



GOOSETRACKS

Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2016

Happy New Year

It is a new year with lots of new and exciting things happening. The construction of the building is going strong and we hope to have our grand opening in the spring of 2017!

We are temporarily located at the St. Lawrence Center Mall, so stop in and check out our space. Our turtles are here and love to have visitors. We have an activity table set up for kids of all ages, and we change the theme frequently.

Stop by and catch up on the latest news about the construction progress, check our activity board of events and activities, or just chat with our friendly staff.

We will be at the mall Mon-Sat 8am-4pm as well as at the trails to rent skis and snowshoes on Saturday and Sunday from 9am-3pm as long as there is snow.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Nature Center is looking for some volunteers. There are many things a volunteer can do such as:

- Greet visitors at the mall when educators need to be away doing programming.
- Volunteer to lead a snowshoe or cross country ski programs.
- Share your skills with others by hosting a workshop.
- Leading school children on the trails.
- Help to create interesting window displays.
- Occasional trail maintenance

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If you have a skill you would like to share such as woodworking, photography, painting, fiber art, quilting or paper art contact us and we will work with you to set up a program date and time.

"I go to the nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order"

-John Burroughs

Riddle of the Day

A house has four walls. All of the walls are facing south, and a bear is circling the house.

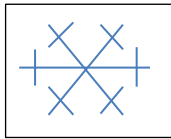
What color is the bear?

Answer on page 4

Snowy Day Activities

Want to make your own snowflake? All you need is borax (Can be found in the laundry aisle), hot water and 2 pipe cleaners.

Cut 1 pipe cleaner into six even pieces and twist them together in the center. Cut the second pipe cleaner into 12 pieces, six of the pieces are twisted onto each point of the first piece.



Using a wide mouth jar or container, mix 2 cups of hot water with 6 Tablespoons of borax and stir until dissolved.

Hang the pipe cleaners using a string tied to a pencil suspended across the mouth of the container, so that they are submerged in the solution.

You should be able to see crystals starting to form within an hour but leave it overnight for the best results. Remove from the solution and hang your snowflake in a window to enjoy.



Educator's Corner **Snow!**

What is it and how is it made? What shape is it and are any two snowflakes alike?

Snowflakes form when a very cold drop of water freezes around a dust particle. As the frozen crystal falls to the ground, water vapor freezes onto the crystals building new crystals onto the six arms of the snowflake.

There are no two snowflakes that are exactly alike. Due to the complex nature in which a snowflake forms, taking into consideration temperature, humidity, and cloud elevation, it is highly unlikely that any two flakes would form exactly the same. There are basic types of flakes, such as plate, columns and slender needles, all depending on the weather conditions.

Do You Know Your State Tree?

How do you like your pancakes?

If you said with maple syrup than you can thank our state tree, the Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*. The Sugar Maple was designated as the state tree in 1956. It is also known as the hard maple and the rock maple. It is one of the state's largest and most important hardwoods. Maples do not flower until they reach the age of 22 but can live to be 300-400 years. Their pointed leaves turn bright reds, oranges and gold making a brilliant showing for visitors from afar.

In the spring, sap from the tree is collected and then boiled to make maple syrup. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make just 1 gallon of syrup or 8 pounds of maple sugar.

Staff and Board Members

Linda Besio

Interim Director

Recreation & Education Specialist

Joel Danko

Program Specialist

Tanya Spicer

Program Specialist

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Twitter: MassenaNatureCT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

23RD MOONLIGHT SKI AND
SNOWSHOE 6PM-8PM

30TH JR CITIZEN SCIENTIST
1PM-2:30PM

FEBRUARY

14TH DEC SNOWSHOE AT NICHOLS
TRAIL 6PM-7PM

15^T-19TH WINTER BREAK DAYCAMPS
10AM-1PM

15TH COWS AND BUTTER MAKING

16TH SHEEP AND WOOL

17TH PIGS IN A POKE

18TH CHICKENS, DUCKS AND GEESE

19TH DOMESTIC ANIMALS AS TOOLS

20TH MOONLIGHT SKI AND
SNOWSHOE 6PM-8PM

27TH JR CITIZEN SCIENTIST
1PM-2:30PM

MARCH

21ST-25TH SPRING BREAK DAYCAMPS
10AM-1PM

21ST ROCKS AND MINERALS

22ND SOLAR SYSTEMS

23RD METEOROIDS AND ASTEROIDS

24TH CONSTELLATIONS

25TH PLANETARIUMS

26TH JR. CITIZEN SCIENTIST
1PM-2:30PM

APRIL

9TH BEADING FOR ADULTS
10AM-12PM

16TH MASSENA LIBRARY CRAFT
10AM-11AM

BADENHAUSEN LIBRARY
CRAFT

1PM-2PM

23RD SWAMP SCHOOL 2016
1PM-3PM

30TH JR CITIZEN SCIENTIST
1PM-2:30PM

- SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Junior Citizen Scientist



Junior Citizen Scientist is a program for children from 5 – 12 years of age. We will meet on the last Saturday each month beginning in January. Program runs from 1-2:30pm. Each program will focus on our natural environment. If you would like your child to participate, or if you would like more information, please contact us. January's program will be snow shoeing, please meet the educator at the left side of the parking lot. Register your child at 315-705-5022.

Answer to the riddle

The bear is white. In order for all walls to face south, the house needs to be on the North Pole!

Become a Member

Membership not only shows support for our mission but also supports our programming. Members receive three copies of the newsletters each year and a picnic in the summer. New member incentives will be appearing once the Nature Center is complete.

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E:mail: _____

Friends of Robert Moses State Park
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Address Correction Requested

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