day and many think of summer vacations, warm weather, gardens, no school and longer days. We also talk about the first day of winter or spring or fall, but most of us probably don't think of the significance of these days in terms of the movement of the Earth around the sun or its spin on its axis. Most of us don't guide our daily activities by the sun or the moon. But there was a time when our ancestors lived in close alliance with the natural cycles and rhythms of nature. Each solstice and equinox, and even the midpoints between them, were marked by celebrations specific to the time of year. Survival depended on knowing when to plant and when to harvest and knowing how to live in harmony with the seasons. Nature guided human activity. Sadly, today, most of us don't pay much attention to the rising or setting of the sun or the phase of the moon or subtle changes in the weather. I believe this separation from the rhythms of our planet causes us distress in many ways, both on a personal level and on larger levels - leading to illness and environmental deterioration.

What if we each started to pay attention to the path of the sun and the moon across the sky and drew it in our journal? What if we created family-and-friend celebrations for solstice and equinox days and other special natural events, like the first call of a peeper or the monarch migration? What if we each had a special place outside where we go to be still and observe the natural world for a few moments each week? I believe that if we did these things we would find ourselves feeling more at peace and more relaxed and maybe even a little healthier. So, get outside and look around and smell the air and listen to the wind in the trees and the rustle of squirrels in the leaves. Celebrate nature!

New York State Outdoor Education Association

by Laura Carey

The NYSOEA is a not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to lifelong learning in, for, and about the outdoors. Its highest profile activity is its annual conference. This year marks the 36th annual conference, and the theme is "The Nature of New York: A Natural History Celebration." Join us at Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center in Callicoon, NY, **October 23 - 26, 2003** for a wide range of workshop offerings, speakers and comradery. Topics include: Making Connections Through Classroom Science; Using Animals to Teach Elementary Science Standards; Old Growth Forests; Reptiles and Amphibians of NY; Wild Foods with Wildman

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Xiting Sightings

by Fred von Mechow

The winter of 2003 will long be remembered for its deep snow and low temperatures. Snowshoe tracks (people, not rabbits) were abundant for the first time in several years. Yea for those of us who enjoy outdoor winter activity.

We saw lots of animal tracks on the snow, especially deer, rabbit, skunk, mouse, and gray and red squirrel, but there was much activity below the snow also. Many small animals (mice, voles, shrews, moles, squirrels and weasels) travel through tunnels in the snow for insulation and protection from predators.

This year's deep snow made food-finding difficult for several animals, notably those whose food is covered, like deer and rabbits that eat shrub bark and herbaceous plants. We had some weak deer hanging around Rogers Center that did not survive the harsh conditions. The deer were rather friendly, worrying more about survival through eating than through avoiding predation. They took to walking around near people and even resting alongside the Visitor Center.

We've seen skunks and have one living under our Visitor Center. We may have to invoke the advice we give out so frequently; "Wait until it leaves and plug the hole."

Staff saw mink and sharp-shinned hawks.

My most exciting sighting was along Rte. 17, near Monticello, coming back from a meeting in Fishkill with my wife, Patti, and Rogers Educator, Laura Carey. At about 4:00 pm, Laura spotted a large bird sitting low in a tree along the highway. We turned around and went back for a better look, which we got. Barred owl! Fifteen miles further up the road was a second barred owl sitting in a tree along the road. Those were my first and second roadside barred owls. I've seen several late in the afternoon like that, but always when they've been called and have come flying in.

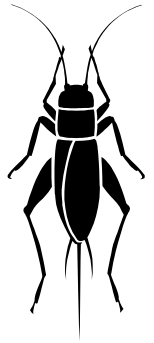


So Many Field Crickets... So Few Days of Summer!

by Darlene Miller

If you're like me, sounds of field crickets chirping and other evening insects buzzing on a balmy evening suggest the epitome of summer. Whether the sounds conjure images of relaxing in a hammock with a tall glass of lemonade or itchy skin and insect bites, you have to admit that how insects make sound at all is fascinating. Sadly, for most of us, the sounds become an unconscious background noise of summer.

Field crickets (*Gryllus pennsylvanicus*) are known throughout North America. They belong to a family of insects (Gryllidae) in the order Orthoptera which includes grasshoppers and katydids. All members of this order have two pairs of wings. An upper, thin, leathery pair when unfolded reveals a second membranous pair. When resting, these are held flat against the cricket's back. Characteristic of most members of this order, crickets have powerful hind legs for jumping, which are also able to produce and receive sound (stridulation).



Most calls are made by males and are used to attract females, but some are aggressive calls between males. Calls also serve as warning to others of predator presence. These familiar sounds are created with what is referred to as a "tooth-and-comb" technique. Run your fingernail along the teeth of a comb; the sounds are similar to those generated by a "singing" cricket. Crickets produce this sound by rubbing a series of ridges on one wing against ridges on the other wing. Air temperature influences chirping rates. Generally, the warmer the night, the faster the crickets chirp.

Finding field crickets is easy. Since they feed primarily on plant matter, they can be found anywhere there is dense vegetation. They can also be found under stones, flat boards and near houses. Listen at different times of night and day to locate them. They vary in size ranging from half an inch to over an inch, and many are black but can be various shades of brown as well. A cricket's life begins as one of about 300 eggs a female lays in the soil during late summer and fall. Some overwinter successfully as nymphs or adults, others overwinter as eggs and hatch in spring.

People have both loved and loathed crickets. In ancient China and Japan, crickets were prized and kept as pets for their melodies. They were kept in gold cages that only the rich could afford, and put in the bedchamber so the owner could hear a nighttime serenade. Did you know some people eat crickets? One hundred grams of cricket contains: 121 calories, 12.9 grams of protein, 5.5 g. of fat, 5.1 g. of carbohydrates, 75.8 mg. calcium, 185.3 mg. of

A BIG Thank You to Facilitators!

A huge "Thank You" to Project WET and 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:

Frank Benenati, Gail Tooker, Lori Arkin-Diem, Mort Stein, and Mary Anna Russo

Continued on page 5

Crickets . . .

Continued from page 4

phosphorous, 9.5 mg. of iron, 0.36 mg. of thiamin, 1.09 mg. of riboflavin and 3.10 mg. of niacin. Compare this with ground beef, which, although it contains more protein (23.5 g.), also has 288.2 calories and a whopping 21.2 grams of fat!⁽¹⁾ You may consider this method of control if you consider crickets an annoyance!

This summer, bring insect sounds into the foreground of your activities. Take time to listen and enjoy the significance and diversity of these summer sounds.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.eatbug.com/>

NYSOEA . . .

Continued from page 3

Steve Brill; Songbirds; Bats; Using Traditional Skills to Spark Your Students Natural Curiosity in the Environment; Evaluating Environmental Education Materials; Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife (Project WILD's new high school curriculum), and Urban Green Career Days. The featured speakers are Vicki Cobb, nonfiction children's book author; Dr. Susan Flader, professor and author of *Thinking Like a Mountain* and *The River of the Mother of God*; and David Middleton, nature photographer and writer. Program themes include outdoor education techniques and resources for classroom teachers, ecology education and natural history, local lore, administrative trends in environmental and outdoor education, and technology. Many teachers obtain CEU credits for attending! There is something for everyone who is interested in the natural world whether you are a teacher or an outdoor enthusiast.

Attending this conference will bring you new skills and knowledge as well as new friends who share your love of the outdoors and wildlife. Call us for more details and registration information.

Volunteer Recognition

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

- C Wells Horton – Rogers Center website maintenance
- C Audrey Wakefield – library cataloging, writing *Dear Rogers*, and provider of many goodies
- C Jean Dewey – office receptionist
- C Barbara Meeks – press release mailings and library assistance
- C Patricia von Mechow – office receptionist, exhibit assistance, also provider of goodies

Green Alternatives

by Laura Carey

Eco-Labels

Over the past 15 years public demand for environment-friendly options at the grocery, hardware and appliance stores have given rise to a wide range of product labels. Here is a little information about some of them and a website for additional information.

USDA ORGANIC

The US Department of Agriculture oversees this labeling. Land used for organic production must be free of pesticides, synthetic substances, petroleum-based fertilizers, and fertilizers containing sewage sludge for at least three years. The use of genetically modified organisms or ionizing radiation is banned. Growth hormones are prohibited in raising animals for organic meat. Products must be 95 percent organic by weight in order to be labeled organic.



FSC

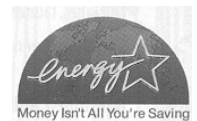
The Forest Stewardship Council

When shopping for wood, look for this label. The FSC certifies responsible management of forests around the world. To carry the label, average clearcut size must be limited to 40 acres, conversion of natural forests to plantations and the use of genetically modified organisms is prohibited, chemical use is limited and labor concerns are addressed. Logging in old growth stands of 15 acres or greater is restricted.



Energy Star

When shopping for appliances, this label will steer you to the top 25 percent of energy-efficient appliances, electronics, building supplies, lighting, heating and cooling equipment.



This is just the tip of the iceberg on labels you might encounter on your shopping trips. There is a story behind each label and different organizations that develop the standards. For more information go to the "*The Consumers Union Guide to Environmental Labels*" at www.eco-labels.org. Here you can search by label, product or certifier, and find a label report card and print information out to take to the store.

It is important to remember that we have power as consumers and when we make our concerns known and pay attention, we can make a difference in how industry produces the products we buy.

Call (607) 674-4017 to register.

JUNE

- June 7**
Saturday
8:30 pm
- MOTHS BY LAMPLIGHT**
Ever wonder what moths do at night and how they find their way around? Are they all little and white? Find out what attracts moths and take a look at some, up close, to learn more about them.
- June 14**
Saturday
11:00 am
- NATURE WRITER'S WALK**
Nature has inspired beautiful poetry and prose since humans have been writing. With some samples of writing by Thoreau, Emerson, Muir, Carson, Burroughs, Frost and others, we will try our hand at writing with inspiration from the world around us as we walk a trail at the center.
- June 15**
Sunday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- CHENANGO BIRD CLUB**
20th ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE
Come celebrate 20 years of bird watching! There will be a variety of bird-related activities including birdwatching walks, talks and much more on this day of fun for the whole family. **Free giveaways and activities for kids, too!**
See details on page 7.
- June 21**
Saturday
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
- SOLSTICE MINI-RETREAT**
Join us in a meadow along the Chenango River for a few hours of relaxation. During this mini-retreat we will experience a variety of exercises designed to immerse us in our natural surroundings in order to connect directly with the land. **Please call to register and for details.**
- June 28**
Saturday
10:00 am to Noon
- FAMILY FISHING DAY**
Get hooked on fishing and catch the fun! Here you can learn basic fishing techniques with Trout Unlimited, begin to recognize different types of fish with a DEC fish biologist, test your fish identification skills with a SUNY Morrisville professor, make a lure with an expert and study the tiny creatures that fish eat.

JULY

- July 5**
Saturday
8:30 pm
- FIREFLY FANFARE**
Follow Rogers Center staff on a journey into the incredible world of the firefly. Learn the how and why of these amazing insects' twinklings. Then head outside to see them up close.
- July 12**
Saturday
11:00 am
- OWL PELLET DISCOVERY**
Have you ever desired to dig into an owl pellet and discover what the owl has been munching on? Owl pellets are like little packages of clues that can teach scientists much about owl populations. Join Rogers Center staff for this "life and death" experience with owl pellets.
- July 19**
Saturday
8:30 am to Noon
- CANOE BEAVER CREEK**
Join a staff person on a relaxing paddle at Beaver Creek. Rediscover the joys of slipping by on quiet water and learn what overlooked excitement dwells in wetlands. **Registration required. \$5.00 non-refundable fee per paddler.**

- July 23**
Wednesday
6:30 pm
- EDIBLE AND MEDICINAL PLANTS FROM THE WILD**
Unearth new knowledge of edible and medicinal wild plants for better health and outdoor enjoyment with Barb Collins and Jane Swingle.
- July 26**
Saturday
11:00 am
- DRAGON HUNT**
Discover the mysteries of the dragonfly. Learn the secrets of where and how this wondrous animal spends its days.

AUGUST

- August 2**
Saturday
10:00 am
- CUSH HILL WALK**
Take a hike on the latest trail addition to the Cush Hill Parcel. The new trail takes you to the Cush Hill summit, through hemlocks and hardwoods. Great for the adventurous hiker.
- August 9**
Saturday
9:00 am to Noon
- BE A SCIENTIST AT THE PHARSALIA BLOWDOWN**
A forest biologist will interpret the blowdown and instruct us in measuring new growth in the New Michigan State Forest as we continue our long-term study of the area. **We will meet in the visitors' parking lot at Rogers and carpool to the site.**
- August 12**
Tuesday
8:30 pm
- CAMPFIRE AND FULL MOON WALK**
Enjoy an evening campfire, complete with s'mores and songs and a chorus of night-time critters. Afterwards, we'll take a walk and explore the Rogers Center trails by light of the full moon.
- August 16**
Saturday
10:00 am to 12:30 pm
- PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP WITH FRANK KNIGHT**
Nature photographer Frank Knight, will offer a beginning photography workshop at Rogers Center. Bring your single lens reflex (SLR) 35 mm camera with flash or point-and-shoot camera and improve your picture-taking skills. **Please call ahead to register. See details on page 8.**
- August 23**
Saturday
9:00 am to Noon
- CANOE AND KAYAK NINEMILE SWAMP**
Join us for a trip down the slow-flowing Sangerfield River in Ninemile Swamp. We will provide canoes or kayaks, or you may bring your own canoe or kayak. **\$5.00 non-refundable fee per paddler for use of our equipment. Registration required.**
- August 30**
Saturday
11:00 am
- ANIMAL AND PLANT ADAPTATIONS**
Explore the world of adaptations. Learn about amazing and unique anatomical, physiological and behavioral features of certain plants and animals which help them survive in their environments.

See Children's Programs on Page 7!

Chenango Bird Club Celebrates 20 Years with Activities at Rogers Center

by Fred von Mechow

The Chenango Bird Club will celebrate 20 years of birdwatching, bird surveys and bird education programs by having an Open House at Rogers Environmental Education Center on Sunday, June 15 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

There will be loads of fun activities for the whole family. Here are some of the highlights:

Bird Walk for Beginners - 9:00 am to 10:30 am
Learn to identify 10 to 15 of our common summer residents. We'll learn some easy calls, too.

Rick Marsi - 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
Well known naturalist/writer/photographer Rick Marsi will present an inspirational slide show. He will also have copies of his three books available to purchase.

Bird Walk for Beginners - 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Learn to identify 10 to 15 of our common summer residents. If they're still singing, we'll learn some calls, too.

Cindy Page - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Wildlife rehabilitator and raptor expert Cindy Page will educate and entertain us about hawks and owls.

Bird Walk for Beginners - 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Learn to identify 10 to 15 of our common summer residents. If we're lucky, we might hear some calls we can learn, too.



PLUS: As you leave, you'll be given a free gift pack including bird seed, garden seeds and a discount coupon for the Rogers Center Store.

Whether you enjoy birds or not, you're sure to enjoy this activity-packed day at Rogers!

Ongoing activities throughout the day will include:

Fun Family Activities - Bird ID quiz, birds as clues to human foods, favorite bird survey, painting eggs, making nests, making flying toys, scavenger hunt, various puzzles and games, the human bird feeder, and a chance to tell your favorite bird jokes and stories!

Six-Foot Tall Birds! - A bald eagle, a bluebird, a passenger pigeon and a turkey will be prancing around during the day. The impressive Rogers Center bird costumes were made by Audrey Wakefield.

Chenango Bird Club Exhibit - Books, bird info, T-shirts, rainforest grown coffee, memberships, field trips.

Bird and Nature Crafts and Artists Exhibit - Local artists will display their bird and nature creations.

Bird Conservation Exhibit - Several bird conservation organizations will have updates on their progress.

Call Rogers Center for more information (607) 674-4017



SUMMER CHILDREN'S SERIES



The summer children's series explores some of the different animals that live at Rogers Center: fireflies, owls, aquatic life and dragonflies. Through games, discovery walks and other activities, children will take a look at the "child-size" version of our Saturday programs. ***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: (607) 674-4017.***

July 3 Thursday **NIGHT LIGHTS-THE FANTASTIC FIREFLY**
Learn fascinating facts about our twinkling neighbors.

July 18 Friday **EWV! WHAT'S THAT IN THE WATER?- AQUATIC ECOLOGY**
Explore the exciting world of lakes, rivers, streams and ponds.

July 11 Friday **WHOOO'S COMING TO DINNER?- OWL EXPLORATION**
Find out what owls eat, how they fly and more!

July 25 Friday **DRAGONS AND DAMSELS-THE WORLD OF DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES**
Discover the charm and beauty of these prehistoric insects.

Nature Photography Workshop
Rogers Environmental Education Center
August 16, 2003 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
With Naturalist-Photographer Frank Knight

Now that you are familiar with your film or digital camera, here is an opportunity to take your outdoor photography to the next level. In this workshop, using landscapes and wildflowers as our subjects, we concentrate on improving our compositions and getting the whole scene in sharp focus. Advice will be provided for point-and-shoot camera users who would like to move up to a more versatile single lens reflex (SLR) camera.

In this nature photography workshop, you will:

- ' Learn how to optimize your equipment to, for example, get maximum depth of field so that everything from foreground flowers or people to the distant horizon will be in sharp focus, and capture dramatic early morning and late afternoon light.
- ' Submit six of your best prints for critique by you, your peers and the instructor. One of the best ways to learn is to critically evaluate your own work.
- ' Watch a brief indoor slide show illustrating many of the techniques you will learn and practice outdoors.

Take your equipment outside to practice what you are learning. Digital users should bring extra memory cards. Film users should bring 100 speed film. Slide film is best for learning because what you shoot is what you get. With print film the processing machine changes results in an effort to improve quality. Slide film also gives you a chance to have very high quality enlargements made at a low cost. Bring all your equipment: lenses, flash and tripod. We have a few tripods to share.

Get some handouts for later reference:

- ' Eight Tips for Better Photos
- ' Half-Dozen Greatest Outdoor Photography Myths
- ' Photography Resources including sources of high quality prints, photography books and magazines and the best field identification guides.

Call Rogers Center to register (607) 674-4017

