



# Goose Tracks

## WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

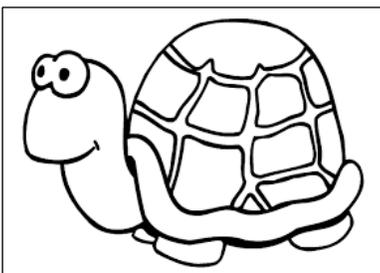
Welcome SPRING! We had a wonderful and busy winter with Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe loans, but the time has come to look ahead to warmer weather. Schools have already begun calling to set up visits in May and June, so if you are a teacher and wish to come to the Nature Center, now is the time to call. We have a wide variety of topics available. View them on our website: [massenanaturecenter.org](http://massenanaturecenter.org) or call us for more information. Check out our calendar of events for summer activities too! Please take the time to read our insert, the article was written by last year's Dave Corse Scholarship winner.

*Linda Besio, Interim Director*

## TURTLE FUN FACTS

Beware of the turtle on the edge of the road; she is there for a reason!

- Turtles hibernate during the cold winter months.
- They awaken in the spring to look for a mate.
- After mating, they look for a warm place to lay their eggs.
- Many turtles lay eggs near the edge of the road.
- They need soft soil to be able to dig a deep hole.
- During the summer you may see raccoons and fox digging up the eggs.
- They hatch in the late fall and the hatchlings head for water and the cycle begins again.



## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Spring is here and we are looking forward to seeing the schools come out to visit us. We have many programs to choose from although the most popular are our Mammal Tracking program and the Night Hunters program. The day here will include a short interpretive walk, programming on a subject of your choice and lunch.

Don't forget the Hawkin's Point Visitor Center. If you have more than two classes, we can partner with the Visitor Center.

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](mailto:massenanaturecenter@hotmail.com)

### *We're on-line:*

[www.massenanaturecenter.org](http://www.massenanaturecenter.org)

### **Facebook:**

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

## Recipes for a Rainy Day

Need a fun thing to do on a rainy day?

### **Modeling Clay**

2 cups cornstarch  
1 cup either hair conditioner or body lotion (we got ours at the dollar store).

Mix together to form dough, knead until smooth. If the clay feels too wet, sprinkle in additional corn starch.

Keep in an air tight container when not in use. Not suitable to air dry and not edible!

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**NATURE CENTER STAFF:**

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Specialist*

**Joel Danko**  
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Happy Spring!!!

Be on the lookout for lots of new activity outside. As the snow melts and the temperature is warming up the groundhogs, bats and chipmunks are coming out of hibernation! You will hear and see more birds singing and eating at your feeders because they have come back after a long winter's migration. But that's not all....soon there will be ants and frogs and turtles and bees and many other little creatures that are as happy to see spring as we are!!!

Enjoy!!  
*Tanya*

**Dave Corse Scholarship**

Each June we award a \$500 scholarship to a deserving individual who is interested in pursuing a career in the environmental studies area. Dave was a wonderful volunteer who worked with the Nature Center for many years before he passed away. Dave worked for both the Department of Conservation and State Parks and after his retirement was very active with the St. Lawrence County Trapper's Association. He spent many days with us helping with snowshoeing programs, outdoor survival programs and many more. For more information on this award, please see your guidance counselor. Deadline is May 6, 2015!

***Do you know your State Amphibian?***

Amphibians are coldblooded animals that lay their eggs in water. They include salamanders, newts, frog and toads. Our state amphibian is the Wood Frog. Wood frogs are between 1 and 3 inches long in length, its color is various shades of browns and reds, and it wears a robber's mask. They are the only frog to live north of the Arctic Circle. They have the special ability to freeze solid in the deep cold of winter. In the Spring, they are also one of the first frogs to begin mating and can be found laying their eggs in vernal ponds and pools. They are a favorite snack of the Wood turtle!

## 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, and 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.



The human spirit needs places  
where nature has not been  
rearranged by the hand of man.

Author unknown

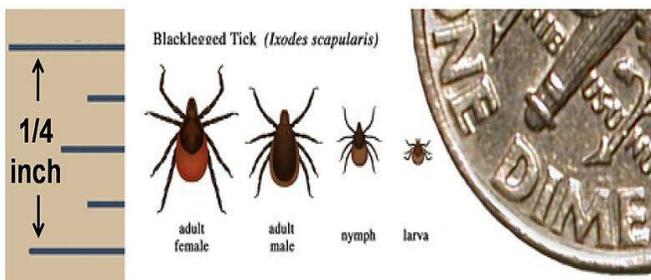
### Ticks and you!

The last two years the Nature Center has seen a dramatic increase in the tick population. Here are some suggestions to help you enjoy your day out without having to worry about these pesky critters. Ticks are a small arachnid which feeds on the blood of a wide variety of animals, including humans.

The most important thing is to dress correctly.

1. Wear light-colored clothing! (so you can see bugs and ticks and remove them)
2. Follow the directions on your bug repellent!
3. Spray only outdoors!
4. Wash off repellent when you go indoors!
5. Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants!
6. Tuck pants into socks & shirts into pants

For more information go to :  
<http://health.ny.gov/tickfree>



### SPECIAL PROGRAMS SCHEDULED:

May:

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Guided Spring Walk

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Animal Game Day

Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Junior Citizen Scientist (Seeds) 1-2:30pm

June:

Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> Guided Tree ID walk 10am-11am

Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Life in the Marsh 10am-12pm

Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Art and Wine (This has a fee) time TBD

Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> Junior Citizen Scientist (Insects) 1pm-2:30pm

July:

Fridays in July, 6-7:30pm Campfire Cooking

Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> Join us at the campground 1pm-3pm

Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Plein Air art with kids 10am-11:30am

Daycamps Mon July 13<sup>th</sup> - Fri July 17<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm

Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> Owl Prowl 9-10pm

Sat. July 25<sup>th</sup> Swamp School III, Herps! 10am-12pm

Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> Junior Citizen Scientist 1pm-2:30pm

August:

Fridays in August 6-7:30pm Campfire Cooking

Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> Guided Walk 10am-12pm

Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> Plant Walk 10am-12pm

Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> Fish of the St. Lawrence 1pm-3pm

Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> Members Picnic 12:30pm-3pm

Daycamps Mon Aug 17<sup>th</sup> - Fri Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 10am-1pm

Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> Junior Citizen Scientist 1pm-2:30pm

- Programs are subject to change
- Please check our website for up to date information.
- Summer programs at Massena and Brasher Libraries

**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.*

**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. Check it out!**

**MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM:**

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

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PLEASE EMAIL ME UPDATES!

**The Friends of the RMSP Nature Center, Inc.**  
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