

# 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!

WINTER 2003-04

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

Dec - Jan - Feb

### Notes From The Director

by Marsha Guzewich

#### 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 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 am - 4:45 pm  
Saturday 1:00 - 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  
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 percent off retail prices!*

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

*This newsletter is published quarterly;  
produced by Darlene Miller.  
If you wish to subscribe,  
please contact Rogers Center.*

Did you realize that 2003 is the 35th year that we have been in operation as Rogers Environmental Education Center? We took this milestone as an opportunity to remind the Sherburne Rotary Club of their connections with us. Rotarians, Friends of Rogers and Rogers Center staff had a picnic recently to review the history of the site and the education center. Although the center comprises 600 acres today, it all began with the purchase of the Visitor Center parcel in 1909 as the first NYS game farm. Harry and Gertrude Rogers wanted to raise game species for release and convinced the NYS Conservation Department that the Chenango Valley was the ideal spot. Starting with 148 acres, land was acquired over the years so that the game farm could be self-sufficient, provide suitable habitat and grow food for the different species raised here.

The Adams Farm site became the home for the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1936. The name changed from the Sherburne State Game Farm to the Rogers Game Farm in 1940. In the early 1960s New York State began reducing the number of its game farms and the Sherburne site was closed. Sherburne Rotarians thought that the site could still retain its community value. Rotary President John Borst, formed a committee to look into the prospects. The Rotary Club asked the Nature Center Division of National Audubon Society to make a feasibility study. Based on this study, Rotarians convinced the Conservation Department to open the first education center for this agency. In 1966, \$100,000 was budgeted to develop the center and soon, the first director, John Weeks, was hired. A not-for-profit group, then known as Mid-York Conservation Fund, Inc. and now known as Friends of Rogers, followed. The purposes of this group were to help foster a relationship between the community and the center, to allow donations to come directly to the center, and to advise the director. This group still functions in much the same way.

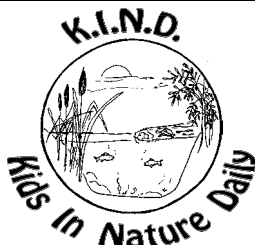
Thirty-five years have brought many changes. The brooder house, once used for raising pheasants for release, became a dormitory facility for groups coming here for educational programs. Closed in 1988 due to the presence of asbestos in the walls, it has not been replaced. Money from Senator Seward, has been used to purchase materials for an outdoor classroom, which should be erected next spring. Trails have been refined and developed. Three of the four parcels have well-developed trail systems. Now we are trying to do a better job of letting people know that they exist and how to find them. Still in our original Visitor Center, we are working on a design for an addition to better accommodate today's needs.

Staff have been relatively stable over the years. No one has been here for the full 35 years. Laura, however, has been here for 23 years, I have been here 19 years, Fred has been here 16, Darlene 14, Chris has been here 5 and Amy, our neophyte has been here 3 years. Wow, it must be a good life here at Rogers!

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

*Kids in Nature Daily*  
 Fun, stimulating activities that teach  
 about nature.



Be K.I.N.D. to your world!  
 Winter 2003-04  
 Issue #23  
 by naturalist interns  
 Rachael Wexler and Renee Lippold

**Nature Quiz**

Have you ever noticed all the special features that certain animals have to survive the cold and snow? Match these creatures with their adaptations or special survival skill!

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1) Shrew                         | A. Has long stilt-like legs to wade through snow  |
| 2) Moose                         | B. Possesses special glands on its anus which allows it to breathe under water when ponds and lakes freeze over |
| 3) White-tailed Deer             | C. Has snowshoe-like feet that allow it to travel on surface of snow quickly and easily                         |
| 4) Turtle                        | D. Its fur turns white to blend in with the snow and then returns to its normal light brown in the spring       |
| 5) Snowshoe Hare                 | E. Can burrow under the snow and build ventilator shafts up to the surface to increase oxygen levels down below |
| 6) Short-tailed Weasel or Ermine | F. Each individual strand of its fur is hollow to trap air and keep the animal warm and insulated               |

**Which Friend Am I?**

I'm a fun animal, and you probably see me a lot, and even though I'm not originally from around here, I have expanded my home range North. My body isn't really made for the cold. Sometimes bits of my ears and tail freeze off because there is no hair on them to protect them from the cold. I don't care. I like you Northerners so I keep coming back! I usually climb trees and my opposable thumbs and long tail support me on branches. I eat fruits and berries off of trees and I also feed on small mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians. I am an omnivore (eating both meat and plant material) and in winter when food is scarce, I'm not picky about what I eat. I usually live in a den through the winter and am very solitary! I like my space. I come out to feed at night. Who am I??

**Which Friend Am I - Entry Form**

To learn what the animal described above 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 January 1, 2004. One 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Cush Hill

by Marsha Guzewich

Are you one of the many people who has wandered around Cush Hill lost and confused? It should be much easier to take either the Summit Trail or the Conifer Trail thanks now to the input of energy and basic trail improvements by the Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps. The newest trail addition is the Summit Trail. As the name implies, the trail hits the summit of Cush Hill, bringing the user through a nice northern hardwood forest and elevation change. This provides a different habitat from the other trails at Rogers. The new trail starts from the flat area at the top of the roadway which once was the site of a pavilion. To get there, drive up Cush Hill Rd (seasonal road-½ mile) and turn left onto the gated field access road. Walk around the gate and up the access road until you reach signs. Start off at the opening into the woods from there.

It is not unusual to find piles of owl pellets, hear the call of woodpeckers, see signs of deer or flush out a grouse. Visit this trail during any season, but be prepared for the ups-and-downs of the terrain. Cush Hill Road is a seasonal road and not plowed in the winter. You can access it from West Hill Road and park just opposite the cell tower in a little pull-off area that is plowed.

Pictured below, the Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps stands on newly installed steps along the Cush Hill Summit Trail. From left to right: Kyle McDaniel, Jeremy Smith, Brianne Baldwin, Darius Talandis (crew leader) Nate Morris.



## Donations

Friends of Rogers expresses appreciation to the following individuals and organizations for generous contributions in the form of much-needed items, services and monetary donations:

Clare Gibbons  
Jane Clement

Byron and Diane Harrington

George and Jane Prime in memory of Lillian Skinner Hayes  
Cub Scout Pack 181 - Westmoreland

## Great Backyard Bird Count

by Laura Carey

Since 1998, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society have engaged more than a quarter of a million Americans, of all ages and backgrounds, and united them in the effort to keep track of common birds with the Great Backyard Bird Count. This count adds important new information to scientists' understanding of birds' movements and overall health by focusing attention on common birds as well as birds of special concern.

It's easy and fun. Over the President's Day weekend, February 13 to 16, 2004, spend at least 15 minutes looking out your window and counting the birds you see in your yard, or take a walk to count birds in your local park or favorite hiking spot. You can count during any or all of the four count days. It doesn't matter if you're a novice or an expert birder - your contribution is important and helpful.

To help you prepare, come to our program on winter bird identification on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

For full details on how to count and report go to [www.birdsource.org/gbbc/how.html](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/how.html)



## 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, working on *Animals of Halloween* costumes and provider of many goodies
- C Jean Dewey – office receptionist
- C Barbara Meeks – press release mailings, roller of quarters and library assistance.
- C Hamilton UCP – stamping WILD books and compost turning
- C Everyone who assisted in some way with the 10<sup>th</sup> annual *Animals of Halloween* program: Morgan, Bronwen and Galen Mahardy, Barbara and Jack Meeks, Renee Lippold, Seth Jensen, Jodie Beach, John and Naomi Graham, Anne Geary, Bonnie and Jacob von Mechow, Nate Morris, Darius Talandis, Brianne Baldwin, Jeremy Smith, Melissa Carley, David, Michelle and Heather Benenati, Jane and Phil Clement, Kyle McDaniel, Carol Smith, Adam and Michelle Whitbeck, Max and Wells Horton, Olivia Miller, Cathy Martin, Kevin Vorndran, Auralee Morin, Chris Rossi, Jane Hough, Stanton's Farm Market, Clyde's Little Red Barn.

## Xiting Sitings

by Fred von Mechow

A beautiful mink just about knocked on the front door here on Monday, September 22. Several staff got to see it bounding around in front of the building and in and out of the garden for much longer than the typical fleeting glimpse.

Does with fawns, rabbits and woodchucks seem to be everywhere you look. In fact, a walk around the grounds here might well turn up six of our common mammals: deer, gray squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, woodchuck and rabbit. With a little luck you might add red fox, gray fox, mink or skunk. Come on out for a walk on a morning after a light snowfall and you are guaranteed to find several of their tracks. We can provide you with a track identification sheet to help sort them out.

Three of our best "fisherbirds" - great blue heron, green heron and kingfisher - have been very active this summer and fall, and can be seen almost daily, patrolling the Channels Marsh and Cunningham Ice Pond.

A mallard population seems to be reestablishing itself here. It's been several years since we've had significant mallard breeding. My guess is the reduction in geese is opening some suitable habitat for them. Wood ducks also had a good year this year as we've seen lots of them at the end of summer and beginning of fall.

Staff member Chris DeCesare was working with a group on Cush Hill where they discovered the largest owl pellet any of us have ever seen. It was 4¼ inches long, 1 inch in diameter and was comprised of gray hair and large bones. Upon dissection, we discovered the remains to be those of a medium-sized rodent, but could not determine species because the skull was not present. Interestingly, the pellet was found on the access road well away from any trees. Either the pellet was coughed up in flight, or the owl was on the ground when it ejected. Based on the size, it must have come from a great horned owl.

### 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:

Kristin Loomis, Barbara Thomas, Brenda Olshan, Maggie Vescio, Chanda Vincent, Jen Coe, Mike Jabot, Mary Anna Russo, Craig Harvey, Gail Tooker, Dave DeForest, Susan Eschbach, and Annie O'Reilly

Welcome! Colleen Warner, our new facilitator.

## Green Alternatives

by Laura Carey

### Change a Light, Change the World

Did you know the average home is responsible for more air pollution than the average car?

We can each help reduce our nation's energy consumption and air pollution by small changes around our homes. This year ENERGY STAR is encouraging each household to change five of the most used incandescent light bulbs for ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent bulbs.

Following is an excerpt from the ENERGY STAR lighting quiz:

#### **What can you do to prevent 500 pounds of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere?**

Use just one ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent over its lifetime of four years.

#### **How many times longer do ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs last than incandescent?**

Six to 10 times longer.

#### **What percent of an incandescent light bulb's electrical use is turned into light?**

Only 10 percent. 90 percent is wasted as heat.

**True or False** - Over its lifetime of use, an incandescent light bulb is responsible for emitting more mercury into our atmosphere than compact fluorescent light bulbs.

True

To take the full quiz and learn more about how you can save energy at home, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



### Friends of Rogers Update

by Byron Harrington

Another season has passed and we approach the New Year with renewed hope. 2003 has been a year of frustration and disappointment. The outdoor classroom project has occupied much time and effort without commensurate progress. The invitations for the annual meeting of the membership received only three responses. Our approach to the membership meeting will be adjusted and hopefully will stir more interest from members.

The Board extends wishes for safe and happy holidays and hopes everyone will start off the new year by attending our 26<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Living Celebration on January 10, 2004. We wish to thank the staff and the volunteers for their dedication and patience throughout 2003. Best wishes to all.

## Maple Sugaring

by Fred von Mechow

It's getting to be time to polish up the tools, wash the buckets, and check the evaporator for sugaring season, just around the corner! Sugaring is the process of getting the sugar from the trees' sap.



Those of you who have done maple sugaring on a small, backyard scale can attest to how utterly cost ineffective it is, but you also can attest to how intrinsically rewarding and magnificent it is to produce your own syrup. If you've never participated in maple sugaring, here's a basic plan for your own backyard setup.

1. Identify sugar maple trees. They are our only trees with leaf stems and buds coming from the twig in pairs (called opposite branching) and have brown spearpoint-shaped buds.
2. Make your spiles. Spiles are the short tubes that carry the sap from the tree out into the bucket. Get some  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch diameter dowel and cut into  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch lengths (broom handles or round branches may replace dowels). Drill a  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch diameter hole lengthwise through each spile. Shave one end to a smaller diameter so spiles will insert into the tree.
3. Assemble your tapping tools. You'll need a brace and 7/16 or  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch auger bit, hammer, clean milk jugs (one per spile), a piece of wire to clean out the tree holes.
4. Tree tapping hints.
  - C Maple trees must be 10 inches diameter to tap. For each additional 8 inches diameter, you may add a tap.
  - C Keep tap holes at least 12 inches apart.
  - C Drill upwards on a slight angle into the tree so sap drips off the end of the spile.
  - C Holes should be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep. Wrap some tape on the drill bit 2 inches from the end to use as a depth gauge.
  - C Plan to drill as many holes as you have spiles. Or, make as many spiles as you have room for taps!
  - C Drill at least 4 inches away from previous years' tap holes.
  - C Trees can be tapped anytime after February 1. Sap will flow when tree temperatures are above freezing.
  - C Tapping on the south side where the tree is warmer often yields more sap.
5. Using brace and bit, drill tap holes. Expect to work hard, it's difficult. Clean sawdust out of the holes with wire. Using the hammer, gently tap spiles into holes. Not too tight, or you'll split the tree trunk. Spiles absorb water and will swell to tighten. Let the spile drip about 10 times (if it's warm enough) to clear sawdust before hanging your jug.
6. Collect sap
  1. Sap will spoil on warm days. Boil sap at least every other day if the temp is above 45° F.
  2. Carry empty jugs to replace on the tree. If you have lids, you can cap the bottles and use a cart to transport.
  3. Store sap in a new trash can or line an old one with two plastic bags.
  4. 10 gallons of sap makes a quart of syrup. Save up enough sap to make firing up the evaporator worthwhile.
7. Set up an evaporator. You'll need an old roasting pan or some other pan with large surface area and a cooking fire of some sort. A brick fireplace will work, but may give the syrup a smoky smell as ash and smoke may get into the syrup. A metal drum converted to a stove is excellent, but takes some work. Stand the drum on one end, cut a door to feed wood in, cut a hole in the top to expose the pan to the fire, and cut a hole for smoke to escape. If you attach a stovepipe to the smoke hole, you will carry the smoke away and eliminate the smoky flavor.
8. Evaporating tips.
  - \* Do most of the boiling outside. It creates an amazing amount of moisture that can damage indoor areas.
  - \* Keep a shallow amount of sap in the pan ( 1 inch or less deep) while boiling. Less sap will boil faster.
  - \* The more surface area of pan exposed to the fire, the faster the boil.
  - \* Pour sap in slowly to maintain the boil. A steady dripping is best, if you can rig up a controlled siphon.
  - \* When sap is reduced to  $\frac{1}{20}$  its original volume, filter through undyed felt. Bring inside to finish on the stove.
  - \* Syrup is finished when it reaches 218° F when boiling. You can also check by taste (cool it first!).
9. Bottle the syrup by pouring hot off the stove through cleaned filter into glass bottles with metal lids. 10 to 20 oz. glass juice bottles (sterilized) work very well. Fill to the rim and cap. Syrup will condense as it cools leaving a vacuum seal. Make labels on your computer! Call Rogers Center with any questions.

## Recycle Your Used Cartridges

by Darlene Miller

Rogers Center will accept your used inkjet, and toner/laser cartridges for recycling, and cash earned from the return of these items will stay at Rogers Center through Friends of Rogers Environmental Education Center, Inc. Most cartridges accepted; Epson brands are not accepted. Please contact Rogers Center if you have questions before dropping them off in our collection bins. Thank you!

*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.*

## DECEMBER

- December 6  
Saturday  
1:30 pm**      **Children's Program:  
DECORATE A CANVAS BAG**  
Personalize a canvas bag with leaf prints, animal tracks, or other objects. The \$6.00 materials fee includes bag. All ages welcome. Ages 8 and under should bring a helper! ***Please call to register.*** (Suggested ages 4 to 12)
- December 13  
Saturday  
10:00 am**      **NEW CUSH HILL TRAIL HIKE/  
SNOWSHOE**  
Discover a different area of Rogers Center as we explore the new Cush Hill trail on snowshoes. Discover the tracks and traces of animals that frequent our area. If there is not enough snow for snowshoeing, we will hike. ***Please call to register.***
- December 20  
Saturday  
Throughout the Day**      **104th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
BIRD COUNT**  
Take part in this wonderful tradition. Join members of the Chenango Bird Club for part of the day to record winter bird life in central New York. Call Rogers Center for details or to volunteer.
- December 27  
Saturday  
7:00 pm**      **FIRESIDE STORIES IN THE  
BIRD CABIN**  
Cozy up to a warm, crackling fire while listening to nature stories in the Rogers Center Bird Cabin. Let your imagination run wild as you place yourself as a character in the story book. ***Meet at the Bird Cabin.***
- December 30  
Tuesday  
11:00 am**      **SNOWSHOE HIKE**  
Looking to spend some outdoor time with your family? Come to Rogers for a guided trail walk on snowshoes. We will provide snowshoes and fun facts about winter ecology. If there is not enough snow, we will hike. ***Please call to register.***

## JANUARY

- January 3  
Saturday  
1:30 pm**      **Children's Program:  
SLEEP, NAP, OR AWAKE?**  
Animals have many different ways of getting through the long, cold winter. Some are active all winter long, while others experience varying degrees of sleep. Children will participate in fun activities to learn how animals survive winter's cold. ***Please call to register.*** (Suggested ages 4 to 12)

**January 10  
Saturday  
11:00 am to  
4:00 pm**

### 26th ANNUAL WINTER LIVING CELEBRATION

Celebrate the unique pleasures of winter with us. We will have horse-drawn sleigh rides, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sled dogs, an ice boat and ice fishing. There will be lots to do indoors, including exhibits, storytelling and live music, so you can warm up. **Please leave your ice skates at home, but, cross-country skis and snowshoes are welcome. Bring your Christmas tree for recycling (we chip them for our trails).** ***Event is FREE.***

**January 17  
Saturday  
11:00 am**

### FURS AND SKULLS

Most of us have probably never touched coyote or skunk fur. Here's your chance to feel the pelts of many of our local mammals and examine their skulls while learning about their behaviors and many fascinating adaptations for survival.

**January 24  
Saturday  
11:00 am**

### WINTER BIRD IDENTIFICATION

Learn which birds are in our area during the winter and how to identify them. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the Audubon Society sponsor the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBYB) when residents keep track of the birds they see in their yard over the course of the Presidents' Day weekend. Find out how you can help gather information on winter birds in February.

**January 31  
Saturday  
9:00 am to  
noon**

### FINGER LAKES TRAIL HIKE/ SNOWSHOE

Join us to hike a lovely stretch of the Finger Lakes Trail near Bainbridge. If there is snow, we will be on snowshoes (provided), if not, we will hike. Bring water and dress in layers. ***Please call ahead to register and for trip details.***

## FEBRUARY

**February 7  
Saturday  
1:30 pm**

### Children's Program: WAKE UP!

Sap is flowing, skunks are roaming, and woodchucks are stirring in their dens. Discover signs of life, create a craft, and have fun learning how plants and animals get ready for spring. (Suggested ages 4 to 12)

**February 14  
Saturday  
11:00 am**

### ANIMAL VALENTINES

Love is in the air. Find out which animals are in the mood for love at this time of year and who has the most interesting mating ritual in the animal kingdom.

**February 21**  
**Saturday**  
**10:00 am**

### **INSECTS AT ADAMS FARM**

Believe it or not, there are some insects that are active at this time of year: springtails, winter stoneflies, and bumblebee queens making their first flights of the new year. We'll search for these insects and those that are hidden, too. **Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot.**

**February 28**  
**Saturday**  
**10:00 am**

### **BACKYARD MAPLE SUGARING**

Learn how sap is collected and turned into syrup at a small backyard sugaring operation. Meet in Rogers Center's main parking lot to carpool to the site. Wear boots and dress to be outdoors.

**ALL PROGRAMS MEET AT VISITOR CENTER UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.**

## **Winter Living Celebration 2004**

*by Chris DeCesare*

Got the winter blahs? Then it's time to get out and celebrate the season with us at Rogers Center on Saturday, January 10, 2004 from 11 am to 4 pm. We have exhibits and activities related to winter, outdoor recreation, natural history and more! Try snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, riding a horse-drawn sleigh, or making your own spinner lure and fishing fly. Talk to DEC forest rangers about winter survival tips, grab a friend to cut a log with a two-person cross cut saw, and find out about the Finger Lakes Trail that traverses the state. Listen to foot-stomping music and fun stories, too. There is always plenty to see and do both inside and outside throughout the day. Lunch food is available for purchase. Bring your Christmas tree for recycling into wood chips for our trails. **Feel free to bring your own snowshoes or skis, but please leave ice skates at home.**

## **Snowshoes Available to Rent**

*by Marsha Guzewich*

Are there eight inches of snow on the ground? Is the Visitor Center open? Wanting to check out a trail at Rogers Center? If the answers are yes, then chances are that you can stop by and rent a pair of snowshoes to use on the grounds at Rogers. We have six miles of trails on three different parcels at the center so there are many choices to explore. Maps are available for each site and may be picked up in the Visitor Center along with your snowshoes.

The Visitor Center parcel has about three miles of trails. On the Visitor Center side of Route 80, they are mostly flat and perfect for children and beginners. On the other side of Route 80, the trail goes to the top of a hill which affords a beautiful view of the valley.

The Cush Hill parcel has about two miles of trails. The Conifer loop is short and flat and wanders through several different species of tree plantations, each one with a different feel. The Summit loop climbs up a hill through a northern hardwood forest, interspersed with some large old hemlocks. It's a very nice trail for those who want to feel they are getting out in the woods. When there is snow on the ground, access these trails from the West Hill Road side of Cush Hill. Park in the small area plowed along Cush Hill Road, before you get to the gate into the parcel.

The Adams Farm Parcel has approximately 2 ½ miles of trails and about 2 miles of dirt road. The trails have a "wild" feel, and wind through bottomland forest. Two parking areas are very close to the highway. One is on State Highway 80 and the other is just off Williams Road.

We have both aluminum and wooden snowshoes available for rent for use on the trails at Rogers Center. If you have a group of folks coming to explore the trails, please call ahead to make sure there are enough snowshoes available, otherwise just stop by between 1:00 and 4:00 pm on Saturdays, or 8:30 am to 4:00 pm weekdays.

## **Just Say No to Dumping Animals at Rogers Center!**

*by Chris DeCesare and Darlene Miller*

*Please do not release cats, geese, or any other animals, either domestic or wild, on the grounds of Rogers Center. We do not have the resources to care for them. Creatures released here often die from predation, starvation, or disease. Half-starved and possibly diseased animals are a threat to both visitors and wildlife. Those animals that do manage to live for a time become a nuisance in other ways. Cats quickly assume their natural predatory role and compete with other wild predators for food. Domestic geese join the wild Canada goose flocks and sometimes pair with them. This year there was a domestic and Canada goose pair that managed to mate and produce mixed offspring. None of the effects of dumped wildlife are good ones. We cannot state strongly enough, please do not bring animals here. Thank you.*

## Attention Newsletter Recipients!

The NYS Division of Budget has directed all state agencies to curtail printing and mailing newsletters unless required by law. They have asked that such publications be made available on the agencies' website.

If you have internet access, we ask you to send us the following information so that we can send your newsletter electronically. Each season we will send you an e-mail with a link to the latest newsletter to be posted on the DEC website.

For those who do not have access to an internet server, we will try to make arrangements for you to receive this information by other means. Thank you for your cooperation.

If we do not hear from you, we will assume you no longer wish to receive the newsletter and remove your name/organization from our mailing list. If you have any questions, please call Rogers Center at (607) 674-4017.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do not have Internet access.

Yes, I would like to become a member or renew my membership. Enclosed is my check for \$15.00 made payable to Friends of Rogers, Inc to cover membership. (Donations are welcome and may be included with your membership fee.) I understand that benefits of membership include 50 percent off snowshoe rental, first bag of sunflowers FREE during U-Pick (all others \$1.00/bag), annual membership meeting, \$1.00 off bluebird or bat box, \$1.00 off T-shirt, quarterly newsletter, membership roster posted at Rogers Center. Mail to: Friends of Rogers, Inc, PO Box 932, Sherburne, NY 13460.

