



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 2008-09

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

December - January - February

Rogers Environmental Education Center

2721 State Highway 80
Sherburne, NY 13460-4507
607-674-4017; press 1 for Education
FAX: 607-674-2655
E-mail: rogers@gw.dec.state.ny.us

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 Kochem, 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 hard-to-find nature titles!

The Rogers Center Journal is produced by Darlene Miller and published quarterly. If you wish to subscribe, please contact Rogers Center - Ext 623.

Printed on recycled paper.
Please recycle this copy.

Notes from the Director

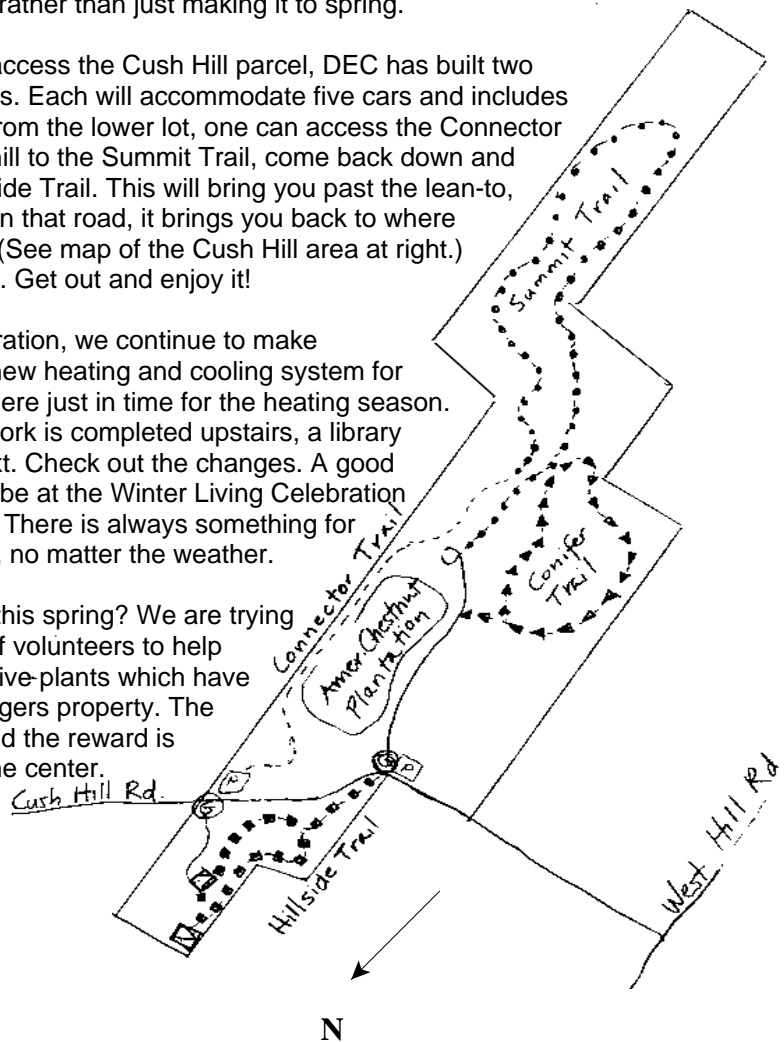
by Marsha Guzewich

Another December looms on the horizon. Are you ready to enjoy the upcoming frenetic season? No? Then put on a coat and go out to connect with nature! There is nothing like the quiet of outdoors to calm a frenzied brain, perhaps lower elevated blood pressure and give a renewed lease on life. We have a number of programs coming up to get you outside. We start off December with programs that will help prepare you for the holiday gift-giving season, then go through the rest of winter with fun outdoor adventures. Of course, do not miss our annual Winter Living Celebration--Rogers Center's biggest event--to get ideas for enjoying the season, rather than just making it to spring.

To make it easier to access the Cush Hill parcel, DEC has built two improved parking sites. Each will accommodate five cars and includes turn-around space. From the lower lot, one can access the Connector Trail, make it up the hill to the Summit Trail, come back down and hitch up with the Hillside Trail. This will bring you past the lean-to, and, if you continue on that road, it brings you back to where you parked your car. (See map of the Cush Hill area at right.) This site is a treasure. Get out and enjoy it!

After 40 years of operation, we continue to make improvements. Our new heating and cooling system for the Visitor Center is here just in time for the heating season. Once the overhead work is completed upstairs, a library renovation will be next. Check out the changes. A good time to do that would be at the Winter Living Celebration on January 10, 2009. There is always something for everyone on that day, no matter the weather.

Got some extra time this spring? We are trying to organize a group of volunteers to help eradicate some invasive-plants which have found their way to Rogers property. The work is not difficult and the reward is improved habitat at the center. Call the center to sign up to help. Details will follow.



- △ lean-to
- Ⓟ gate
- Ⓟ park

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!
Winter 2008-09
Issue #42
by naturalist interns
Katie Fox/Christina McKenna/Tina Murty

Nature Facts: TRUE OR FALSE?

Have you ever wondered what makes animals in New York so extraordinary? Decide which statements below are true or false to discover fascinating facts about New York's wildlife. (Answers: see page 8)

- 1) True or False: Deer grow new antlers every winter.
- 2) True or False: The short-tailed weasel turns from brown to white in the winter to blend in with the snow.
- 3) True or False: Snapping turtles have a higher heart rate in winter.
- 4) True or False: Black bears rebuild bones during hibernation by converting bodily wastes into calcium instead of excreting them.
- 5) True or False: During the winter, porcupines can be found sleeping during the day in the tops of conifer trees.
- 6) True or False: Although many great blue herons migrate in winter, some stay right here in New York.

CRAFT CORNER: Make Your Own Snowshoes

Materials:

- * Flexible ½"-diameter branches: two pieces that are at least four feet long and two pieces at least two feet long. Grapevine or freshly cut live evergreen branches with the needles removed work well.
- * Spool of sturdy string.

Directions:

1. Bend one of the larger branches so that it forms a "teardrop" shape that is about twice the length of your foot.
2. Bend and wrap the extra length of the branch around the teardrop to make the shape sturdy.
3. Wrap string tightly around the teardrop rim to secure it.

Repeat steps 1 through 3 with the other long branch. These are the outer frames of the snowshoe!

4. Using the shorter branches and the same weaving technique you used to create the outer frames, make two oval shapes that are smaller than your feet. Wrap string several times around the center of each oval to create a "platform" for your foot.

5. Place the smaller oval inside the frame, leaving the same amount of space on both sides, and weave string through many times to connect the two pieces.

6. Place your foot (with your boots on!) onto the center oval and tie your foot firmly to the snowshoe. Don't forget to wrap the lace around the back of your boot, too.

7. Go outside and test your new snowshoes!



Which Friend Am I?

I begin my life in the water and can stay there for up to five years. Once I leave the water, I can be found around ponds, lakes and streams. I can weigh up to 1.5 pounds and grow up to 8 inches long. I usually eat bugs, but sometimes I get ambitious and try to eat snakes and baby ducks. My average life span in the wild is about eight years but can be much longer in captivity.

I do not hibernate in the winter, but I do brumate underground. Brumate means that I pass the time by being very inactive to escape the freezing winter temperatures. When warmer weather comes around, I start calling loudly at my breeding site. My calls can be heard from almost a mile away sometimes! Most of the time, I can be heard calling loudly at night. It's very likely that some of you even try to catch me from time to time during the summer, but I'm a pretty quick jumper! Who am I?

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 January 15, 2009. 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: _____

When you are finished using them as snowshoes, use them as a wreath or a dreamcatcher!

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
- Marni Horton – Colorscape activities
- Sally Reymers – mushroom walk
- Brad Baldwin – various maintenance projects
- David Terrazas – constellation program
- Audrey Wakefield – Animals of Halloween costumes
- Eaton IRA (UCP) – stamping teacher workshop books
- John Carey – final touches on wind energy exhibit
- Melissa Kocak – gardening
- Animals of Halloween volunteers

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:

Frog Pond Farms
 Anonymous – two heavy-duty wheelbarrows
 Hamilton Garden Club
 Oneonta Family YMCA

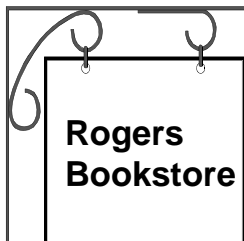
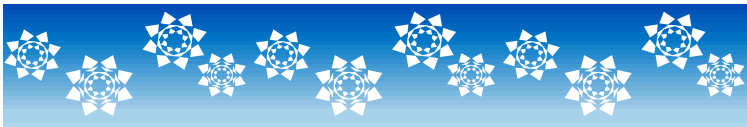
In memory:

Marjorie and Mary Oliver - in memory of Marion Bowers

Winter Living Celebration Notes

by Chris DeCesare

The weather is changing, and the time to celebrate with us is just around the corner. Pull out your new 2009 calendar and write in the Winter Living Celebration on January 10 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. On that day, the Visitor Center and grounds will be filled with exhibits, demonstrations, activities and entertainment to help you learn more about winter, local recreation opportunities, natural history and more! Try snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, riding a horse-drawn sleigh or making your own 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. We will have a great time no matter what the weather brings! 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.



Are you at a loss for what to buy for that special someone? The Friends of Rogers store may have what you need. We have an assortment of field guides, nature books and children's books. We carry t-shirts and sweatshirts, canvas tote bags, note cards, shade-grown coffee and bluebird and bat nest box kits. You

might choose one special item or pick up a few related things to make a nice "themed" gift. You are sure to find something you like. Prices on most things are generally 20% off retail price. Your gift will be twofold since purchases support programs at Rogers Center and you will be doing your part to shop locally. Happy Holidays!

Connecting With Nature

by Laura Carey

"Children grow healthier, wiser, and more content when they are more fully connected throughout their childhood to the natural environment in as many educational and recreational settings as possible. These benefits are long term and significant and contribute to their future well being and the contributions they will make to the world as adults.



A child's experience in the natural world can be as small as helping to plant a rooftop garden, sitting under, in, or around the single tree in sight, or listening for the sound of a bird. Spending time in a natural environment has been documented to improve life and learning in many ways. Sadly, such a connection with nature has been slipping away from many of us – and especially so for the world's children."

from Call to Action Forum:
 World Forum on Early Care and Education

The call to action above is further evidence of the urgent need to bring our young people outside on a regular basis. This does not have to be a difficult or involved task. There are many easy opportunities to bring children outdoors to connect with their natural surroundings. This section will highlight tips each season.

You can start off with a walk outside. Just look around, smell the air, listen for sounds of birds or wind. Pick up some snow and feel the temperature and the texture. When it is snowing, try to catch snowflakes on your tongue. Catch flakes on a sleeve or mitten and look at the shapes. Look for animal tracks in the snow.

Bring your child to a program at Rogers Center!

Moose on the Loose?

By Christina DeCesare

An e-mailed press release about moose arrived to my inbox today. State wildlife biologists want to let people know that they should be careful when driving in moose country, specifically the Adirondacks. It used to be that we could say moose were mainly here in New York as transients from Canada and Vermont. We can now say that we have a breeding population in the Adirondacks estimated at 500 individuals. Very exciting! This news of our very own moose population in New York is both exciting and a bit scary to me. As the press release states, the increased population does offer more opportunities to see moose, but also a greater chance of encountering them on the road while driving. I have seen moose up close in Maine. I was on a bus looking out the window into the eyes of a moose. That is a B-I-G animal. A few years ago, I got one of those e-mails that has a photo of someone who hit a moose and survived... but the car roof caved in and had a permanent impression of the animal in it. That photo certainly made an impression on me, too! Imagine driving along and all you see are legs in front of you... no eyeshine because the animal is above your headlights. Interestingly, a short blurb in a conservation biology magazine indicated that moose may stay near roadways because predators like bears avoid roads. So, the caution for motorists this fall is definitely important, but I would go one step further. What do you do if you encounter one while hiking?

Last winter I went to Vermont to do some cross-country skiing with a friend in the Green Mountains. One morning we came across some moose tracks in the snow near a really great swamp--prime moose habitat. I remember thinking, "So what happens if we see the moose and just happen to spook it? I don't think that I can outrun a moose on skis. Could I get behind a tree if it charged me?" The whole rest of the time, I hummed a little tune or whistled. I was really hoping that I'd see a moose; I just didn't want to end up in a situation where I'd quietly happen upon it and it would run after me. I guess I'm a chicken, but hey, I'm only five feet tall! A moose is two feet taller. I decided to look up some tips for moose safety.

I learned that moose have lousy eyesight, but can hear quite well. If you see a moose, watch it from a distance, but don't approach it, especially if it's a female with young. If it doesn't notice you, don't draw attention to yourself. If it does see you, talk softly and back away slowly. If you see its ears lay flat and its hackles go up, it is probably going to charge you. Sometimes it is only bluffing, but don't wait around to see...RUN! It is okay to run from a moose. Get behind a tree or another nearby structure. If a moose does knock you down or you can't run to a tree, get on the ground and protect your head. Don't move. You want to appear as non-threatening as possible. Get up once the moose has moved a safe distance away.

Chances are you aren't going to have a bad experience with a moose on foot. Moose aren't generally aggressive, but will protect themselves if they feel threatened. If you think moose are friendly or just dumb, you might get too close and put yourself in a potentially dangerous situation. Be smart.



I think I'm looking forward to seeing a moose now. I hope that you are, too.

Exciting Sightings

by Fred von Mechow

Last fall's warmth is a hazy memory as this year's fall begins. I've used the wood stove this year as much as I did through several weeks later last year.

Deer continue to abound at Rogers Center and we've seen muskrats, skunks and foxes with some regularity.

The bald eagle nest in Oxford was successful this summer, producing two eaglets that successfully fledged--the first verified record of eagles breeding in Chenango County--though many of us suspect that there have been other nests in the recent past.

A great blue heron has hunted the Rogers Center Channels Marsh daily, offering a great view. We've seen it catch several fish. Ospreys check the area every once in a while and we even spot an occasional bald eagle. What a change from 15 years ago when bald eagles were a remarkable sighting!

On a September 25 kayak trip from Norwich to the new Halfway House Bridge on Chenango County Rte 32B, my wife Patti and I saw a bald eagle, two ospreys, several great blue herons, a sharp-shinned hawk, three red-tailed hawks, numerous green herons, several kingfishers, a few solitary sandpipers, a pair of killdeer and a muskrat. Needless to say, we were very impressed with the wildlife, but we were also impressed with the cleanliness of the river (a testament to the Chenango County Environmental Management Council and Rogers Center co-sponsored annual River Cleanup) and the beautiful scenery. We saw only a few buildings from the river (expected many more).

I saw a black bear in Connecticut on September 28. I know, that doesn't count for exciting sightings around here, but I was surprised at where the bear was. While northwestern Connecticut can be fairly wild, there is much more development in general than in central New York. That, to me, indicates that the recent increase in bear sightings around here is likely to continue to increase.

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 those who have any type of physical challenge to all of our programs.
If you call ahead to let us know your needs, we can better serve you.

December

- December 6
Saturday
11:00 AM** **SOY CANDLE MAKING**
Looking for an environmentally friendly gift this holiday season? Join Sara Tyler from Charity's Crafts for soy candle making. She will demonstrate the candle-making procedure and then you can make your own candle to take home. **There is a \$5 fee per participant. Please call to register and for details.**
- December 13
Saturday
11:00 AM** **Children: DECORATE A BAG OR BANDANA**
Be a friend of nature by making a gift that can be used over and over. Decorate a canvas bag or bandana with prints of animal tracks or tree leaves. **\$6 per bag/\$4 per bandana. All ages welcome. Ages 5 and under should bring a helper! Please call to register.**
- December 20
Saturday
throughout the day** **109th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**
Count birds in the Sherburne area with Rogers staff and the Chenango Bird Club for some or all of the day. No experience necessary. Call for details. Don't forget your binoculars if you have them! **Call Rogers Center to participate.**
- December 26
Friday
10:00 AM** **SIGNS OF ANIMALS TRAIL WALK**
Getting fresh air is a great antidote to the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation. Walk the trails with us to search for tracks and traces of animal activity. If there is enough snow, we will snowshoe. **Please call to register.**
- December 27
Saturday
10:00 AM** **Get Out Series: SNOWSHOE THE BOUNDARY TRAIL**
Winter is a great time to get out and explore nature. Birds are easier to see in leafless trees, and snow creates a blank page for natural mysteries to be written on. So grab some snowshoes or use ours and explore the Boundary Trail with us. If there is not enough snow, walk will be on foot. **Please call to register and for details.**

January

- January 3
Saturday
10:00 AM** **NEW YEAR WILDLIFE LIST**
If your New Year's resolution is to see more animals, you're in luck! We'll get you started and give tips on when and where to look.
- January 10
Saturday
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM** **31st ANNUAL WINTER LIVING CELEBRATION**
See what all the excitement's about and come to our Winter Living Celebration! There will be snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and other outdoor activities. If you get chilly, you can come inside and take a look at our exhibits or relax and listen to storytelling and live music. **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 and appropriate for all ages.**

**January 14
Wednesday
10:00 AM to Noon**

**Active Senior Series:
SNOWSHOE AT ADAMS FARM**
Dress in layers and head out on the trails for this snowshoe walk. Adams Farm offers the chance to see wildlife and the tracks they leave behind in the snow. If there is no snow, this will be a hike. **Please call to register and for details.**

**January 17
Saturday
9:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

SNOWSHOE AT BROOKFIELD
Snowshoe with us in Charles Baker State Forest, a diverse area that offers many scenic and historic sights. If there is not enough snow, this will be a hike. **Please call to register and for details.**

**January 24
Saturday
10:00 AM**

**Get Out Series:
SNOWSHOE AT ADAMS FARM**
Join us as we snowshoe the trails of Adams Farm, discovering the many tracks and traces of animals in the winter. We will provide snowshoes and interesting facts about winter ecology. If there is not enough snow, we will hike. **Please call to register and for details.**

**January 31
Saturday
11:00 AM**

TIPS AND TRICKS TO SAVE ON YOUR HEATING BILL
Window blankets, south-facing windows, weather-stripping and insulation. Learn more about these heat- and cost-saving measures for your home.

February

**February 7
Saturday
9:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

BELOW ZERO TEACHER WORKSHOP
Calling all educators! Below Zero gives educators information and activities relating to winter ecology to use in K-12 classrooms or nature centers. Attendees receive the *Below Zero Activity Guide* with 46 activities. **Please call to register.**

**February 14
Saturday
9:00 AM to Noon**

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI WHAUPAUNAUCAU STATE FOREST
Bring your cross-country skis and warm clothes and join us for an outing! Enjoy the sight of beautiful Whaupunaucan State Forest as we explore the trails. We will meet at the Rogers Center main parking lot to caravan. **Please call to register.**

**February 21
Saturday
10:00 AM**

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

**February 28
Saturday
10:00 AM**

Get Out Series: HIKE CUSH HILL
Hike Cush Hill and enjoy what the winter season has to offer while learning fun facts about winter ecology. If there is enough snow, we will snowshoe. **Please call to register and for details.**

7th Annual Summer Teacher Institute on the Environment

by Amy Kochem

During the week of August 4 to 8, 2008, twenty-nine teachers from around central New York participated in Rogers Center's seventh annual Summer Teacher Institute on the Environment. The week focused on teaching about basic orienteering and map reading skills, aquatic invasive species, 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 were included. Interdisciplinary classroom activities conducted throughout the week provided teachers with background knowledge about basic natural history and environmental issues. In addition, teachers received many other resources and handouts about forest ecology, rivers, energy, water conservation and climate change. The participants left inspired to bring their students outdoors to learn about the natural world.

**We invite you to join us for our eighth annual
Summer Teacher Institute on the Environment
August 3 to 6, 2009 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM daily.**



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.

Mary Jane Meherg	Donna Dvorcek	Charlie Hall
David Semple	Diann Jackson	Griz Caudle
Chanda Vincent	Susan O'Handley	Dave DeForest
Robin Hill	Carol Stokes-Cawley	Jen Conrad



Friends of Rogers Update

by Randy Muth

On September 21, Friends of Rogers (FOR) held its annual membership meeting at the outdoor classroom. Once again, an ice cream social was sponsored by the Friends of Rogers, with sundaes provided by Gilligan's Island of Sherburne, NY. In addition, a wonderful "birds of prey" demonstration was given by Cindy Page. Cindy also provided very useful information on what to do and what not to do when encountering injured wildlife. Attendance for this meeting keeps getting better every year, and with continued great programming, I hope to see even more members at next year's meeting.

The main agenda item at the annual FOR meeting is the presentation of the slate of nominees for officers of the FOR board and calls for additional nominees from the floor. The slate of nominees for 2009 was presented by Marsha Guzewich as follows: President, Laurie Trotta; Vice President, John Novak; Secretary, Carol Smith; Treasurer, Rose Cole. There were no additional nominees presented from the floor and the slate was accepted as presented.

At the end of this year I will be stepping down as president but will continue to serve as a board member. I would like to thank my fellow board members and the entire staff at Rogers Center for their support and hard work during my tenure. I know that the center's programs will only continue to improve with such a capable board and Laurie's leadership. Good luck and thank you.

12th Annual Chenango County River Cleanup

by Amy Kochem

The twelfth annual Chenango County Environmental Management Council and Rogers Environmental Education Center's River Cleanup was a great success! A huge thank you goes to the 48 volunteers who collected more than 950 pounds of metal, glass, plastic, cigarette butts, clothing and a wide array of other materials from the waterways of Chenango County! It was a beautiful morning with the sun shining – a great day to splash around in the water. Join in on the fun next September. You can choose any body of water in the county to clean up. It's a great opportunity to be part of the effort and feel a sense of satisfaction in contributing to the health and beauty of our local environment.

Winter Energy-Saving Tips

by Laura Carey

Use a programmable thermostat with your heating system to automatically lower the temperature at night or when no one is home.

Keep the warm air in and the cold air out by adding insulation, caulking and weather stripping around doors, attic access, windows, outlets and any area that can let the cold air in and the warm air out. Or, call a "Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®" contractor to evaluate your home's efficiency:

<http://www.getenergysmart.org/SingleFamilyHomes/ExistingBuilding/HomeOwner.aspx>

It's a good time to check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace old batteries. Remember, as you seal up leaks in your home, this becomes even more important. Make sure floor and wall vents are not blocked by draperies, furniture, or rugs. Vents should also be cleaned regularly with a vacuum or broom.

Keep blinds and drapes of sun-exposed windows open in the daytime and closed at night.

When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed.

Have your heating system inspected by a "Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®" contractor. If you have a forced-air heating system, check your air filters once a month and replace if dirty.

Make sure outdoor portions of your heating system are not blocked by leaves, shrubbery, or other objects.

If you have a window air conditioning unit, remove it for the winter months to prevent heat from escaping through and around the unit. If it can't be removed, buy a cover to prevent drafts.

Install rubber gaskets behind outlets and switch plates on exterior walls. Gaskets can be found in most home improvement stores.

Ceiling fans can keep you comfortable in the winter too! Reversing the direction of the blades pushes warm air down into the room.

Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. For added savings, have your water heater wrapped with an insulation blanket by your heating or plumbing contractor.

For more ideas on energy savings and home audits, go to the link below.

<http://www.getenergysmart.org/Resources/Tips.aspx>

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 Rogers Center's quarterly newsletter.

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

Online Family Newsletter *DEC Outdoor Discovery*

Visit www.dec.ny.gov/public/43355.html to read DEC's 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!

Plein Air Artists at Rogers Center

Plein Air artists seek to capture effects of light and atmosphere by completing the work out of doors much in the same way 19th century French impressionists painted. Rogers Center was fortunate to host local plein air artisans during August.



New Green Living Page on DEC's Website

by Laura Carey



DEC's website has a new page, updated quarterly, called *Green Living: Ideas, tips and resources for making environmentally responsible choices in your daily life.*

Each update has ten tips for helping the environment, plus a "myth buster." Tips for the fall include ways to limit your gasoline consumption, cut your energy use,

and get rid of yard waste using environmentally friendly methods. For more details, visit www.dec.ny.gov/public/337.html

Check this site seasonally for more ideas.

Rogers Center Winter Wish List!!

- Bird Seed (Black Oil)
- Suet Cakes

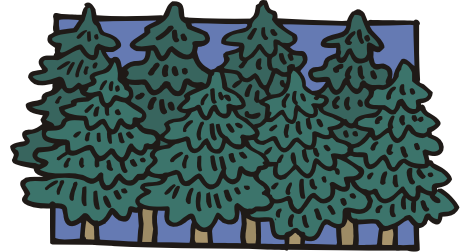
Christmas Trees Recycled at Rogers Center

Are you wondering what to do with your Christmas tree once the holidays are over? Bring it to Rogers Center before January 14. 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 10 and participate 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.



Answers to Nature Facts:
 1. False - Deer drop antlers in winter and begin to grow new ones in spring. 2. True 3. False - Turtles' heart rate slows way down in winter 4. True 5. True 6. True

