



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 2006-07

www.dec.state.ny.us/website/education/rogrctr.html

December - January - February

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 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

It has been a busy fall and summer highlighted by celebrations for several completed projects. We officially opened the Stone House, although we have been using it since January. The opening was celebrated by DEC staff who worked on the house, Rogers Center staff and DEC staff from Albany.

We also had a ribbon cutting for the ADA-compliant trail put in along the Ice Pond. That area is now accessible by all and is a lovely spot. The area itself is dedicated to Muriel Valerio and is called "Muriel's Nook." Muriel's daughter, husband and son were all on hand to open this trail.



DEC Education and Operations staff open the remodeled Stone House

This fall was also a time to thank our many volunteers at a dinner provided by the generosity of Friends of Rogers. This dinner coincided with the Friends Annual Meeting and provided an opportunity for volunteers to learn more about that group and Friends to learn more about the volunteers.

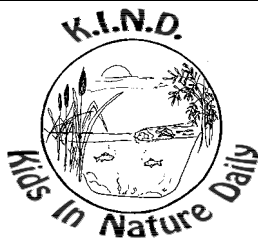
As we move into the winter season, I would take this opportunity to encourage you to get out to Rogers Center parcels. Come to the Visitor Center to rent a pair of snowshoes and then get outside. You can find marked trails at Visitor Center, Adams Farm and Cush Hill parcels. Winter is an excellent time to get out



Staff and visitors officially open the new ADA-compliant Ice Pond Trail

and snowshoes make walking though deep snow possible. Don't just mark time until winter leaves us, get out and enjoy it now!

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

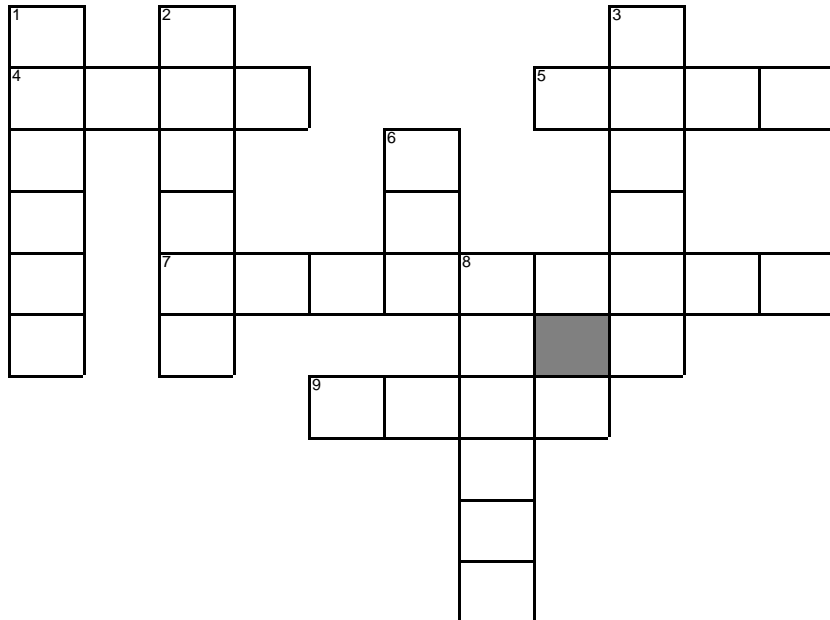


Be K.I.N.D. to your world!
 Winter 2006-07
 Issue #35
 by naturalist interns
 Rebecca Crane and Jennifer Gilmartin

Winter Crossword Puzzle

DOWN

1. Hanging frozen water.
2. No two snow _____ are alike.
3. The cold season.
6. A mammal's coat.
8. Wear on hands when cold.



ACROSS

4. It's _____ outside in the winter.
5. You build this to stay warm.
7. The opposite of deciduous.
9. White, fluffy and cold.

CRAFT CORNER

Snow Lights

Want a fun way to decorate your house for the winter season? Here's a fun and easy way to enjoy the snow while giving your home a cozy glow!

*Ask your parents if you can use food coloring and lighted candles, before you try this activity.
 Make a pile of tiny snowballs.

1. Dip each one into a mixture of food coloring and water. (They can be all different colors if you want.)
2. Arrange the snowballs around a candle several rows high (or small flashlight), making sure to leave room to light the candle.
3. Light the candle (or small flashlight) at night and it will give off a soft glow!

Which Friend Am I?

I have a brown body with a white tail. When I was younger I had white spots on my back. I live in the forest and I eat twigs, shrubs, acorns and grass.

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 January 15, 2007. 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: _____

Exciting Sightings

by Fred von Mechow

Bald eagles are the exciting sighting winner this season. We've had several sightings at Rogers Center during late summer and early fall and several reported to us by folks scattered throughout the area.

Great egrets are the other noteworthy bird seen a bit more frequently this year. I saw one in Lily Brook, which feeds Leland Pond, just south of Route 20, about half way between Bouckville and Morrisville.

Monarch butterflies certainly were plentiful this summer and fall. Like most wildlife, their population highs and lows are cyclic in nature. Although this year was a high point, some limiting factor such as disease or parasitism will likely reduce their numbers for a few years until they can build it back up. Looking for monarchs next year may be less successful.



Christmas Trees Recycled at Rogers Center

Are you wondering what to do with your Christmas Tree once the holidays are over? Bring it to Rogers Center before January 15. The trees are chipped and the chips spread on the trails at Rogers Center to prevent erosion and provide walking ease for visitors.

Tinsel, wire, nails, plastic bags, twine and all decorations must be removed from your trees before dropping them off.

Bring your tree with you on Saturday, January 7 and partake in the festivities of the Winter Living Celebration held at Rogers Center from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Rogers Center is located one mile west of Sherburne on Route 80. Follow the signs for tree drop-off.

Winter Bird Watching

by Chris DeCesare

When winter rolls around, it seems that many people start looking forward to winter projects or hobbies to begin. Do you have a winter hobby? If not, you might consider bird watching. It is something that you can do from the comfort of your own home or head outside to do. What could be better than that? All you need is a pair of binoculars and a field guide to birds.

Winter is a great time to begin this hobby since it can be easier to spot a "lump" on a branch without the leaves of deciduous trees to block your view. Also, the number of bird species seen in winter is not as overwhelming as that in summer. By providing food and water in a sheltered area of your yard, you can attract birds to your backyard and watch them from the warmth of your home.

If you're brave enough to weather the elements outdoors, there can be more rewarding sightings for you. Many bald eagles that breed in Canada come to New York in winter and can often be sighted near rivers and flying over fields. Even common backyard birds seem different in the quiet of a snowy forest.

If you want some practice and ideas for birdwatching, we have three opportunities this winter for you to learn more. We have a winter bird feeding program on December 2, the annual Christmas Bird Count on December 16 and winter bird identification on February 10. For more information on these programs see our enclosed winter schedule. Best wishes for a winter full of interesting birds!

Winter Living Celebration

by Chris DeCesare

Dust off those snowshoes and cross-country skis! Winter is upon us and it's time to celebrate the season with Rogers Center staff. Our 29th annual Winter Living Celebration occurs on Saturday, January 6 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be cold-weather activities to try outdoors like snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and horse-drawn sleigh rides. Outdoor exhibits and demonstrations include winter camping, ice fishing, DEC forest ranger rescue equipment and conservation officer canines. Indoors we have music, entertainment, fly-tying and many more exhibits. Refreshments are available for purchase. So, come on over and be a part of the action. It is the biggest winter event in Central New York and you won't want to miss it. Snowshoes and cross-country skis are welcome, but please leave your ice skates at home.

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:

Kristy Sullivan	Gail Tooker
Diann Jackson	Nichole Thibado
Christina Taylor	Griz Caudle
Jen Conrad	Patty Lent
Kimie Romeo	Barb Thomas
Annie O’Reilly	Karen Wallace
John Lancos	Geri Kobryn-Blatter
Maggie Vescio	Mort Stein
Rob Bennaton	Nino DeSimone
John Craven	Mike Jabot

Have a Green Holiday Shopping at the Rogers Center Bookstore

By Laura Carey

Three reasons to do your holiday shopping at Rogers Center:

- ! you are giving the gift of nature;
- ! helping to protect the environment;
- ! you are helping Friends of Rogers, Inc.

We have many books to help your loved ones enjoy the out-of-doors.

Do you know a coffee drinker? We have delicious bird-friendly coffee, grown in a way that preserves migratory bird habitats, maintains the native tree canopy, creates healthier farms for growers and their families, and promotes organic farming methods and reduces the need for pesticides and herbicides.

Give a gift of a canvas bag to bring to the grocery store, to cut down on plastic bags.

We have compact florescent light bulbs that use much less electricity than incandescent bulbs and last a lot longer.

We have wonderful children’s books related to nature and copies of *Last Child In The Woods* by Richard Louv.

Make your Christmas a green one, and think snow!

Green Alternatives

– What Difference Does It Make? –

By Laura Carey

Do you sometimes think that it couldn’t possibly matter if you turn off the lights when you leave the room, unplug your energy “vampires,” buy locally grown or made products or use a canvas bag at the grocery store?

Well, stop thinking like that! Everything we do or don’t do *does* make a difference. If we all gave up, it would matter, and if we all chip in and do everything we can, it does make a difference.

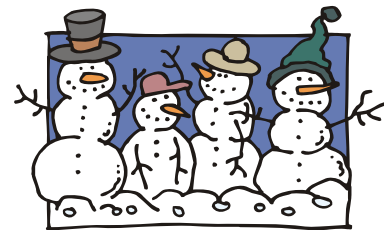
The next time you get groceries in bags (either plastic or paper) do the math and figure out how many bags you accumulate in a year.

The next time you get a cup of coffee in a polystyrene cup, think about 365 of these.

The next time you start to leave a room with the lights on, think about how long they will waste energy until you come back – then multiply that out. (Did you know that the average home produces twice as much greenhouse gas pollution as the average car?)

Even though it seems like old advice, it is still good advice for sustainable living – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Think about it and do it!

If you would like more ideas on how to lighten your footprint on the planet, come to Rogers Center and pick up one of many brochures we have from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, then take a walk outdoors.



Donations

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

Clyde’s Little Red Barn
 Don Bradford and Bruce England
 New Berlin Head Start in Celebration of
 the life of Roy Taylor
 NBT Bank of Sherburne

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 still will be held. Please call the center for more information.

DECEMBER

December 2
Saturday
11:00 AM

WINTER BIRD FEEDING

Would you and your family enjoy feeding winter birds? We will provide information about the birds that spend the winter here and which foods attract them to your yard.

December 9
Saturday
11:00 AM

HOLIDAY CRAFTS

Christmas is always a time of trying to find the right gift for your friends and family! Why not *make* something special? Join us to create ornaments made out of natural and recyclable materials. **Please call to register.**

December 16
Saturday
Throughout the day

106th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Be part of the most important citizen bird survey! Join a birding team for all or part of the day to record all the birds you can find. **Call Rogers Center to participate 607-674-4017.**

December 23
Saturday
11:00 AM

WINTER COLOR

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow and take a snowshoe hike at Rogers Center! Join a staff person for a snowshoe hike on the trails and enjoying the subtle colors of the season. **Call ahead to reserve snowshoes and to register.**

December 27
Wednesday
11:00 AM

SNOWSHOE HIKE

Winter is a special time to be outdoors. One way to enjoy the outdoors is on snowshoes at Rogers. All are welcome; no experience needed. Maybe you will see your favorite wildlife tracks! **Please call to reserve snowshoes and to register.**

December 30
Saturday
6:00 PM

NIGHT WALK

This is an experience of a lifetime! There are many wildlife species that come out at night and we hope to see or hear evidence of who they are and what they are up to. Dress warmly.

JANUARY

January 6
Saturday
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

WINTER LIVING CELEBRATION

Celebrate the splendor of the winter season with the company of friends and family during Rogers Center's annual Winter Living Celebration. Music, sleigh rides, food and fun will set the backdrop for an unforgettable event that pays homage to the wonders of nature. Free and appropriate for all ages.

January 13
Saturday
11:00 AM

SKINS, SKULLS AND SCAT

Ever felt the extraordinary coat of an otter or seen the teeth of a beaver up close and personal? Unlock the mysteries of mammals and learn how to spot the clues they leave behind.

January 20
Saturday
10:00 AM

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI AT ADAMS FARM

Join us for a refreshing cross-country ski outing. Come and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of winter and her treasures at Adams Farm's varied habitats. **Bring your own skis. We will meet at the Rogers Center's main parking lot to caravan to Adams Farm. Please call to register.**

January 27
Saturday
9:00 AM to Noon

SNOWSHOE HIKE ON THE FLT

Discover the inspiring surroundings of the Buckley Hollow area as we explore the Finger Lakes Trail on snowshoes. If inclement weather should occur, the walk will take place at Rogers Center instead. Don't miss the opportunity to bask in the beauty of winter. **We will meet at the Rogers Center's main parking lot to carpool. Please call to reserve snowshoes and to register.**

FEBRUARY

February 3
Saturday
10:00 AM

INTRODUCTION TO WOLVES

Come and get a glimpse of the secret life of one of the least understood animals on this planet. Topics covered will include history and persecution, wolf social ecology, behavior, communication, wolf-prey relationships, conservation and recovery. Join staff members of the Wolf Mountain Nature Center and get a better understanding of the nature of wolves.

February 10
Saturday
11:00 AM

BIRD IDENTIFICATION AND PREPARING FOR THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Learn which birds are in our area during winter and how to identify them. Find out how you can gather information on winter birds in February to help scientists learn more about birds during the Great Backyard Bird Count.

February 17
Saturday
10:00 AM

SERENDIPITY WALK

Have you ever taken a walk and stumbled upon something completely unexpected? Walk with us and open your senses to the wonders of nature. See what draws your attention and what unexpected gifts you find.

February 24
Saturday
10:00 AM to Noon

MAPLE SUGARING

How do you turn the sweet sap of the sugar maple tree into yummy syrup? Learn all about maple sugaring by visiting a small backyard operation. **Meet in Rogers Center's main parking lot to car pool to the site. Wear boots and dress to be outdoors.**

UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND MEET AT THE VISITOR CENTER.

Splash – a Recap!

By Amy Smith

On September 29, 2006, more than 300 Binghamton City School and Chenango Bridge Elementary children and 16 teachers participated in the 7th annual Make a Splash with Project WET Water Festival. This year's festival was held at Otsiningo Park North in Binghamton, NY. Each year, the festival is held at a different location around the state. Make a Splash water festivals are the largest education events in the country with more than 90 festivals conducted in 50 states this year. Celebrations across the United States include interactive water festivals that are educational, fun and where students explore a diversity of water-related topics.

Locally in Otsiningo Park, the focus of the festival was stormwater runoff. Students rotated through 20-minute stations with activities discussing the hydrologic cycle, point and non-point source pollution, water quality, stormwater runoff and water conservation. A skit focusing on pollutants and the storm drain was performed in the morning and afternoon. Representatives from the New York State Water Resources Institute at Cornell University, Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Norwich DCMO BOCES volunteered time to help make the festival operate.

A national effort was organized by Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), an international, interdisciplinary, water science and education program for formal and non-formal educators of K-12 students, with support from Nestle Waters North America. The "hands-on festival brought together parents, students, teachers, government officials, and enthusiasts of all kinds for one cause: to raise awareness of the need for water education and draw attention to the vital role this precious resource plays in our everyday lives.



10th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Staff Article

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 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.

On February 10 (*see schedule for details*), come to Rogers Center to learn which birds are in our area during winter and how to identify them. Then take what you learn and participate in the GBBC.

It's easy and fun. Over the President's Day weekend, February 16 to 19, 2007, 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.

FLT-Bullthistle Hikers Club

By Ed Sidote

The FLT-Bullthistle Hikers Club meets at 7:00 PM in the Norwich YMCA Community Room on the first Tuesday of each month. These meetings include a business meeting lasting about one hour, followed by a program related to hiking, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

The Bullthistle Hikers Club has a diversified hike schedule, and copies are available by emailing Marie Inglee at: lightgirl54@yahoo.com or you can phone Ed Sidote at 607-334-3872, or write to him at: 5 Clinton St., Norwich, NY 13815, and the current schedule through September will be mailed to you.

You do not have to be a member to participate in Bullthistle Hikers Club hikes. However, we hope our hikes will encourage you to join our club.

Hope to see you at a club meeting or on the trail.
HAPPY HIKING – Ed Sidote

Volunteer Recognition

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

- Marjorie Bates – office receptionist (RSVP Program)
- Barbara Meeks – press release mailings, roller of quarters and library assistance
- Audrey Wakefield – Animals of Halloween costumes and library cataloging
- Honor Schwarz – sunflower harvesting and taxidermy touch-up
- Jane Hough – gourd creations
- Sally Reymers – mushroom hike
- Animals of Halloween Volunteers – Phil Clement, Earl Callahan, Carol Sacks, Cathy Martin and Boy Scout Troop 66 (Brian Campbell, Michael Holeck, Joey Bartlett, Brandon Walsh and Lucas Reynolds), Marjorie Bates, Brad Baldwin, Patti von Mechow, Bunk Kochem, Barb and Jack Meeks, Charles Perkins and BS Troop 66, Brienne Baldwin, Derf Smith, Carol Smith, Max and Marni Horton, Olivia Miller, Jodie Beach, Kyle Reymers, Lynn Keith, SUNY Morrisville Outdoor Recreation Club (Laurie Trotta, Nate Bemis, Doug Croley, Matt Meyer, Jessica Shaeffer, Samantha Lutz, Mokoto Matsuoko and Ralph Bornemann), Storm Hammond and Sherburne-Earlville Art Club pumpkin carvers



Friends of Rogers Update

By Byron Harrington

The annual meeting of Friends of Rogers (FOR) was held along with a Volunteer Recognition Dinner on October 10. The Rogers staff and FOR provided an incredible edible meal and certificates of appreciation for all that the volunteers do for the Center. (See photo at right)

The nominating committee reported the slate of officers for the coming year - President - Randy Muth, Vice President - Laurie Trotta, Treasurer - Rose Cole, Secretary - Carol Smith. Nominations may be presented to FOR until December 12, 2006. Call Rogers Center with nominations.

I would like to thank the board members for their support during my tenure as president. Their commitment to FOR and its purpose shows in their accomplishments. The vigor of the new officers will lead FOR to even greater achievements in the coming years. I need to also thank the entire staff at the Center for their cooperation and understanding. It has been a pleasure to work with them and I have the greatest respect for all of them. I hope to continue my relationship with FOR and the Center for many years to come. Good luck, Randy!

Scholarships Available from Friends of Rogers, Inc. for Pack Forest Teenage Ecology Workshop

- Unique residential camp for New York youth age 15 to 17.
- Explore and learn about pond, stream, field, and forest ecosystems.
- Have fun outdoors!
- Meet other teens interested in the environment.
- Experience the natural world through new eyes.
- Look at your role in decision-making for a better tomorrow.

Eligibility:

- Must be a resident of New York State.
- Be eager to participate!
- Be 15, 16 or 17 years old in summer 2007

Pack Forest:

- Is located in Warren County, five miles north of Warrensburg in the Adirondacks.
- Is situated on 2,500 acres of woodlands with an 85-acre lake.
- Has many miles of trails leading to mountain views, marshes and the Hudson River.

To Apply:

- Contact Rogers Center for an application form.
- Return completed application along with a statement explaining why you wish to attend camp, and a recommendation from someone other than a relative to: Rogers Center, 2721 SH 80, Sherburne, NY 13460-4507 by **January 26, 2007**.

If selected for a scholarship, you will be expected to prepare a report on your experience.

Other DEC Summer Camp experiences available for 12 to 14 year-olds. Call for details.



Just a few of the 173 volunteers honored at the biannual Volunteer Recognition Dinner held October 10, 2006

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 you can stop by and rent a pair of snowshoes to use on the grounds at Rogers. We have more than six miles of trails on three different parcels, 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, trails are mostly flat and perfect for children and beginners. On the other side of Route 80, the trail winds to the top of a small hill which affords a beautiful view of the valley.

The Cush Hill parcel has about 3½ miles of trails. The Conifer Trail loop is short and flat and wanders through several different species of tree plantations. The Summit Trail loop climbs up a hill through a northern hardwood forest, interspersed with some large old hemlocks. The Hillside Trail traverses a nice hardwood forest and the Connecting Trail does just that.

The Adams Farm Parcel has about 2½ miles of trails and about one mile of dirt road. The trails have a “wild” feel, and wind through bottomland forest.

We have both aluminum and wooden snowshoes, in both adult and kid size, to rent for use on the trails at Rogers Center for \$2.00 per pair. Please call ahead to make sure there are enough snowshoes available, then stop by between 1:00 and 4:00 PM on Saturdays, or 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM weekdays.

