



Goose Tracks

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! Winter is well established and I am excited to announce some changes. First I would like to congratulate Debra Donatto with her involvement in the Massena Boys and Girls Club. Deb was a great asset to the Nature Center and I am sure she will be wonderful in her new position. Next, a big welcome Joel Danko as a full time employee. Joel's background in biology will greatly enhance our offerings. He has already started on several different programs he wishes to include in 2015. And finally, "Thank You" to Mary Danboise who is pursuing her career elsewhere. The Board and I wish her luck in all her future endeavors. For now, I will be taking over the daily director responsibilities, so if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call. Thanks everyone. *Linda Besio, Interim Director*

PORCUPINE FUN FACTS

Porcupines are an often misunderstood animal. These gentle creatures are found all over the world. Here are a few facts that you may not know.

- Porcupines live in trees
- They cannot shoot their quills
- They love salt and eat it from the sides of the road, please be careful
- Their only natural predator is the fisher
- They have the longest gestation of any rodent
- Their babies are called porcupettes and newborn porcupette weighs more than a newborn grizzly bear cub.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

We are looking forward to travelling to schools to offer our environmental programs again this year.

We have a wide range of subjects and each of these can be adjusted to fit any age.

This year there will be no charge for owl pellets. And more exciting news, if you wish to come to the Nature Center to snowshoe or cross country ski, there will **not** be a rental fee.

Our programs are hands-on and fun for all ages. They are also available to Special Interest Groups and Clubs such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

Please call 315-705-5022 for more information or to reserve your day. We can send a copy of our program brochure electronically or by mail. massenanaturecenter@hotmail.com



WHY BECOME A FRIENDS MEMBER

Becoming a "Friends" member not only shows your support for our mission but our programming as well. In 2015 new members, returning members and lifetime members will receive a newly designed membership card. Incentives will become available in 2015, such as window clings and a members only get together. You can also win a free year long membership through our facebook page by being the first to answer a weekly trivia question or guess the picture contest. Check it out!

NATURE CENTER STAFF:

Linda Besio
*Interim Director
Recreation & Education
Specialist*
Joel Danko
Program Specialist
Tanya Spicer
Program Specialist

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Rick Marshall
President
Miriam Morrow
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Tony Perry
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Betty Robillard
Secretary

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Ross Violi
Barb Taylor
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Martha Duchscherer

EDUCATOR'S CORNER

Hi All,

I'm happy to announce that I am back at the Nature Center! I'll now be working here year round. I plan on doing more, outdoors, hands on classes this spring, summer, and fall. So come ready to get your hands dirty! This winter I'll focus on tracking and winter recreation. On one Saturday each month I'll be offering free cross country ski lessons for those who want to learn. –Joel



**WE TEACH THE
JOY OF
NATURE!**

DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATE BIRD?

Yes, the New York State official bird is blue in color. No, it is not a Blue jay. It is in fact the Eastern Bluebird.

The Eastern Bluebird is a small thrush with a big, rounded head, large eye, and plump body.

Male Eastern Bluebirds are vivid, deep blue above and rusty or brick-red on the throat and breast. Females are grayish above with bluish wings and tail, and a subdued orange-brown breast.

They live in meadows and openings surrounded by trees that offer suitable nest holes.

Bluebirds feed on insect most of the year but in fall and winter will eat a wide variety of fruit.

For more information: Check out Cornell Lab of ornithology, All About Birds, website.

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

JUNIOR CITIZEN SCIENTISTS!!!

Calling all Junior Earth Keepers and anyone else between the ages of 5 and 12! You are all invited to join our new program, an extension of the Jr. Earth keeper program, which will be a new approach, a fun way to learn about nature using the scientific methods. We will be getting down and dirty as we observe, record and compare notes at our monthly meeting, which will be the last Saturday of the month.



Reference booklets and waterproof journals to record observations will be provided!!



ATTENTION TO ALL SKIERS AND SNOWSHOERS!!!

This season bring more changes. Our board of directors has come to a consensus. We will NOT be charging a rental fee. Instead we will be collecting e-mail and mailing addresses to build up our contact list. We still hope that you will continue to support The Friends of the RMSP Nature Center by considering becoming a member. All information is on the back page. We will be giving out new membership cards to all who join and to those who re-new as well as our life-time members. New incentives and opportunities will be implemented in 2015 including a members only picnic during the summer. Stay tuned for more!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS SCHEDULED:

January:

- Sat. 3rd Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe 7-8:30pm
- Sat. 10th Learn to Cross-country Ski 10-11:30am
- Sun. 25th Winter Carnival: Guided Ski and Snowshoe
Noon-4pm
- Sat. 31st: Junior citizen Scientist 1-2:30pm

February:

- Sat. 7th Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe 7pm
- Sat. 14th Be your best valentine, coconut oil and it's
uses 10am-11:30-am
- 16th-20th Survival II Daycamps
- Sun. 22nd Guided Snowshoe 1pm
- Sat. 28th Learn to Cross Country Ski 10-11:30am
Junior Citizen Scientist 1-2:30pm

March:

- Sat. 7th Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe 7pm
- Sat. 14th Upcycled Silk Tie Cellphone Holder 10-12,
place TBA
- Sat. 21st Learn to Cross-country Ski 10a-11:30am
- Sat. 28th Junior Citizen Scientist 1-2:30pm
- Mon-Tues 30th -31st Spring Break Daycamps TBA

April:

- Wed - Fri 1st-3rd Spring Break Daycamps continued
- Sat. 11th Vernal ponds and Amphibians 1-3pm
- Sat. 18th Earth Day Program 1-3pm
- Sat. April 25th Junior Citizen Scientist 1-2:30pm

We're on-line:

www.massenanaturecenter.org

Facebook:

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



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. Need a receipt for tax purposes? Let us know!

We are looking for those who might be interested in volunteering for various positions and anyone who may be interested in joining the board of directors. Let us know and we can help you get started.

Please make checks payable to:
The Friends of the RMSP Nature Center, 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 Nature Center, Inc.
19 Robinson Bay Road
PO Box 408
Massena, NY 13662



***ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED***