

# The Wild Center

*A museum and environmental education center located in the heart of the Adirondacks in Tupper Lake—size: 31 acres*

*A premier watchable wildlife site*

*By John Razzano*



Susan Shafer

A viewing platform overlooks the Raquette River.



river otter

Susan Shafer

With hands-on indoor and outdoor nature exhibits, and hundreds of live animals (from big trout and salmon swimming in impressive floor-to-ceiling aquariums, to tiny turtles the size of walnuts), The Wild Center has fascinating discoveries that greet visitors at every turn. The center's beautiful mountain location, many cleverly designed displays, theater, state-of-the-art multi-media exhibits, and entertaining live critter programs ensure visitors will be delighted and inspired as they learn about Adirondack wildlife and their mountain environment.

In keeping with a place that celebrates nature, the center's buildings are innovatively designed to minimize their environmental footprint.

## Wildlife to Watch

The most popular indoor attraction is the "Living River Trail" exhibit with its live northern river otters. You'll be enchanted watching these graceful aquatic mammals as they effortlessly glide around like underwater acrobats in their glass-enclosed river habitat. Staff regularly bring out these furry entertainers for a closer look, and their antics never fail to delight.





brook trout

Eric Engbretson

Porcupines, owls, ravens and timber rattlesnakes are some of the other extraordinary forest denizens that entertain visitors. The museum puts all of the Adirondack creatures and landscapes in context, with exhibits that take you from the mountain-grinding glaciers of the earth's great ice ages to the present.

Outside, learn how wildlife habitats are changing over time as you follow

trails with exhibits on forest ecology. Or, observe the variety of forest birds and waterfowl that reside in or migrate through the Tupper Lake area. Be sure to check the seasonal schedule for great field and indoor programs too.

**John Razzano** is a contributing editor to *Conservationist*.



## Site Features

**Site Notes:** Open daily from Memorial Day through October 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During the winter, the center is open Friday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed during April. There is an entrance fee.

**Trails:** Two miles of trails take you through the center's habitats. One trail leads to an oxbow on the Raquette River with a scenic overlook platform. Another trail includes a bird blind. Interpretive signs provide information about various points of interest. Center staff regularly lead guided nature walks.

**Accessibility:** The visitors center/museum has accessible features and some of the outdoor exhibits are also accessible.

**Directions:** In Tupper Lake, take Hosley Ave. off Route 3. The entrance to the center is on the left.

**Contact:** 518-359-7800  
45 Museum Drive, Tupper Lake  
<http://wildcenter.org>



painted turtle

Susan Shafer