



Goose Tracks



Volume 2, Issue 1

Winter 2014

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

Alcoa Foundation to the Rescue!

We have been very busy working on our 2013-14 "Earth Keepers" grant, which was funded by the Alcoa Foundation. We received notice in October that our \$20,000 grant had been accepted and have been busy with it ever since.

"Earth Keepers" is a program that will combine STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics with our Environmental Science programs. This grant made it possible for us to purchase new equipment, such as iPads, digital cameras, classroom clickers, a second trail camera, GPS units, tablets and more. We are able to expand our programs while making sure they meet the requirements of the Common Core.

We also started a "Jr. Earth Keeper Club," which took off with a bang! Children ages 5 - 12 meet monthly to explore new topics and earn badges. See our Facebook page called Jr Earth Keepers or our website more information on this great club.

MORE SKI SETS FOR KIDS!!

Yes, it's true! Very soon we will have more than a dozen new cross-country ski sets for children, as well as additional sets of boots. All thanks go to the St. Lawrence Health Initiative - Creating Healthy Places! We are honored that they feel our organization is worth supporting and that they value our work.

Now we will be able to meet the needs of more families with younger children, who would like to try to cross-country ski. Children who learn skills like skiing and snowshoeing at a younger age are much more apt to stay physically fit and healthy. They also learn to enjoy the long winter months.

Rentals are only \$4 a set. Visitors are encouraged to call 315-705-5022 first and check on trails conditions and ski sizes and availability.



ACTION GRANT VOLUNTEERS SHINE!

October also brought us another successful trail clean-up day and Action Grant. More than 30 volunteers came out to work on the trails and grounds, to get things ready for winter. Over a dozen local Alcoa employees came to work, which made us eligible for a much-needed \$3000 Action Grant. THANK YOU ALL!

NATURE CENTER STAFF:

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fall passed by us very quickly, but it was beautiful. Now we are up to our knees in winter! It came fast and hard. It looks like it's going to stay for a while too, so you might as well come on out and enjoy it. It's been a winter wonderland out here – perfect for photographers!

Staff is here daily and lots of programs are being planned. You will find us on-site, at special events and in area schools. Check out our website at www.massenanaturecenter.org or our Facebook page: The Friends of the Robert Moses State Park Nature Center, Inc. If in doubt, just give us a call at 315-705-5022 or email ncrebirth@yahoo.com. We will be happy to catch you up on all of the opportunities awaiting you! We are also happy to create programs especially for you or your group. Just let us know what you'd like to do and we'll see what we can come up with!

Mary Danboise

**MASSENA'S WINTER
CARNIVAL**

It's that time of year! January 17th – 26th Massena will have all kinds of fun activities planned, all over town. Although there will not be any dog sled races this year, other cool events will take place.

Come out for some fun on Saturday the 18th for a Moonlight Ski-n-Snowshoe hike! On Saturday and Sunday (25th & 26th), we will be at the NYPA Visitor's Center from 1-3pm with about 40 pair of snowshoes! Stop by and take a self-guided snowshoe scavenger hike! We will even have GPS units to try. Maybe you will find a special cache along the way. This activity will be free to the public. Come celebrate winter!

**MOONLIGHT SKI &
SNOWSHOE HIKES!**

There is never a better time to explore the night than when a full moon shines overhead. Come out and enjoy a hearty ski or snowshoe adventure with us this winter. Please call to pre-register and come a good 20 minutes early if you need to rent our equipment. Only experienced skiers are allowed to rent ski packages at night – amateur skiers are advised to come during the day instead.

Saturdays 6:30-8:30pm

- **January 18th**
- **February 15th**
- **March 15th**



SCHOOL VACATION DAYCAMPS!

Before you know it, the kids will be on winter break, looking for fun things to do! Make your plans now. This year, we are holding our school vacation daycamps right in town, at the Massena Community Center on Beech Street.

Children, ages 5 - 12 are invited to pre-register for a day or a week of fun. Programs are being offered free-of-charge, but there is a maximum size class of 20. Young children must be able to tie their own shoes, use the rest room, cut with scissors and enjoy group activities. On the last day we will be exploring foods which contain nuts, so parents will be required to sign a permission slip for programs.

The theme is **“OUTDOOR SURVIVAL.”** Programs will run daily, Monday - Friday, from 10am - 12noon. Pre-registration is mandatory. Each day will be filled with hands-on fun!

Monday: **“Survival Basics”**

Tuesday: **“Learn the Ropes”**

Wednesday: **“Suit Up To Survive”**

Thursday: **“Under Cover”**

Friday: **“Trail Mix”**



Come enjoy the beauty of nature!

Find Us On Facebook!

We now have two Facebook pages! One is the original, where you can see cool shots from our trail cams, get trail info and more. That is titled by our whole name. The other page has been designed for the Jr Earth Keeper's and goes by that name. Kids from the club can post findings and see fun stuff here. Check it out!

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

This is a great time of year to bring some fun, educational programming into your classroom and – it's FREE!

Check www.massenanaturecenter.org and go to the link for programs. All the information you need is there. A huge variety of environmental education subjects are offered, for all grades and abilities. Programs are hands-on and fun. Props are brought, such as mounted animals, skulls or birds. Activities like upcycled bird feeders and animal track books are available for the whole class.

We even have high school programs which focus on preparing students to participate in the NYS Envirothon. Don't miss out!

Look over the information on the website and then call or email for details.

Some of nature's most exquisite handiwork is on a miniature scale, as anyone knows who has applied a magnifying glass to a snowflake.

- Rachel Carson

WE TEACH THE JOY OF NATURE!



BECOME A FRIEND

Fill out the form below (or print it from our website) and mail it into us along with your donation. All donations are tax-deductible. Like a receipt for tax purposes? Let us know!

If you are interested in volunteering or joining the board of directors, include that information also. Volunteer information and forms are available on our website.

Please make checks payable 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:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

PLEASE EMAIL ME UPDATES!

The Friends of the RMSP NC, Inc.
19 Robinson Bay Road
PO Box 408
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2014 - 2015

The new Environmental Education Program brochure is available for all educators in the St. Lawrence, Franklin and Lewis counties. The brochures are left with contact teachers once school begins, but they can also be read on our website at

www.massenanaturecenter.org .



More than 12 programs of various topics are available for grade school students. Special courses which focus on topics matched to the NYS Envirothon are available for high school students. All of our courses are designed to fit into your schedule. Classes are taught on individually, although auditorium style programs can be scheduled.

Programs have been designed to meet NYS Learning Standards. Each program is a mix of lecture and hands-on activities. Check our brochure or give us a call for specific activity choices. All programs are free of charge, although some materials, like owl pellets have a small fee. We ask that each school schedule a minimum of 3 programs per visit, so we use our resources efficiently.





