

The logo features a black circle on the left containing the text "5 RIVERS" in white. To the right of the circle, the word "TRIBUTARY" is written in a large, black, serif font. The "T" in "TRIBUTARY" is partially overlaid by the right side of the circle.

5 RIVERS TRIBUTARY

Fall 2008

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
518-475-0291

www.dec.ny.gov (search for Five Rivers)

Bioluminescence

Take a walk outside after dark and you may be lucky enough to see a magical glow. The ability of living things to create and emit this glowing light is called bioluminescence. Although most critters with this unique adaptation live in the sea, some bioluminescence can be seen on land.

Bioluminescent streaks on dead wood, called "foxfire," come from honey mushrooms (*Armillariella mellea*). Some scientists think they use their light to attract insects that will help spread the mushroom's spores. Look for them on the base of trees or in rotting stumps in late summer and fall. Their glow can be very bright. In the past, it was even used to illuminate the inside of submarines!

More common are lightning bugs, also known as fireflies, that make the world sparkle after dark. Fireflies are not flies or true bugs at all, but beetles with a special segment of their abdomen that flashes. There are between 20 and 30 different species of fireflies in the Northeast. Most of them use their flash to attract a mate. The most common types in our area flash yellow-green, but you may also see dark green or amber. The speed and frequency of flashes also vary among different species of firefly.

Scientists are concerned about the effects of pesticides and fertilizers on these beautiful insects. Firefly Watch is a citizen science program to study and map the activity of fireflies. You can look for fireflies in your own backyard and report your findings at <http://www.mos.org/fireflywatch>.

We have recently begun monitoring the fireflies at Five Rivers and plan to offer public Firefly Watch programs next summer. If you are interested in joining us for an informal firefly-watch this summer, please email 5rivers@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

–Sarah Conley, SCA

On a sad note...

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Wendy Suozzo, former environmental educator at Five Rivers and program coordinator for Friends of Five Rivers. Wendy passed away on August 7 after a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts go to her family and many friends. She will be missed. The Friends of Five Rivers will have more information about Wendy and her contributions to Five Rivers in their upcoming newsletter.

5rivers@gw.dec.state.ny.us

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
David A. Paterson, Governor Pete Grannis, Commissioner

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

Fall Program Schedule 2008

Programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Participants should dress for the weather! We regret that we cannot accommodate organized youth groups at these programs. Please call to make special arrangements for a group. **We welcome those who have any type of physical challenge to all of our programs; please call ahead to let us know your needs.**

For further information or to register, call Five Rivers at 518-475-0291. In the event of severe weather, programs may be canceled. Please call the center to confirm.

Thursdays, September 4, 11, 18, 25	THE EARLY BIRDER	7:30 AM
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Join us for a bird's eye view of the fall migration. Over coffee and bagels, we'll watch birds at the bird feeder beginning at 7:00 AM. Then we'll go afield at 7:30 AM in search of seasonal specialties. Beginning birders are always welcome!

Saturday, September 6 **VINES THAT TWINE** **2:00 PM**

Vines are beautiful, and they have fruits that are great for wildlife, but they can also strangle, choke, and smother their competition. Join us for a walk to enjoy fall vines and other plants.

Saturday, September 13 **MONARCHS AND MIGRANTS** **2:00 PM**

Enjoy this late summer walk to look for signs of monarch butterflies and other migrating wildlife.

Saturday, September 20 **ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** **12:00-4:00 PM**

Come join us for our annual Fall Festival! There will be nature-oriented explorations and hands-on activities for all ages, refreshments, exhibitors and much more. Admission and parking are ABSOLUTELY FREE! Rain or shine.

Saturday, September 27 *How To Do It:* **SCORING DEER ANTLERS** **10:00 AM**

Learn to measure a buck's Boone and Crockett score using racks from the center's collection. Bring a flexible measuring tape. Your racks also welcome. Register by September 24.

Saturday, September 27 *Watchable Wildlife:* **WHITE-TAILED DEER** **2:00 PM**

Join us for a field study of the natural history of deer in celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day. We'll search for rubs, tracks, scrapes, and other indicators of the season's prospects.

Saturday, October 4 **PROJECT WET WORKSHOP** **10:00 AM- 1:00 PM**

Project WET is Water Education for Teachers. Participants receive a manual of activities about water science, aquatic wildlife and environmental issues. Register by October 1. Teacher in-service credit is available through the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center.

Saturday, October 4 **FALL COLOR ON THE VLOMANKILL** **2:00 PM**

Come enjoy the beauty of autumn's colors on a mile-long forest trail that skirts a stream.

Tuesday, October 7 **BIRD SEED SALE ORDERS DUE**

This is the last day to order bird seed for Friends of Five Rivers' Annual Bird Seed Sale. For an order blank or more information, call the Friends at 475-0295.

Friday, October 10 **PREDATORS OF THE NIGHT** **7:00 PM**
Join us for a walk on Five Rivers' trails to learn about the nocturnal animals that are flying, running or slithering after prey.

Saturday, October 11 **RACCOONS: MASKED BANDITS?** **2:00 PM**
An indoor presentation will be followed by an outdoor walk to look for signs of these fascinating mammals.

Saturday, October 18 **WILD ABOUT APPLES** **10:00 AM**
More than 50 species of birds and mammals go bananas over apples. Join us on a field study of the history of wild apples as we scour the old Ackerman farm for relict trees.

Saturday, October 18 **HELPING BIRDS EAT LOCAL** **2:00 PM**
Niger seed imported from Nepal, safflower from Utah, sunflower from the Dakotas...wow, bird seed travels farther than the birds do! Join us to learn how to lower your bird-feeding carbon footprint (and expense) using local sources and savvy gardening/landscaping ideas.

<p>Saturday, October 25 HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE Between 1:00 and 3:30 PM Bats and spiders and bugs! A family-oriented exploration of the nature of Halloween. Come see and touch (if you dare) skeletons and skulls; meet live reptiles and amphibians.</p>

Saturday, November 1 **REMEMBERING CCC CAMP S-72** **10:00 AM**
Exactly 75 years ago today, Civilian Conservation Corps Camp S-72 was established on this site to create the Delmar Experimental Game Farm. Join us on an historical tour to study the enduring legacy of this heroic program, which is still a vibrant and integral part of the site's unique sense of place.

Saturday, November 1 **NUTS ABOUT WILDLIFE** **2:00 PM**
Nut trees are important food sources both for wildlife and people. The crop of nuts, or "mast," can vary widely from year to year. Join us on this outdoor foray to monitor the mast crop and investigate the many creatures who are nuts about nuts.

Saturday, November 8 **GALLS** **2:00 PM**
Join us on a walk to learn about the fascinating, weirdly shaped insect houses called galls.

Saturday, November 15 **AMERICA RECYCLES** **2:00 PM**
Why should I recycle? What can I recycle? Learn how you can help the environment.

Wednesday, November 19 **FRIENDS OF FIVE RIVERS ANNUAL MEETING** **7:30 PM**
The Friends of Five Rivers cordially invites members and friends to its annual membership meeting. A talk on "Flora and Fauna of the Northeast" by Times Union nature columnist Bill Danielson will follow a short business meeting.

Saturday, November 22 **REPTILES IN WINTER** **2:00 PM**
Meet some live animals up close as we discuss how reptiles and amphibians handle the cold and stress of winter.

Friday, December 5 **NIGHT SENSES** **7:00 PM**
Learn about how different nocturnal animals cope with the unique challenge of darkness.

Saturday, December 6 **EVERGREENS** **2:00 PM**
Join us on a walk to learn some basic tree identification skill as we search out evergreens.

Saturday, December 13 ***Backyard Animal Series: BIRDS*** **2:00 PM**
This family-friendly program will feature a book reading, a craft project and an outdoor walk to look for birds. A fee of \$3 per craft maker (\$2 Friends of Five Rivers members) will apply. Register by December 11.

Saturday, December 27 **NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING** **2:00 PM**
Animals have but one problem going into winter: how to come out the other side! Happily, critters have come to cope with the season in many different ways. Join us on an outdoor study of winter survival strategies, and see how various animals get by.

Thursday, January 1 **ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD COUNT** **9:00 AM**
Come help us ring out our old annual bird list and ring in the new, as we search high and low for our fine feathered friends. In the 28 years of this annual foray, 69 different species have been found at Five Rivers on New Year's Day. Bring binoculars and dress warmly.

Staff: Nancy Payne, Kitty Rusch, Anita Sanchez, Dee Strnisa, Craig D. Thompson, Lori Whiting, Glenn Humphrey, Sarah Conley (SCA), Willow Eyres (SCA)

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