



# Rogers Ramblings

Newsletter from the Friends of Rogers  
Jan. 2023 Vol. 1 Issue 1





## Message from the Director

Dear friends of Rogers,

Happy Holidays! The magic of the winter season is upon us and we are elated by the song that the snowfall sings - it's time to break out the snowshoes and cross country skis! For my family and I, the end of this year marks a brand new chapter and transformation in our lives. After more than thirteen years away, we are coming back to the first place I called home and the community I've always known as my own. We are excited, grateful and full of enthusiasm.

For Rogers as whole, it is a time of rebirth. New faces, new energy, new opportunities. All of which are made possible by the dedication and leadership of those who have stewarded this land and its lessons through the years.

Our special thanks this season goes out to Simon Solomon and Heather Tehan, who have accepted exciting new roles in our region. Our standing in the community is strong, we are financially stable, and the Rogers Way is alive and well in Upstate New York. We are who we are because of leadership like theirs.

As we embark on the new year, our board of directors is beaming with excitement for the next era of environmental education. Ellen Rathbone, our new environmental educator, is actively stirring the pot of magic and imagination while our phone lines ring with the interest of our public schools, future farmers, daycare providers and environmental protectors young and old.

We hope to see you all this January 21st at our 42nd annual Winter Living Celebration. Jenni Larchar will be on site, in song, serenading all the species we hold dear this time of year, while the horse drawn sleigh and ice carvers usher in the best of what winter has to offer.

Wishing you nothing but the best,

David W. Carson  
Executive Director



## Friends of Rogers Welcomes New Director

The Rogers Center's Board of Directors has hired David Carson to lead Central New York's preeminent environmental education center as the new executive director. He returns home from South Florida with his wife, Dana, following an international career in climate science and business administration.

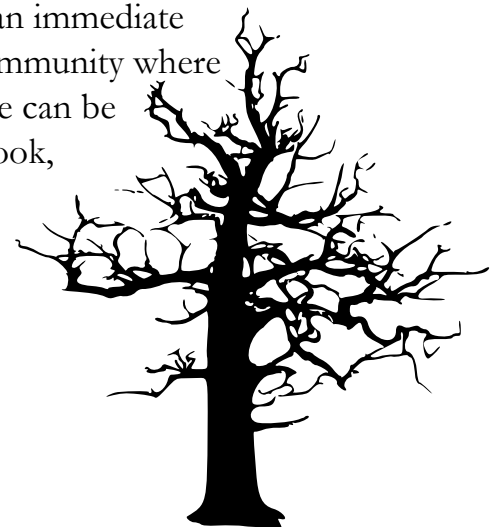
"My family has been coming to Rogers for four generations. To see it in such great shape, with an exceptional board and talented staff, excites me beyond words," David said. "We have an incredible opportunity ahead of us."

The Rogers Environmental Education Center, now in its seventh decade of evolution, is experiencing what some might call an environmental renaissance. Spread across 600 acres of diverse landscapes, outdoor classrooms and a visitors center, Rogers provides outstanding environmental education opportunities for its patrons across New York state. With Ellen Rathbone, senior environmental educator, now at the helm of program development, and sound financial footing fortified by ten years of exceptional executive leadership, Rogers is poised for newfound growth.

Said John Pumilio, President of the Board: "We are thrilled to announce David's return to Central New York as Rogers Center's Executive Director. We know how valuable Rogers

Center is to so many individuals and families throughout our region. With David's proven leadership, wealth of environmental expertise, and rich history of entrepreneurship and business development, we are quite fortunate to welcome David back to our community as Rogers Center's Executive Director."

Prior to joining Rogers, David built several companies in south Florida following his undergraduate degree in finance and economics. Upon exiting his founding role at real estate startup, Compass, David shifted to a career in climate science via the Netherlands, pursuing a master's degree in Environment and Resource Management at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. There he was instrumental in securing \$17M in funding for water governance and climate migration research at the Institute of Water and Climate Risk. An avid gardener, open water swimmer, and outdoor enthusiast, David is well poised to make an immediate impact in the community where he was raised. He can be found on Facebook, LinkedIn, and on Instagram [@upstatedave](https://www.instagram.com/upstatedave).





# January 2023 Calendar of Events

## First Day Hikes

Sunday, Jan. 1, 10:00-11:30 AM

Welcome the new year with us as we take a seasonal hike along our trails. There will be two options: a leisurely stroll around Channels Marsh, and a robust hike up to the Farm Tower. We have goodies to give away, too, courtesy of the DEC, including a chance to win a free Empire Pass. Groups will be led by Friends of Rogers staff and volunteers. Great opportunity to meet our new director, David! **Free event.**

**Please call or email to register: 607-674-4733 or [Ellen@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:Ellen@friendsofrogers.org).**



## Storytime & Hike

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 10:30 Am- Noon This popular parent/child program returns from hibernation! Meet at 10:30 AM at Rogers Center. Contact Jenni for information or to register: [Jenni@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:Jenni@friendsofrogers.org)

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## Second Sunday Scribblers

Sunday, Jan 8, 1:00-3:00 PM

This is our new monthly Nature Journaling Club. If you enjoy spending time outside observing nature, and you like recording your observations, this is the club for you! Anyone with a sense of curiosity is welcome to join us. See our article on page 5 for more details. Contact Ellen for details: 607-674-4733 or [Ellen@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:Ellen@friendsofrogers.org).

## Tracking 101

Saturday, Jan. 14, 10:00-11:30 AM

This is the first of the 2023 free monthly education programs. Ideal for ages 10 and up. You'll learn how animals move, tips scientists use to remember footprints and gaits, and we'll even take a gander at scat! We will be indoors for much of the program, with some time outside at the end to see if there are any tracks to decipher. Space is limited. Contact Ellen to register: [Ellen@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:Ellen@friendsofrogers.org) or 607-674-4733.



## Winter Living Celebration

Saturday, Jan. 21, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

A full day of seasonal fun and activities! See our full-page description (pg. 4) for more details.



# Winter Living Celebration



**Saturday, January 21 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

Rogers' annual Winter Living Celebration has become a trademark event not only for Rogers Center, but for our region. Central New York winters have given our residents delight for generations. While cold temperatures and frozen precipitation can be a challenge for many, almost everyone revels in the joy a bright wintry day provides.

Horse-drawn Sleigh/Wagon Rides  
Ice Sculptor \* Ice Fishing  
DEC Ice Rescue & Winter Safety Tips  
Try Snowshoeing or Skiing  
Food Vendors \* Make-a-Toy  
Human Bird Feeder  
Marshmallow Roasting

**Dress for the weather and we'll see you there!**



# What is Nature Journaling?



Have you seen “Second Sunday Scribblers” listed in our upcoming programs and wondered what it’s all about? Friends of Rogers is starting a Nature Journaling Club (The Second Sunday Scribblers) and it is open to

anyone who likes to spend time outdoors observing nature and recording their observations.

If you do a quick search online about nature journaling, you will come across many websites that show gorgeous illustrations and page layouts that look they were done by professional artists. And in truth, many of them were, but don’t let that be what stops you from joining us! Nature journaling is not about drawing a pretty picture.

I’ve been keeping a nature journal in one form or another for most of my life, and if you were to look at my journals, you would see that they are 99% writing. I sit outside and record my observations in words because writing comes easily to me. Once in a while I add a doodle in an attempt to

illustrate my subject matter, because sometimes words just can’t quite capture my subject.

Like many of you, I have claimed that “I can’t draw,” and in truth, drawing is a real struggle for  
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me, but I am here to tell you that it can be learned if you are willing to put in the time and it is something you want to do. Over the last couple of years, I have worked at adding illustrations to my journal entries - and while they are far from a “pretty picture,” they get the job done. And that is just fine, because the point of my journal illustrations is to remind me of what I saw, perhaps highlighting a particular trait that will help with ID later on.

For example, 20-some-odd years ago I was up in Canada, out on the prairie, and had a hawk land at a pond near me to take a bath. I had no idea what kind of hawk it was - it was not a species I’d ever seen before. I did a quick doodle in my journal, and used my cheap watercolor kit to make note of the color of its feathers. This faceless doodle with its buff-colored breast was enough for me to later identify the bird as a Swainson’s hawk...and that was all that mattered.

On the other hand, perhaps writing is not your strong suit - that is fine, too. You might rely more on illustrations to record your observations of the natural world. No worries.

They say the best nature journals combine three elements: writing, illustration, and numbers. Writing strengthens our thinking; drawing helps us really observe and improves memory; and numbers can reveal patterns.

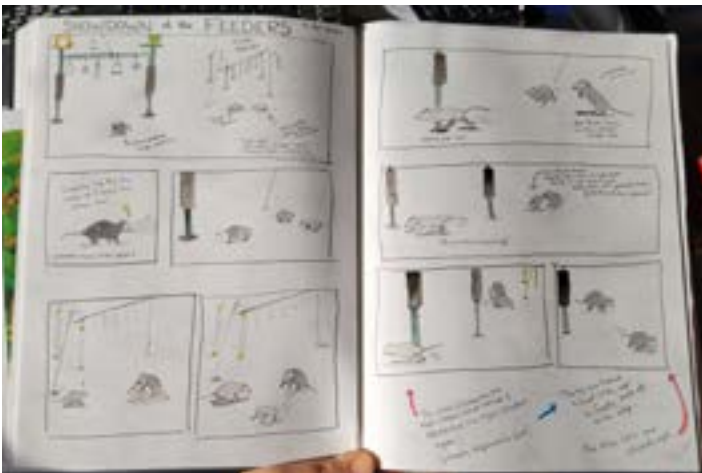
The Second Sundays Scribblers meet once a month (on the second Sunday) at 1:00 PM. We will spend the next two hours, usually outdoors, observing the natural world and recording our observations in



our journals. Sometimes we will learn a new skill or technique, and at the end of each session we will share our entries with each other. How delightful it is to see how everyone observes the same subject differently – no two journals are ever the same!

What do you need to keep a nature journal – is it expensive? It can go one of two ways. You can keep it simple and have no more than a blank book and a pen/pencil, or you can go “whole hog” and bring rulers, watercolors, inks, paint brushes, charcoal, smudging sticks...just remember, you have to carry it all with you! If you have a hand lens or a set of binoculars, those can be useful tools, as can something to sit on (especially in the winter). For beginners, I recommend a blank spiral notebook, a pencil (and eraser), something to sit on, an insulated water bottle (so you don't dehydrate and your water doesn't freeze) and a backpack to carry it all in.

If you'd like more information or you want to join us, give us a call (607-674-4733) or send an email ([ellen@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:ellen@friendsofrogers.org)). We hope to see you there!



*Cartoons are another great way to record your observations of what's happening in nature!*

## Thank You to Our Community Partners

Many thanks to Gilligan's owners, Mike and Andy Lagoe, for partnering with Friends of Rogers for Giving Tuesday. Thank you to all who visited Gilligan's that night.

We also thank Preferred Mutual, who donated up to \$1000 in matching funds for all the donations made either through Gilligan's or directly to Friends of Rogers on Giving Tuesday (Nov. 29).





## Friends of Rogers is Looking for a Few Good Interns



Every year Friends of Rogers has internship opportunities available for those who are looking to add environmental education to their life experiences.

Our interns get the opportunity to learn how to develop and lead a variety of programs, from school groups to the general public, but one of the most rewarding parts of the internship is working with our summer campers.

Interns are paid through a grant from the DEC at minimum wage, and those who do not live locally have the opportunity to live onsite at the Stone House.

If you or someone you know would like to join us for an internship, please call or email us with your resume and letter of interest. 607-674-4733 or [Ellen@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:Ellen@friendsofrogers.org)

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## Evergreen Society & Memorial Trees



Established by Friends of Rogers, the *Evergreen Society* recognizes those who have made estate plans, life-income arrangements, and life insurance plans that include Rogers Environmental Education Center. The importance of these future gifts cannot be understated, as they provide funds needed to ensure the continuation of outstanding educational opportunities that excite, inspire, and motivate people of all ages to enjoy, understand, appreciate and protect our natural world.

Membership in the *Evergreen Society* provides an opportunity to say “thank you” to the many generous individuals who have chosen to give back to Friends of Rogers through a deferred gift.

All persons who notify Friends of Rogers that their estate plans include Rogers Center automatically become members of the *Evergreen Society* in recognition of this future support.

Trees given in memory of a loved one provide living tributes that span generations. Each Rogers Center *Memorial Tree* is adorned with a customized necklace which expands as the trees grow.

To make arrangements for a *Memorial Tree* or for membership in the *Evergreen Society*, call the Friends of Rogers executive director at 607-674-4733, or email [David@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:David@friendsofrogers.org).





## Find Your Friends on Social Media!



Friends of Rogers' uses its [Facebook](#) page to inform you of Events, Pop-up Programs, and the latest happenings. Sometimes we post inspirational content, and now we are adding interactive content, such as questions, polls, and contests. Have you “friended” the Friends?



Friends of Rogers is on [Instagram!](#) We admit we haven't been on it much in the past, but we are stepping up our game in 2023. Look for more photo and video content about Rogers Center and CNY nature on our Instagram feed.



Have you discovered the Friends of Rogers [YouTube](#) channel yet? We have virtual trail walks, informational footage about nature, and how-to videos for kid-friendly crafts.

In 2023 look for increased YouTube content from your Friends.



Is Rogers Center one of your neighbors on **NextDoor**? We pop into the local Neighborhoods from time to time to let you know what's going on at Rogers. This is a good place to check for Pop-up Events.



Due to cybersecurity concerns, Rogers Center will not be participating in TikTok. However, we will be creating short nature videos in 2023 and those will be available on our YouTube Channel and will be posted on our other social media platforms.



**#friendsofrogers**



## Who's Who at Rogers Center in 2023

With new faces at Rogers, we wanted to take a moment to let you know who is who on the staff and the board. Stop by and introduce yourself - it's always a delight to make new friends at Rogers.



**David W. Carson**  
Executive Director  
[david@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:david@friendsofrogers.org)



**Ellen J. Rathbone**  
Senior Educator  
[ellen@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:ellen@friendsofrogers.org)



**Jenni Larcher**  
Children's Program Coordinator  
[jenni@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:jenni@friendsofrogers.org)



**Jeremy Fetzko**  
Intern, Gift Shop, Social Media  
[jeremy@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:jeremy@friendsofrogers.org)

### **Friends of Rogers Board of Directors**

John Pumilio, *President*  
Owen Tallman, *Vice President*  
Dianne Daugherty, *Treasurer*  
Constance Hasko, *Secretary*  
Thurston Packer, *Emeritus*  
Daniel Auwarter  
Allison Boura  
Eric Diefenbacher  
Marsha Guzewich  
Andrew Pattison  
Sharon Pelosi  
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Jessica Sarauer  
Adam Schoonmaker  
Carol Smith  
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