

ROGERS CENTER

[EXCITE | INSPIRE | MOTIVATE]

Newsletter



Family Fun
features
'Recycled
Treasures!'

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Season of Thanksgiving

I found myself confiding in my son, River, while contemplating this piece. He is at the age when days blur into months and months into years - and before you know it 'the seasons, they go round and round.' River's thought was that he would set me up with his colored pencils and easel, and "do art" while I wrote. This was at 9:15 pm and he was probably right; I could have written this piece freehand and with colored pencils, sketching the autumnal colors surrounding Channels Marsh at Rogers Center. (Here's a photo of River, enjoying treats after last month's annual 'Animals of Halloween'.)



As we transition with the changing seasons and focus our thoughts on Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving, let's congratulate ourselves with a collective pat on the back and a well-deserved 'thank you' for making Rogers Environmental Education Center the success it is today. In early September, we surpassed our 10,000 annual visitor goal inside the Center - and we continue moving towards the 11,000 guest mark. (Note that this tally does not include daily hikers on the trails.) Hosting more than 10,000 people at the Visitor Center is quantifiable evidence of the tremendous affection that many throughout Central NY have for Rogers Center. Storytime and Hike, hosted by Jenni Larchar every Wednesday at 10 am, remains a popular program for preschoolers and their caregivers. For children ages two and three, our unique preschool program Nature's Nursery is held each Wednesday and Friday from 8 - 10 am. Recently, a member remarked about "Rogers Kids," and how she has always enjoyed watching children grow up at Rogers Center and progress throughout their years; I think our staff would agree! In addition to little tyke programming, our on-staff environmental educator, Sarah Freedman, has provided educational

programs to thirty different school districts this year. Nearly 1,000 children have visited the grounds for on-site field trips, while nearly double this amount have participated in classroom/school-based programs. On behalf of our full-time and part-time staff of five, numerous interns, and board members, I wish to say 'Thank You!' Thank you for cooking your barbecues and hosting your family reunions at Rogers Center, and for bringing your grandchildren out to birdwatch behind one of the blinds, and for packing that lunch which you wished you had packed more of after hiking one of our many beautiful trails. As leaves continue to fall and snowflakes begin to fly, Rogers Center remains your all-season, unplugged option for brief mid-week walks and leisurely weekend hikes - whether it be a solo getaway or a time with family and friends. Remember, cross-country skis and snowshoes will be available to rent by Thanksgiving - or sooner, if it comes to that! 'And the seasons they go round and round...'



See you on the trails,

Simon M. Solomon
Executive Director
Friends of Rogers



Friends of Rogers strives to meet the needs of our community. If you have a suggestion or programming idea, please let us know at execdir@friendsofrogers.org, or call Friends of Rogers at (607) 674-4733.

Friends of Rogers

Environmental Education Center, Inc.

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2721 State Route 80
Sherburne, NY 13460

(607) 674-4733

www.FriendsofRogers.org

info@FriendsofRogers.org

Friends of Rogers (F.O.R) is a non-profit organization composed of dedicated supporters of the Rogers Environmental Education Center located in Sherburne, NY.



Ask Friends of Rogers

Dear Friends of Rogers,

Upon visiting your visitor's center recently I bought some fish food to feed the fish. I noticed later the sticker that said not to feed the geese. Why is that?

Sincerely, Fish Feeder

Dear Fish Feeder,

We ask that you do not feed the geese for many reasons. While the fish food is made for the fish we do not sell food that is meant for geese. Regular feeding of the geese with food that is not natural for them is harmful to them. It can cause poor nutrition, increased hybridization, water pollution, delayed migration, concentrations at unnatural sites, overcrowding, spread of disease, costly management efforts, unnatural behavior, cumulative effects and devaluation of the species.

When people feed geese they usually feed them bread, corn, popcorn and other things that are low in protein and very poor substitutes for natural foods. This means that they are eating the food people are giving them instead of going to find food that will give them protein and provide better nutrition. Also, when geese are fed by people the food is usually scattered on the ground where they defecate. They are then eating this food, which helps to spread diseases between the geese.

So as you can see, feeding the geese does more harm than good. This is why we discourage feeding the geese. You can still enjoy geese by watching and observing them. Thank you for asking this important question!



Sincerely,
Friends of Rogers

Source: [Stop Feeding Waterfowl](#)

This Ask Friends of Rogers was written by Ashley Palmiter, Naturalist Intern with Friends of Rogers. If you have any questions, please direct them to Friends of Rogers. Your inquiry may be answered in next month's issue!



Since 2011, when Friends of Rogers saved Rogers Environmental Education Center from closing, the organization has generated the majority of financial assistance for the Center, allowing this vital community resource to be preserved – and to flourish.

You are invited to join Team Green with a monthly donation to sustain this amazing adventure.

Monthly gifts form a predictable source of income to provide outstanding educational opportunities that excite, inspire, and motivate people of all ages to enjoy, understand, appreciate, and protect our natural environment.

Here is what a recurring monthly gift can accomplish each year:

- \$48 each month will keep Rogers Environmental Education Center open for one full day
- \$27 each month covers four hours of Visitor Center operating expenses
- \$6 each month provides for one Family Fun program

Current Team Green roster:

- Adam Schoonmaker
- Anonymous
- Bruce Selleck
- Chris Rossi & John Bailey
- Colleen Harris
- Frank & Elizabeth Monaco
- Lauren Holm
- Rebecca Hargrave & Chris Sprague
- Stan Benedict
- Thomas Bird

Won't you become part of Team Green today?

Your recurring online donation is secure and you choose the amount you wish to give. Sign up now and make [your first donation](#) by credit card online.



EDUCATOR'S MESSAGE

Scope for Imagination

Spruce Ridge Trail is one of our many interesting paths to hike here at Rogers Environmental Education Center. There are frequently fresh gnaw marks on the many trees that line the trail. Next time you walk Spruce Ridge, stop and get a closer look ... you may be able to feel the teeth marks left by beavers on the stumps! When searching for these marks near the trail's edge, watch out for smaller, sharp stumps that might be hidden in the leaves. Another unique feature to look for is the big hole just off the main trail. Many people wonder what it is, and who, or what, created it. Some of my favorite explanations I've heard from younger visitors are: big foot dug the hole; it is a dinosaur footprint; that's a bear cave for the winter; buried treasure is hidden here. Other visitors might presume that a large tree was growing there, and when it fell over, the roots were ripped right out of the ground and left that gaping hollow.

This big hole is actually a soil pit, dug by people to observe the different horizons (layers) of the soil. Scouting groups have occasionally studied the pit, and when regional Envirothon events are held at Rogers Center, it is used for various challenges. Our soil pit on Spruce Ridge Trail has a special educational purpose and is great for the imagination. Just the other day, in fact, children from Nature's Nursery even claim to have caught a giant fish!



Sarah Freedman
Environmental Educator

Approaching Coffee Deadline

Orders for Friends of Roger's quarterly coffee fundraiser are due Tuesday, November 3. Place your order today!



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

MEMBER BENEFITS

Member benefits vary by level, but all members will:

Pay a **special member rate** for program fees

Receive a **10% discount** on all purchases at the bookstore

Attend **special member-only** events

Receive Rogers' monthly e-newsletter



Students and Seniors (65+)... \$15

All of the above benefits

Individual... \$25

All of the above benefits

Family... \$35

All of the above, plus two free snowshoe rentals

Affiliate... \$50

All of the above, plus a FOR t-shirt

Contributor... \$100

All of the above, plus a FOR 18 oz. BPA-free water bottle

Organizations... \$100

One free guided walk for organization members

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Additional Donation _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Send to: **Friends of Rogers, Inc.**
PO Box 932
Sherburne, NY 13460

Check made payable to Friends of Rogers, Inc.

Cash

Credit Card

Credit Card # _____

Expiration _____

CSC _____

Card Type _____

Amount _____

Signature _____



Adventure Camp Series 2015-2016

For Young Adventurers Ages 7-10

Winterlude

December 28-31



Winter is here! Discover new ways to enjoy this snowy season through exploration, games, activities, and experiments.



Winter Adventures

February 15 & 16

The cure for Cabin Fever! Break free from the indoors and play in the snow; you might even learn a new skill or two. Snowshoeing, tracking, shelter building and so much more will fill our days with adventure.

Chillin'-OUT

January 18



'Hang' with the creatures who call Rogers Center home! During this day-long adventure, we'll learn more about the secret life of the forest animals who call Rogers Center home.



Spring Break-OUT

April 25-29

Spring has arrived! Join us as we celebrate the changes that come this time of year. Birds returning, trees budding, and mud puddles expanding add to the excitement.

Hours	Daily Rates	Weekly Rates	Discounts
Camp 9 am - 4 pm	Member: \$30	Member: \$125	-Multi-Child
Early Care* 8 - 9 am	Not-Yet-Member: \$35	Not-Yet-Member: \$145	-Register for all sessions by
After Care* 4 - 5:30 pm	*Additional \$7.50 fee for each care session		December 1 st and save \$30

To register, download forms at www.FriendsofRogers.org, call (607) 674-4733, or e-mail env.educator@FriendsofRogers.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, November 4, 11 & 18 • 10 am

Storytime & Hike

Every Wednesday, Jenni Larchar leads young children and caregivers in songs, stories and a walk on the trails. Held rain or shine; participants should wear appropriate clothing and footwear.



SATURDAY, November 7 • 10:30 am

Family Fun Program:

Recycled Treasures

One person's trash is another person's treasure! Use your imagination to discover creative ways of repurposing common objects for fun, new uses.



SATURDAY, November 21 • 10:30 am

Family Fun Program:

Hibernation Preparation

Some animals remain active all year long, some migrate south, while others prepare for a long winter's rest! Learn all about Rogers Center wildlife that hibernate to conserve energy when resources are scarce during the coldest months of the year.



Visit www.FriendsofRogers.org or call (607) 674-4733 for more details!

Friends of Rogers'

Wishlist

There are many items and services that will allow us to continue fulfilling our mission. If you have access to any of the following items and are willing to donate, we would be extremely grateful!

- Apartment-sized laundry dryer
- Canoes and kayaks
- Flashlights
- Fishing rods and reels
- Large paint brushes for big projects
- Postage stamps
- Printer paper, both white and other colors
- Spade shovel

In Kind Services

Saws & hedge clipper sharpening

Any of these items can be dropped off during regular Visitor Center hours. To make special arrangements, please contact Friends of Rogers via email at info@FriendsofRogers.org