



Goose Tracks



Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2012

The Friends of the Robert Moses State Park Nature Center, Inc.

What's Up You Ask?

Bet you've been wondering what's happening!

It has been a very busy year for the Friends of the Nature Center, Inc. The Board of Directors has worked extremely hard to bring staff back in July, 2011 and:

- Worked with the NY Power Authority to secure the future of the Nature Center. NYPA just hired *Stieglitz Snyder Architecture* to design the new center, with a completion date of 2014!
- Provided 54 on-site programs to 1,206 participants & 124 off-site programs to 9,195 participants!
- Received more than \$317,000 in grant money for programming and materials!
- Forged ahead to create another year full of fantastic programming, while reaching out to even more special interest groups & the community!



We Will Have a Roof, Soon!

Come out no matter what the weather's like!

Thanks to the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency's 2012 Community Development & Environmental Improvement Program, everyone will have a roof to stand under this winter at the Nature Center! Friends were granted \$15,000 to purchase a large gazebo and provide recreational and environmental programming on the Nature Center trails. Below is a picture showing a gazebo much like the one we will be locating near the trailhead, right off the handicap accessible trail.



"... everyone will have a roof to stand under this winter at the Nature Center!"



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WORD FROM THE BOARD by *Martha Duchscherer, Trustee*

I asked my children how they would describe the Nature Center and the one word they both said was, Fun! Ever since we moved to Massena in 2003 we have taken advantage of the great programs and services offered by the Nature Center. My family has hiked the trails in the spring with the mud, in the summer with the heat, in the fall with the beautiful changing leaves, and in the winter with the snow! My children have participated in all of the different programs making crafts and learning about Nature. Since I have become involved with the Board my daughter has helped with fall and spring clean up days. She loves bugs, frogs, birds, and anything to do with nature. My son goes out and snowshoes with his father and grandfather. The opportunities have been endless and fun, fun, fun! I am thankful for the Robert Moses Nature Center which is a true and hidden gem of our area. I am thankful for NYPA's support at giving future generations a new and improved Nature Center to enjoy. I am thankful for working with a Board of individuals who teach me something new each time I am with them. I am thankful for a staff that has brought Nature to my children and taught them to love the environment around them. I am thankful for a peaceful, beautiful place to explore and enjoy! Please come and visit us at the Robert Moses Nature Center and enjoy nature where there is always something marvelous!

Friends Board of Directors:

*President: Rick Marshall
Vice President: Miriam Morrow
Treasurer: Tony Perry
Secretary: Betty Robillard
Trustees: Emily Tarbell
Ross Violi
Barb Taylor
Martha Duchscherer
Randy Freiman*



ANIMAL STATUS

Axel, the parrot is doing great. She lives with Trustee, Barb Taylor.

Rosy, a Tarantula, Boxy, a Box Turtle & Stumpy a Painted Turtle all live happily in the work trailer.

Stinky, a Musk Turtle & Leonard, a Wood Turtle live at the high school.

Diane, a Ring-necked Dove lives contently with Friend, Charlene Dumas.



PROGRAM BROCHURES

Shoot us an email at ncrebirth@yahoo.com and we will email you our 2012 – 2013 program brochure. We offer more than 15 programs for all ages, with topics ranging from Animal Tracking to Bird feeding & much more. Programs are hands-on & fun! Did I mention they are free of charge too?



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It has been a very productive year for the Nature Center. We not only got our programs back up and running, but we also completed many, many necessary projects pertaining to new businesses.

Two huge projects completed include the creation of an extensive Personnel Manual & the reviewed and updating of Friends By-laws. Friends' office is now professionally prepared to manage staff and plan for the future.

It has also been another successful period of grant writing, as you see in the box to the right. The support we've been given is incredible and every little bit has continued to make a big difference. Please keep that in mind when you look at the back page. Re-new at whatever level you can and know that you too will make a difference!

Come out for a hike & enjoy the colors of Fall ~
Mary Danboise

GRANTS = GOALS!

NY Power Authority: \$100,000
2011 Staffing & Nature Center programming

Alcoa (local): \$3,000
2011 "Action Grant" for winter programming

St. Lawrence Health Initiative: \$5,095
2011 Winter recreation equipment purchases

TJX Corporation: \$5,000
2011 On & Off-site program enhancement

The Alcoa Foundation: \$15,000
2011 "Get Green & Get Wild" rec. & ed. programs

Stewart's Holiday Fund: \$750 ... 2012

NY Power Authority: \$150,000
2012 Staffing & Nature Center programming

Alcoa Foundation: \$2500
2012 "Project Explore!" for school programs

St. Law. River Valley Redevelop. Agency: \$15,000
2012 Gazebo & programming combination

Alcoa Foundation: \$18,047
2012 "Mind, Body, Soul – Come Alive!" more than 40 programs & a program coordinator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BITTERSWEET WREATHS

DATE: 10/6

TIME 10-12 & 1-3 FEE: \$10

Learn to make a wreath to take home.

MAKING GREEN HOME PRODUCTS

DATE & PLACE: 10/18 BOCES ROOM/LIBRARY

TIME 6-7:30PM

Save money & make your own products.

HALLOWEEN WOODS WALK

DATE: 10/26

TIME 6:30-8PM

Come out for this fun play in the woods.

HALLOWEEN FUN

DATE & PLACE: 10/27 MASSENA LIBRARY

TIME 10-11AM

Learn about Bats & make a Bat mask!

GUIDED FALL HIKE

DATE: 11/3

TIME 11AM

Enjoy a guided hike along the trails.

MAKING GREEN BODY CARE PRODUCTS

DATE & PLACE: 11/15 & 11/17 BOCES RM/LIBRARY

TIME 6-7:30PM ON THE 15TH & 1:30-3PM ON 11/17

Make your own lip balm, soaps & more.

GUIDED WINTER HIKE

DATE: 12/8

TIME 11AM

Enjoy a guided hike or ski along the trails.

MOONLIGHT SKI & SNOWSHOE

DATE: 12/29

TIME 6:30PM

Enjoy a guided snowshoe hike or ski along the trails. Equipment rentals available for \$4/pair.

*** All programs take place at the Nature Center trails unless otherwise noted. Call or email to pre-register & get weather/trail conditions.

FARE THE WELL

After working for six years at the Nature Center, I have reached the time when retirement is almost within reach; therefore, it is with some sadness that I am about to begin my last week of employment. When I began my career in music education many years ago, I could not have imagined all of the wonderful experiences I would have, nor could I have possibly known that I would eventually be exploring the natural world and using my teaching skills to share the wonder of creation with people of all ages.

It was an introduction to snowshoeing that brought me to the Nature Center initially, and I was intrigued by what I found there. I learned about caring for all kinds of animals, fell in love with a ferret (and ultimately the cockatiel and ring-neck dove who came to reside with me), gained respect for a very large and loud macaw, and was introduced to an iguana and various kinds of turtles. I learned the art of nature interpretation, and I quickly grew to appreciate and understand our visitors' interest in the natural world.

I was surprised to learn how much I truly loved being outdoors and was thrilled whenever I was scheduled to lead a nature walk or snowshoe hike. My work at the Nature Center was also directly responsible for my newly developed passion for photography. Over the last few years, I have been fortunate to get some great nature shots---landscapes, waterscapes and all kinds of wildlife shots. It is an activity that I look forward to pursuing in my retirement.

I am deeply grateful to my coworkers and friends Linda and Mary for all that they have taught me, for their patience as I worked my way through the many established nature programs, for their steadfast determination to keep the Nature Center open following the 2010 fire and for their sense of humor through it all. A very special thanks to the Friends of the Nature Center for trusting me to help carry out their mission of providing environmental education to the public. I have truly enjoyed my time at the Nature Center and look forward to serving as a volunteer...in our soon-to-be new facility!

Till then....I'll see you in the woods!

Charlene Dumas,
Program Specialist



**WE TEACH
THE JOY OF NATURE!**



BECOME A FRIEND

Fill out the form below & mail it into us with your donation. All donations are tax-deductible. If you'd like a receipt for tax purposes, just let us know.

If you are interested in volunteering or joining the board of directors, include that information also.

Please make checks out to:

The Friends of the RMSP NC, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM:

- \$5 Individual**
- \$10 Family**
- \$20 School Class/Club**
- \$25 Business**
- \$100 Lifetime**
- Just a donation**

NAME:

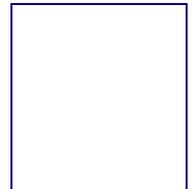
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Please email me updates!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



