



Rogers Ramblings

Newsletter from the Friends of Rogers
Spring | March-May 2023 | Vol. 1 Issue 2



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Message from the Director

Scarlet Cup Fungus | photo: EJRathbone

More so than usual this spring we are greeted by the dawn chorus of geese. The consequence of winter rains and a changing climate. It is a sound far older than our staff, our board, or the buildings we work in. Across generations, from a time before Rogers had its name, our waterfowl have preached their sermon of springtime arrival.

And yet, each spring, the sounds and sentiments of our many species feel new! The annual cycle of rebirth greets us again and again with the same promise of new arrivals, new energy, and new opportunities. It is the perennial renaissance in so many ways.

Here at Rogers, we are experiencing what the keen eye will recognize as a renaissance of our own. Experienced, inquisitive, and full of that unlimited potential that all new eras inspire, Rogers has welcomed a slew of new staff and some fresh faces on our board. We have hit the ground running, are enjoying the intermittent snowfall, and planning for what we anticipate to be a banner year.

Perhaps most notably, this spring ushers in a new era for school programs and environmental education. Ellen Rathbone, having drawn on Rogers in her ascent to a prolific career as an interpretive naturalist and environmental educator throughout the country, returns to Rogers decades later to reignite the educational programming that Rogers is famous for. Read this newsletter in detail and you will find a treasure trove of public programming and personal photos. Our mission to inspire, excite, and motivate people of all ages to enjoy, understand, appreciate, and protect our natural environment has never been in better hands.

Personally, I am most excited for the promise of gardening! To dig my hands in the soil, turn our compost, and call out to our pollinators for support. Good gardening is a community effort that includes far more species than our own - what better place to engage them than here!

This spring, as fireside seats lose their appeal in the light of lengthening days, make a point to come see us here at Rogers. Now is the time to engage with our staff, join us for a walk, and be a part of our rural renaissance.

See you soon,

David W. Carson

David W. Carson
Executive Director



Noticing Early Pollinators

Bloodroot with pollinators
photo: EJRathbone

If you are like most people, when I say the word *pollinator*, your mind probably jumps to honeybees, and possibly monarch butterflies (which are incidental pollinators, and truthfully are not very good at it). Both these insects get a lot of press for their work as pollinators, but I'd like to challenge you this year to see the bigger picture.

The bulk of our vital pollinators are native bees, flies and wasps, but they don't get great PR because a) many of them are quite small and otherwise "unremarkable," and b) we humans tend to have a poor opinion of these types of insects in general. It's hard to appreciate that which we do not understand or with which we have no familiarity.

When going out on those first mild days of spring, many of us cast our eyes to the ground in search of woodland wildflowers as the first source of food for pollinators, but in truth, we should be looking up, for trees are often the first plants to bloom. We don't typically notice this because their flowers are usually not very showy, and they are way above our heads. But to the first bees, wasps and flies of spring, they are the best things in the world.

The photos you see here were taken in early April in the middle of the Adirondacks a few years ago. The year before I had planted a giant pussy willow in my yard and that spring it was a super magnet for pollinators. I had an incredible quantity and variety of insects climbing all over its catkins in search of food (and mates).

So, what insects should we be looking for? **Bumblebee queens** are among the first bees to emerge in the spring. They are large and fuzzy and make a lot of noise. Their fuzziness helps keep them warm during the fluctuating temps of springtime, and they must find enough food to feed themselves before they can lay eggs and stock the egg chambers with food for the hatching and developing larvae.

Other early bees include many species of *Andrena* (solitary, ground-nesting bees typically found in sandy soils), *Nomada* (the kleptoparasitic cuckoo bees, who, like their namesake, lay their eggs in the nests of other ground-dwellers and whose young consume the resources meant for those other young), and *Colletes* (cellophane bees, which line their underground brood cells with a plastic-like substance that keeps them



Clockwise from top left: Andrena spp. in flagrante delicto; Andrena frigida; Tachinid fly - the adults are important pollinators thanks to their hairy bodies; male Nomada bella - a cuckoo bee.

waterproof). These, like most solitary bees, are mostly harmless to humans, and are so very important to the reproductive cycles of our native plants.

The majority of **wasps** are tiny wee things and they are *stingless*. Look for these dainty insects on our early blooming flowers, too. Wasps are super important pollinators, but due to a few cousins who can be aggressive and sting (those that form colonies, like paper wasps), the whole clan gets a bad rap. Many adult wasps are herbivorous, while their offspring are provisioned with live food, often in the form of paralyzed prey (like spiders) or live, walking buffets (like caterpillars)... but to humans they are harmless.

In the spring, many **flies** are more consistent pollinators than bees. Some common flies to look for (the flower, or hover, flies, in the family Syrphidae) actually mimic bees, so you need to look closely to ID them. Others are very tiny and are attracted to those plants that look and smell like rotting meat (skunk cabbage, red trillium).

So go forth this spring and greet the pollinators. See how many different species you can find! 🐝

Calendar of Events

Spring 2023

Red-winged Blackbird | photo: EJRathbone

All programs require preregistration unless otherwise noted.

To register or for more information, call (607)674-4733 or email Ellen@friendsofrogers.org.

March

Storytime & Hike

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 10:30 AM-Noon

This popular parent/child program is in full swing this month. Enjoy stories, songs and time outdoors with your children. Meet at 10:30 AM at Rogers Center. For information or to register: Jenni@friendsofrogers.org

Maple Magic

Saturday, March 11, 10:00-11:30 AM

Whether or not the sap is flowing, we can still learn about the magic that is maple sugaring. Meet at the visitor parking lot, and we will carpool to the Rogers Center Sugar Bush. This free program is brought to you by the Otis Thompson Foundation. Space is limited. Call or email to reserve your place.

Second Sunday Scribblers - Rogers' Nature Journaling Club

Sunday, March 12, 1:00-3:00 PM

If you enjoy spending time outside observing nature, and you like recording your observations, this is the club for you! Our topic this month: maple sugaring. Call or email to register or for more information.

Equinox Fire Pit Trivia Night

Tuesday, March 21, 7-8:30 PM

Do you know your bird trivia? How about ethnobotany? Stretch your mind and celebrate your inner nature nerd at our inaugural Fire Pit Trivia Night. Come as an individual or form a team. All questions will be based on natural history or human history regarding nature. Registration not required, but we'd like to know if you are coming. Please call or email us.

April

Monday Morning Rambles

Start the week off right with a nature walk. We meet every Monday 10:00-11:30 AM.

Most will be at Rogers, but some days we may travel somewhere new.

**April 3, 10, 17, 24.
May 1, 8, 15, 24, 29
June 5, 12, 19, 26**

Phenology Phenomenon

Saturday, April 8, 10:00-11:30 AM

Phenology is the science of tracking seasonal changes. Humans have been tracking these changes for millennia. They dictated nomadic travel and planting seasons, and today they indicate the effects of climate change. Join us to learn how each of us can start to track our local phenology and build an intimate knowledge of our regional natural cycles. This free program is brought to you by the Otis Thompson Foundation. Space is limited. Please call or email to reserve your space.

Storytime & Hike

Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26, 10:30 AM-Noon

This popular parent/child program is in full swing this month. Enjoy stories, songs and time outdoors with your children. Meet at 10:30 AM at Rogers Center. For information or to register: Jenni@friendsofrogers.org

Calendar of Events

Spring 2023

Scarlet Tanager | photo: EJ Rathbone

All programs require preregistration unless otherwise noted.

To register or for more information, call (607)674-4733 or email Ellen@friendsofrogers.org.

Second Sunday Scribblers- Rogers' Nature Journaling Club

Sunday, April 9, 1:00-3:00 PM

If you enjoy spending time outside observing nature, and you like recording your observations, this is the club for you! This month we will challenge ourselves with how to record the arrival of spring! Call or email to register or for more information.

Earth Day Bioblitz

Saturday, April 22, 11 AM - 3 PM

Details to be determined

City Nature Challenge - Part I

Friday-Monday, April 28-May 1

City Nature Challenge (CNC) is a great way to connect with nature, learn about local wildlife and contribute to useful data to scientists around the globe. Participation is free. Rogers Center is joining the friendly competition this year and we need your help. **See pages 7 & 8 for more information.**

May

Storytime & Hike

Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 10:30-Noon

This popular parent/child program is in full swing this month. Enjoy stories, songs and time outdoors with your children. Meet at 10:30 AM at Rogers Center. For information or to register: Jenni@friendsofrogers.org.



Red Eft | photo: Ellen Rathbone

City Nature Challenge - Part II

Tuesday-Sunday, May 2-7, 10 AM - 4 PM

Part II of CNC is identifying the photos posted to iNaturalist. You can do this at home, or join us at Rogers Center for some companionship and fun as we figure out what people found. **See pages 7 & 8 for more information**

Spring Wildflower Walkabout

Saturday, May 13, 10:00-11:30 AM

Nothing says springtime quite like the first spring wildflowers. By now our woodland wildflower season should be well underway. Join us as we wander about the woods in search of our spring ephemerals. This free program is brought to you by the Otis Thompson Foundation. Space is limited; registration required.

Second Sunday Scribblers - Rogers' Nature Journaling Club

Sunday, May 14, 1:00-3:00 PM

This month we are observing and recording the signs of late spring! Call or email to register or for more information.

Three Things Thursday - The Wood Wide Web with ESF's Dr. Tom Horton

Thursday, May 18, 7:00 PM

We like to think that no day is complete without having learned at least one new thing. This new monthly series aims for you to leave having learned three new things! The series starts tonight with Dr. Tom Horton, from SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, introducing us to the incredible world of mycorrhizae - those fungal filaments that tie the forest together. What is their purpose - do they really help the trees communicate? This is an indoor presentation. Call or email to register or for more information.

Rogers Center Programs at a Glance - Spring 2023

M A R C H				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Maple Magic
	12 2nd Sunday Scribblers	13	14	15	16	17	18 Volunteer Ed. Training
	19	20	21 Equinox Fire Pit Trivia Night	22	23	24	25 Meeting: CNY Forest Owner's Assoc.
	26	27	28	29	30		
A P R I L							1
	2	3 Monday AM Ramble	4	5	6	7	8 Phenology Phenomena
	9 2nd Sunday Scribblers	10 Monday AM Ramble	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17 Monday AM Ramble	18	19 Envirothon	20	21	22 Earth Day
	23	24 Monday AM Ramble	25	26	27	28 City Nature Challenge	29 City Nature Challenge
M A Y	30 City Nature Challenge	1 City Nature Challenge	2 City Nature Challenge ID	3 City Nature Challenge ID	4 City Nature Challenge ID	5 City Nature Challenge ID	6 City Nature Challenge ID
	7 City Nature Challenge ID	8 Monday AM Ramble	9	10	11	12	13 Spring Wildflower Walkabout
	14 2nd Sunday Scribblers	15 Monday AM Ramble	16	17	18 Three Things Thursday - The Wood Wide Web	19	20
	21	22 Monday AM Ramble	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29 Holiday - Closed	30	31	1 - JUNE	2	3 Mid-morning Bird Walk

Summer Camp

2023 is going to be a summer of fantastic and fantastical fun!

Check out our new summer camp offerings. This year we are increasing camp registration numbers, but still limiting families to two sessions so everyone can get a chance to come to camp. **See our website to register, or stop by for forms.**

July 10-14 – Joys of Summer – This session celebrates all the wonders of summer that make is special in the eyes of a child: catching insects, playing in water, building forts, climbing trees, and getting muddy. 3-5 YO; 6-8 YO; 9-11 YO

July 17-21 – Amazing Adventures I –Each day is a new adventure: one day you might compete in the Amazing Nature Race, and another day you might spend your time as a pirate or a caveman. Who knows what each day will bring! 3-5 YO; 6-8 YO; 9-11 YO

July 24-28 – Call of the Wild – During the week we will be getting in touch with our primitive selves. We'll learn many outdoor/primitive skills, such as foraging, shelter building, how to tie knots, camouflage, sneaking and stalking. Expect to get muddy! 6-8 YO; 9-11 YO

July 31-Aug 4 – The Magic Woodland I – After being sorted into one of our three “houses,” you'll take lessons in Herbology, Potions and Care of Magical Creatures. Be on the alert for trail gnomes, water sprites, dragons and more. 3-5 YO; 6-8 YO; 9-11 YO

Aug 7-11 – Cabinet of Curiosities – This camp is for older campers who have a serious interest in nature. We'll be looking at nature the way they did over 100 years ago - putting together collections and studying plants and animals in depth. 12-15 YO

Aug. 14-21 – Amazing Adventures II – Each day is a new adventure: one day you might compete in the Amazing Nature Race, and another day you might spend your time as a pirate or a caveman Who knows what each day will bring! 6-8 YO; 9-11 YO

Aug 21-25– The Magic Woodland II – After being sorted into one of our three “houses,” you'll take lessons in Herbology, Potions and Care of Magical Creatures. Be on the alert for trail gnomes, water sprites, dragons and more. 6-8 YO; 9-11 YO

Age	Time	Member/Non-Member
3-5 YO	9:00 AM - Noon	\$149/\$190
6-8 YO	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	\$199/\$245
9-11 YO	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	\$199/\$245
12-15 YO	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	\$199/\$245





City Nature Challenge

Central New York Region

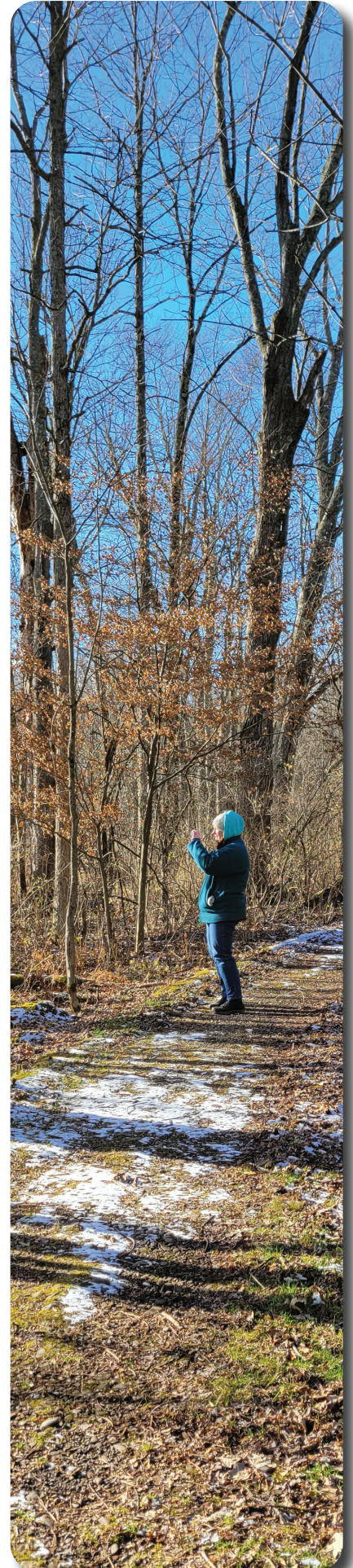


Join thousands of naturalists worldwide collecting data about the natural world with the snap of a photo and a click to upload.

It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. **Observe nature** - just go outside anywhere in Madison, Chenango or Otsego Counties and see what's there from April 28 to May 1.
2. **Take a photo of it** - you can use your phone or a DSLR camera.
3. **Upload your photos to iNaturalist** before midnight May 7.

Questions? Contact Rogers Center at 607-674-4733 or visit <https://friendsofrogers.org/program/city-nature-challenge-2023-sherburne-central-new-york/>



NATURE'S NURSERY

a place for learning and exploration for 3-6 year olds

- Meet Wednesday mornings 8:15-10:15.
- \$125 per child for 10-wk session; late registrations are prorated.
- Follows the Sherburne Public Schools calendar & snow days.

Contact us for more information:
607-674-4733 or jenni@friendsofrogers.org

News Flash

Hepatica | photo: EJRathbone



Rogers Center Joins City Nature Challenge 2023

Friends of Rogers is joining the ranks of thousands of observers worldwide for the 8th Annual City Nature Challenge.

This four-day community science extravaganza (April 28-May 1) asks nature enthusiasts worldwide to head outdoors and record photographic evidence of the nature they encounter: plants, birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals, trees, mosses, mushrooms, lichens, et al.

This event is accessible to everyone, regardless of location, age or ability. You can do it as a family, as an individual, as a college student or researcher, as someone who just has a passing curiosity about what's outside.

All you need to do is head outdoors during this four-day event and take photographs (or make sound recordings) of the nature you see/hear (you can use your phone

or your digital camera), and then upload them to iNaturalist, a free app for both phone and computer that allows other naturalists and researchers worldwide to access the data you collected.

Rogers Center is hosting the Central New York project, so any entries from Madison, Chenango or Otsego counties will be added to this project.

During the following week (May 2-7), Friends of Rogers is hosting ID “parties” for those who want to come in and help ID photos with friends. It's a great way to share your expertise or learn from those who are pros when it comes to species ID.

We'll be posting some how-to videos this spring, so keep an eye out for those. If you have any questions, contact Ellen at ellen@friendsofrogers.org. We hope to see you out there! 🌿

Earth Day Bioblitz at Rogers

As a precursor to City Nature Challenge, Friends of Rogers is holding a Bioblitz on Earth Day, April 22.

Bioblitzes are defined as an intense period of biological surveying in a specific area over a specific, usually brief, period of time. The first bioblitz was held in 1996 at Kennilworth Aquatic Gardens in Washington DC. Since then, bioblitzes, in one form or another, have been conducted at various parks and preserves across the nation.

The goal of a bioblitz is to catalogue as many species as possible during a short, intense period of searching. Some bioblitzes run 24 hours, with experts from all fields

of biology present (from mammals and birds to plants and soil invertebrates).

Rogers Center's Earth Day Bioblitz is gathering teams led by local experts who will spend several hours collecting data. We invite the public to join us for this endeavor.

If you are an expert in some area of macrobiology, or if you are keenly interested in one of these fields, let us know and we'll put you on the team.

For more details or to sign up, contact us at 607-674-4733 or david@friendsofrogers.org. 🌿

Getting Involved

mossy log | photo: EJRathbone

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 on-site 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 David@friendsofrogers.org.

Volunteer Educators Needed!

Schools are starting to allow field trips once more, and Rogers Center is on their radar!

But we need your help! Friends of Rogers has an education staff of one, and when 100 students show up for programs, we simply cannot teach them all.

If you like working with children and sharing the wonders of the natural world, and if you have time to spare, please consider becoming an education volunteer.

Training: Saturday, March 18, 9 AM-3 PM

To sign up or for more info, contact Ellen:
ellen@friendsofrogers.org 607-674-4733

THE B-TEAM

Rogers' **Community Science Programs** begin this year with the introduction of City Nature Challenge and the creation of The B-Team.

The B-Team is a group of individuals who are interested in helping us collect data about the native bees in our area. The time commitment will be small and fairly loosely structured.

Training for The B-Team takes place on Saturday, April 8, at 1:30 PM. There are no age or skill requirements. If you are interested, contact Ellen at ellen@friendsofrogers.org or 607-674-4733.



Become a Member of Friends of Rogers



Benefits of Membership

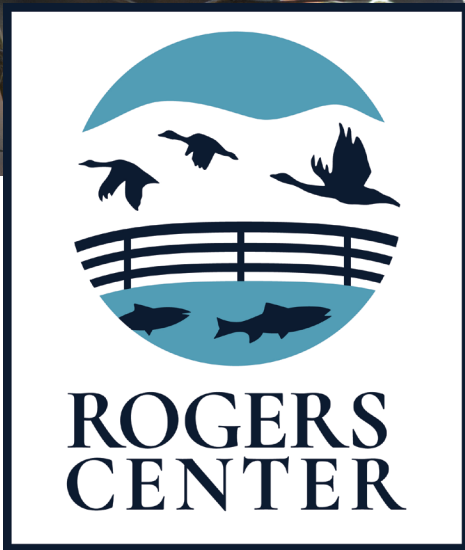
Membership Level	Aspen	Beech	Maple	Oak	Pine	Tulip	Redwood
Annual Dues	\$35	\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$750	\$1000
Senior Rate (25% off)	\$26.25	\$37.50	\$75	\$187.50	\$375	\$562.50	\$750
Monthly e-Newsletter	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Member rate for programs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Discount rate for Camps	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10% Discount in Gift shop of purchases over \$10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4 free cross-country ski or snowshoe sessions		X	X	X	X	X	X
Unlimited cross-country ski or snowshoe session			X	X	X	X	X
1 private guided trail outing for up to 8 people				X	X	X	X
1 day free facility rental with program led by staff					X	X	X
1 free guided paddle trip for up to 8 people per year						X	X
1 additional day free facility rental and program							X
Free admission to any ticketed Friends of Rogers event for your household.							X

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Email _____
 Membership Level _____ at \$ _____/year



Add me to **Team Green** with equal monthly payments on my credit card of \$ _____
 Card # _____ Exp Date _____ CVV Code _____

Mail this form with your payment of check, money order or credit card information to
 Friends of Rogers, PO Box 932, Sherburne, NY 13460



If you need to reach us...

The Friends of Rogers is here for you. If you have any questions about programs, nature, or visiting, please reach out and contact us.

Contact Us!

Phone: 607-674-4733
Web: friendsofrogers.org
Email: info@friendsofrogers.org
Address: 2721 State Hwy 80, PO Box 932, Sherburne, NY 13460

The Visitor Center is Open
Wednesdays- Saturdays
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sundays Noon - 4:00 PM
Mondays & Tuesdays by appointment

Rogers Center, in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, will assist in providing for those individuals with special needs. Please notify us in advance of your needs that may require special staffing.

A motorized scooter is available for use on our paved trails.

Friends of Rogers Staff

David Carson, Executive Director
Ellen Rathbone, Senior Educator
Jeremy Fetzko, Media & Marketing Coordinator
Jenni Larchar, Children's Program Coordinator

Friends of Rogers Board of Directors

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Fred VonMechow, *Emeritus*



young maple seeds | photo: EJRathbone