



Rogers Ramblings

Newsletter from the Friends of Rogers
Summer | June-August 2023 | Vol. 1 Issue 3



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Message from the Director

The Farm Tower | photo: EJRathbone

All winter long the White Pine bears the weight of newly fallen snow. Its evergreen crown shines in defiance of the winter winds and hunger moons. Come springtime, it delights in the buds and blossoms of its hillside neighbors. Presiding over water bodies, farm field boundaries, and forest floors, each season is a spectacle for these gentle giants that scrape the sky.

The Haudenosaunee tradition knows the White Pine as the tree of peace. Five hatchets buried at its base, it is the arbiter of a constitution far older than our own. Having grown up beneath them, I too know the White Pine, where the peace of the forest floor has inspired generations of unadulterated play. Beneath the watchful eyes and listening limbs of our forebears, I have come to know that summer is their favorite season.

From within the Maple grove, tucked into Hemlock Hollow, and dispersed around Farm Field Trail, the White Pine of Rogers Center call out for the exuberance of summer and receive in return the chorus of our annual adventure camp. Hundreds of children, young and old, led by a team of college educated interns, play and explore in the summer sun.

This summer, adventure camp has taken an even more fantastical turn; The Cabinet of Curiosities, The Call of the Wild, Magical Woodlands, and Amazing Adventures Part I and II. For all that summer has to offer across each of our 600 acres, these sweet treats of imagination and play may well be the surest way to fulfill our mission. When we learn to play in nature, we inevitably come to

love it. Such is the wisdom of the White Pine. With peace comes play, with play comes love, and with love comes protection.

From all the staff at Rogers, and the White Pine we work underneath, we invite you to play as much as you'd like on our storied grounds this summer. Children are encouraged, but certainly not required, and our dawn to dusk hours are extended by the abundance of sun.

See you soon,

David W. Carson

David W. Carson
Executive Director



Marvelous Milkweed

milkweed flowers | photo: EJRathbone

Nearly everyone learns in elementary school that monarch butterflies need milkweed in order to survive - it is the only plant that the caterpillars eat. This is a wonderful example of a specialist insect (versus a generalist, like the honey bee, which will feed on almost any flower).

But as amazing as that is, what's even more amazing is the pollination mechanism of the milkweed plant. Once you learn the details of the process, you'll be surprised that milkweed has survived for as long as it has.

Here's the scoop:

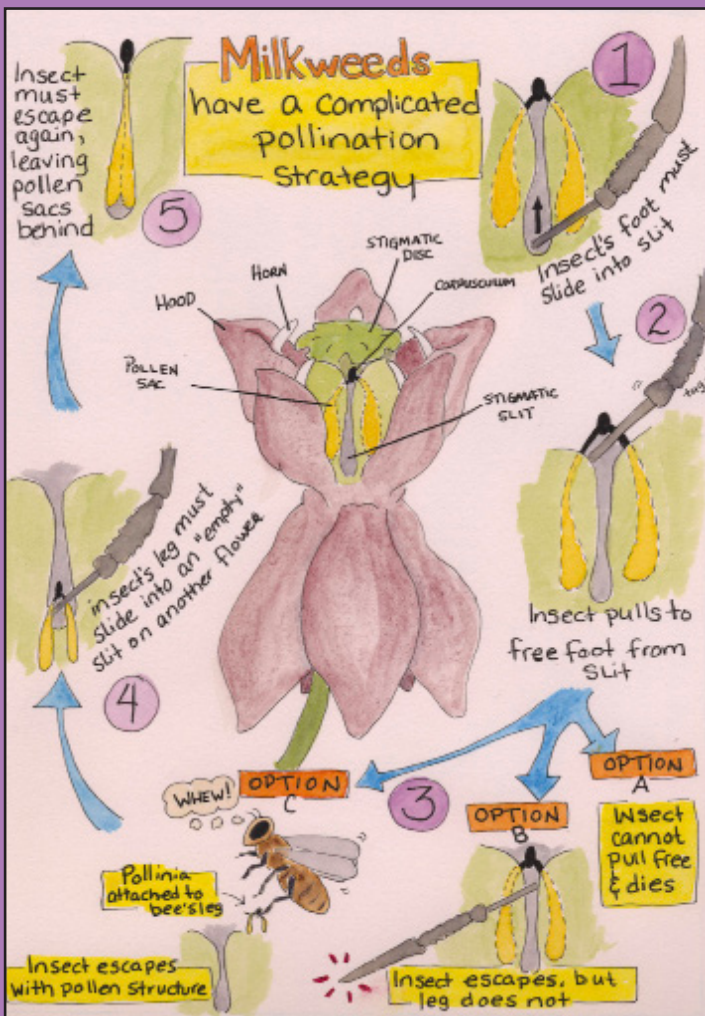


Image from Severson Dells' Nature Knowledge Trading Cards, created by EJRathbone, 2022.

The flowerhead (*inflorescence*) of the milkweed is a whole bouquet of blossoms. In the center of each flower is the *stigma* (labeled stigmatic disc in our illustration). On the sides of the stigma are slits, and inside each slit is a pair of pollen sacs (*pollinia*), held together at the top by the *corpusculum*. It sort of reminds me of a pair of saddlebags. These pollen sacs must be removed from one flower and deposited in another in order for pollination to occur. Seems simple, but it isn't.

An insect must land on the flower and get its foot caught inside the *stigmatic slit* (1). It must slide its foot to the top of the slit, hooking the corpusculum (2). This is easier said than done because many insects do not have the strength to pull their legs free. So there are three options: **a)** the insect cannot pull free and dies with its foot forever trapped (if you find a dead insect on a milkweed flower, look to see if its foot is trapped); **b)** it pulls and pulls, and pulls its own leg off - but at least it gets to live another day (and yes, if you look carefully, you may find insect legs left behind on the milkweed flowers); or **c)** the insect escapes with its leg intact, carrying away the pollen sacs.

But the story doesn't end here.

Now the unwitting pollinator must go through the whole process again - this time getting the leg with the pollen sacs caught inside an empty stigmatic slit on another milkweed flower (4), and then manage to pull its leg free again, but this time leaving the pollen sacs behind (5). Whew!

If you look online, you can find photos of bees, butterflies, and other insects with multiple milkweed pollen sacs clinging to their legs. In fact, if you look at the header photo on this page, right above the word "milkweeds," you'll see a whole bunch of pollinia chained together. I'm not sure how this happened, but when I saw it, I was fascinated and did my best to photograph it (they are very tiny).

It will be worth your time to explore the milkweeds this summer in search of pollinators, and pollinator parts! Even without a hand lens, you can spot the pollinia (pollen sacs and their corpusculum) inside the stigmatic slits. Maybe you'll find some that were successfully pollinated, or maybe, just maybe you'll find the remains of insects that were not 100% successful. Then let us know what you discovered! 🌸



Calendar of Events Summer 2023

monarch butterfly | photo: EJRathbone

All programs require preregistration unless otherwise noted.

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

Storytime & Hike - Celebrating 10 Years!

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM-Noon

June 7, 14, 21, 28; July 12, 19, 26;

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

This popular parent/child program celebrated its 10th anniversary in May. Join us throughout the summer to enjoy more stories, songs and time outdoors with your children. For information or to register, contact Jenni@friendsofrogers.org.

June

Monday Morning Ramble

Mondays, June 5, 12, 19, 26, 10:00-11:30 AM

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. Watch our Facebook page for updates. Call or email to register.

Mid-morning Bird Walk

Saturday, June 3, 10:00-11:30 AM

Whether you are new to bird watching or a seasoned birder, you are invited to join us on this leisure stroll around the trails in search of the birds of early June. Binoculars are available if you do not have a pair. This free program is brought to you by the Otis Thompson Foundation. Space is limited. Call or email to reserve your place.

Get Outdoors & Get Together Day

Saturday, June 10, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

This statewide DEC event invites everyone to come on out and enjoy nature! We have something for everyone, regardless of age or ability. See page 8 for details.

Second Sunday Scribblers - Nature Journaling Club Sunday, June 11, 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! Summer is nearly here...what will catch your eye and imagination today? **Meet this month at the Adams Farm trail head on Williams Road.** Call or email to register.

Three Things Thursday: Expert Tracking Tips with Linda Spielman

Thursday, June 15, 7:00 PM

Your day isn't complete until you've learned at least one new thing. We'd like to expand that to THREE new things! June's program is "Expert Tracking Tips with Tracker and tracking author Linda Spielman." Linda is a seasoned tracker who will share her tips for finding even the sneakiest critters when there is no snow on the ground. She'll also have copies of her book for sale.

\$5 for members; \$7 for not-yet-members.

Solstice Fire Pit Trivia Night

Wednesday, June 21, 7-8:30 PM

Do you know your bird trivia? How about botany? Stretch your mind and celebrate your inner nature nerd. Come as an individual or form a team. Call or email to register.

Paddle Beaver Creek

Saturday, June 24, meet at Rogers by 8:45 AM

Join us for a relaxing day on Beaver Creek. **Spots are limited. Registration deadline June 20, 4PM.** Bring your own boat (\$15 members/\$20 not-yet-members) or use one of ours (\$25 members/\$30 not-yet-members per kayak and \$30 members/\$35 not-yet-members per canoe). Anyone under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Calendar of Events Summer 2023

padding at summer camp

All programs require preregistration unless otherwise noted.

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

July

Monday Morning Ramble

Mondays, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 10:00-11:30 AM

Start the week off right with a nature walk. Most will be at Rogers, but some days we may travel somewhere new. Watch our Facebook page or website for updates.

iNat That!

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

iNaturalist is a great app for that allows you to collect data (photos) of the plants and animals you see and submit them for your own checklist and for scientists worldwide to use. Bring your phone or tablet, and learn how to iNat today. This free program is brought to you by the Otis Thompson Foundation. **Space is limited.**

Storytime & Hike 10-year Celebration

Saturday, July 8, 10:30-Noon

Join us as we celebrate a decade of this iconic Rogers Center program. See page 10 for details.

Second Sunday Scribblers - Nature Journaling Club

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

Summer is in full swing. There are so many things we can explore and record in our journals: birds, insects, plants, the river, turtles on the ponds. **Call or email to register or for more information.**

Three Things Thursday: TBD

Thursday, July 20, 7:00 PM

To be determined

\$5 for members; \$7 for not-yet-members.

Oneida Hike & Storytelling

Saturday, July 29, 10-11:15 AM & 12-12:45 PM

Jessica Farmer from the Oneida Nation leads this program to introduce you to the culture of the Oneidas. Space is limited. Call or email to reserve your spot.

August

Monday Morning Ramble

Mondays, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:00-11:30 AM

Start the week off right with a nature walk. Most will be at Rogers, but some days we may travel somewhere new. Watch our Facebook page or website for updates.

Native Bees

Saturday, Aug. 12, 10:00-11:30 AM

Native bees come in many colors, sizes and shapes, and we'd like to share with you some of their amazing diversity. This free program is brought to you by the Otis Thompson Foundation. Space is limited; reserve your spot.

Second Sunday Scribblers - Nature Journaling Club

Sunday, Aug. 13, 1:00-3:00 PM

What is happening in August that we can record in our journals? Will it be the hum of cicadas? The haze of humidity? The colors of those late summer flowers? Call or email to register or for more information.

Three Things Thursday: TBD

Thursday, Aug. 17, 7:00 PM

To be determined

\$5 for members; \$7 for not-yet-members.

Invertebrate Investigation

Saturday, Aug. 26, 10:00-11:30 AM

Many of us think of insects and other invertebrates as merely pests, but in truth they are vital to life on Earth. Join us as we explore the grounds at Rogers Center in search of them. \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Space is limited; reserve your place.

Rogers Center Programs at a Glance - Summer 2023

J U N E					1	2	3 Mid-morning Bird walk
	4	5 Monday Morning Ramble	6	7	8	9	10 Outdoors Day
	11 2nd Sunday Scribblers	12 Monday Morning Ramble	13	14	15 3 Things Thursday - Tracking	16	17
	18	19 Monday Morning Ramble	20	21 Solstice Fire Pit Nature Trivia Night	22	23	24 Paddle Beaver Creek
	25	26 Monday Morning Ramble	27	28	29	30	
J U L Y	Camps start the week of July 10						1
	2	3 Monday Morning Ramble	4	5	6	7	8 iNat That! Storytime & Hike Party
	9 2nd Sunday Scribblers	10 Monday Morning Ramble	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17 Monday Morning Ramble	18	19	20 Three Things Thursday	21	22
	23	24 Monday Morning Ramble	25	26	27	28	29 Oneida Hike & Storytelling
A U G U S T	30	31 Monday Morning Ramble	1	2	3	4	5
	6	7 Monday Morning Ramble	8	9	10	11	12 Native Bees
	13 2nd Sunday Scribblers	14 Monday Morning Ramble	15	16	17 Three Things Thursday	18	19
	20	21 Monday Morning Ramble	22	23	24	25 Last day of Summer Camp	26 Invertebrate Investigation
	27	28 Monday Morning Ramble	29	30	31		

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



Get Outdoors & Get Together Day

Saturday, June 10, 2023, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

DEC and State Parks, in partnership with the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the NYS Division of Veterans' Services, is hosting free events to connect people to nature and provide increased access to the outdoors. Get Outdoors & Get Together Day brings together people of all abilities, ages, identities and backgrounds together for fun, healthful activities as part of the Governor's initiative to broaden the diversity of users and ensure inclusivity of access to state public lands.

New York's Get Outdoors & Get Together Day coincides with National Get Outdoors Day, an annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun.

Activities at Rogers Center

- Fishing Clinic
- Bird Watching
- Nature Journaling
- Archery ???
- Insect Investigation
- Fly-tying
- Guided Hikes

Booths from Local Outdoor Groups

- Bullthistle Hiking Club
- Chenango Bird Club
- Trout Unlimited
- Foster Care



When did Eagles Land in CNY?

bald eagles in Hamilton | photos: EJRathbone

“When I was a kid” is a phrase I find myself using, to my great dismay, more and more these days. It was bad enough when it was only age-related, but now that I am back where I grew up, I find it is also location-related. When one has been away for a long time, things are bound to change.

Some of the things that I have noticed as big changes in Central New York are a) the return of wild turkeys (we never saw them “when I was a kid”), b) the lack of understory in the woods due to the massive increase in deer numbers, and c) the presence of bald eagles (DDT had wreaked its havoc on many raptors in my youth, so eagles were something one had to go out west to see).

So what an amazing thing to see eagles here - and not just *see* eagles, but to see so MANY eagles! Why, in Hamilton alone there are at least two nests! I have seen eagles flying overhead at Rogers Center more times than I can count, and also on my commute to and from work. I think I see eagles just as often as I see red-tailed hawks! Incredible.

So, when did they return, and why?

As I mentioned, DDT (which had widespread use as an insecticide) had a devastating effect on many bird populations. When DDT breaks down, the resulting chemicals are highly persistent in the environment. These chemicals enter the food chain and “bioaccumulate,” which means that the further one goes up the food chain, the more of the chemicals one will find. For example, if each fish has “two pieces” of the toxin in it, and an eagle eats ten fish, then the eagle now has “20 pieces” of the toxin in its body. These chemicals, collectively known as chlorinated hydrocarbons, directly affected the calcium metabolism of the birds, which meant that their eggs had incredibly thin shells, which would break when the birds sat on them during incubation. Brown pelicans and peregrine falcons were the hardest hit; the latter become extinct in the eastern US.


In 1976, the New York State Bald Eagle Restoration Project got underway, and lasted for 13 years. During this time, nearly 200 nestling bald eagles were brought to New York from other locations (mostly Alaska) and released (according to the [DEC](#)). The project was brought to a close when it reached its target of 10 breeding pairs.



That does not seem like a lot to me, but apparently it was enough. By 2010 the DEC registered 173 breeding pairs across the state - and by golly, some of them have now made their way to CNY! According to a friend of mine who monitors eagles downstate along the Hudson River, the NYS population had a huge explosion in the late 2000s.

I saw my first eagles in Alaska in the late 1980s - where they are really rather unremarkable. They would hang out in the trees by the dozens, resting in between bouts of catching fish to eat. Others were notorious for hanging around dumpsters - they were the avian version of our beloved “trash pandas.” Not something one expects for the symbol of our nation!

During my time in Northern Illinois, eagles were a fairly common occurrence, especially of note in the winter. We’d see them flying over the Rock River in search of a meal, or even cruising over the fields as they commuted to and from the rivers.

But to see them here in Central New York, well, it is quite a treat. The bright white head and tail of an adult as it flies overhead cannot be mistaken for anything else. It’s a beautiful thing. 

News Flash



grey treefrog | photo: EJRathbone

Native Plant Landscaping at Rogers Center

Thanks to donations by the Chenango Bird Club and other anonymous donors, the Friends of Rogers Exhibit Committee has been moving forward with its plans to re-landscape the area near the visitor center's bird feeders with native plants.

The goal is to not only make the site more visually appealing to our visitors, but to also make it more appealing to birds by adding plants that bear fruits for them to eat. At the same time, the addition of native plants will have the benefit of also feeding our local pollinators.



Too many people think that native plants are weeds and not desirable in a garden. It is our hope to dispel this myth by demonstrating how seamlessly these plants can meet the needs of people as well as wildlife. ✿

Storytime & Hike Celebrates 10 Years at Rogers

Storytime & Hike began on May 8, 2013. A group of mothers with small children, including Myra Scott and Jenni Larchar, envisioned a Storytime activity at Rogers Center that would include time enjoying nature. Jenni, who at the time was on the board of the Friends of Rogers, approached the new Executive Director, Simon Solomon, with the idea, and Storytime & Hike was born.

In the beginning, leading the program was shared between Sarah Freedman (an educator at Rogers), Candy Hamilton (Sherburne Public Library Children's Librarian), and mothers like Jenni. Over a few months, it evolved into a Rogers Center program, led by Sarah and Jenni, then exclusively by Jenni.

Each week, families enjoy reading books and singing songs. Everyone comes prepared for the weather with outer gear designed to take us for an adventure. Only occasional extreme weather keeps us indoors or cancels Storytime. Many families remain on property for picnics and socialization after the program.

Friends of Rogers Fall Festival Save-the-Date

Oct 14th - two of Central New York's historic institutions, Rogers Center and the Sherburne Inn, are coming together to host a true seasonal spectacle!

Live music, signature cocktails, dancing and dining at the recently renovated Sherburne Inn.

Be a part of the rural renaissance and mark your calendars today.

Getting Involved

ladybug | photo: EJRathbone



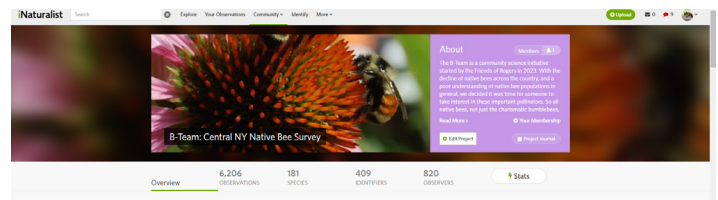
What is the B-Team and why should you join? The B-Team is a community science project started by the Friends of Rogers this year to collect photographic data about our regional native bees. Native bees are in decline, some catastrophically, and we want to know which species are around our area.

It's super easy to be a part of the B-Team. All you need is a camera (could be your cell phone, could be a DSLR with a macro lens), an account on the free iNaturalist app (computer and/or phone), and an account with [Bumble Bee Watch](#), a national bumble bee data collection hub.

On iNaturalist, join our B-Team project, which is called "B-Team: Central New York Native Bee Survey."

Every time you are outside and see a bee, take it's picture. Upload your photographs and other meta data (location, date, etc.) to both these projects. If you don't know what species of bee you have, don't worry - these programs can help you identify the bees you found (Bumble Bee Watch only takes bumble bees, but on our iNaturalist project we will take all native bees). The key, however, is to get good photos, and from multiple angles.

If you'd like to join the B-Team, or want more information, contact Ellen at ellen@friendsofrogers.org.



Education Volunteers Needed!

If you enjoy being outside, exploring nature, and sharing your discoveries, and if you are looking for something to do this fall to fill your days (or at least part of them), consider being an Education Volunteer at Rogers Center.

We have teachers who want to bring their classes out to Rogers, but we don't have enough educators to accommodate all the students they want to bring. This is where the Education Volunteer comes in!

Education Volunteers help our staff lead school programs. This is an incredibly important job, because helping the next generation learn about the natural world and its importance to our everyday lives is vital. We train you to lead our programs, and show you

techniques for encouraging students to make their own discoveries. Then you sign up for the programs you'd like to teach. Some weeks we may only need you for one day, while other weeks we may be asking for your help every! Each time you come out you could be here 2 to 4.5 hours, depending on the class. So, it is a bit of a commitment.

Requirements: love nature, enjoy working with kids, time, and attend our volunteer training class. (Note that you do **not** have to have extensive knowledge of the outdoors!)

If you are interested, please contact our educator Ellen: ellen@friendsofrogers.org.



morning dew on grass leaf | photo: EJRathbone

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 and wheelchair are available for use on our trails paved paths.

Friends of Rogers Staff

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

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robin eggs in nest | photo: EJRathbone