



Friends of Five Rivers ANNUAL REPORT November 2011

The Friends of Five Rivers is a charitable not-for-profit corporation formed in 1972 by some concerned citizens. Our mission is to support environmental education at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar, New York, which is a part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Annual Numbers

Dues-paying members¹: 715
New members¹: 90
Volunteer hours contributed¹: 3900
Guided School Program²: 310 classes
3959 children

Membership income³: \$15,977
Member donations³: \$ 5,871
Fund-raising net total³: \$ 5,060
Memorial donations³: \$25,000
Grants revenue³: \$31,538

¹ For the period from 11/1/2010 to 10/31/2011

² For the 2010-2011 school year

³ As of 6/30/11 (end of fiscal year)

Milestones

Friends of Five Rivers Staff:

Leda Loux, Administrator (Retired – October 2011),
Joanne Macklin, Administrator (Hired August 2011).

2011 Interns: Amanda Reynolds, Kelly Prendiville,
Jen Hazen, Karen Price, Jenna Dodge, Nancy Payne, Kim
Steinberger, Caitlin Orellana.

In Memoriam

Marcy Lou Riccardo, long time Instructor passed away
on May 23, 2011

Friends of Five Rivers Gift Membership Cards now available!

Seeking a great, unique gift for a friend or loved
one this Holiday season?

The **Friends of Five Rivers Gift Membership Card** enables you to purchase membership on behalf of another, in the form of an attractive note card. Gift Card membership can be purchased for as little as \$5, \$10 or \$15, corresponding to Student/Senior, Individual or Family memberships.

Major Developments

Nov. 2010: Alvin Breisch, retired DEC Biologist from the Endangered Species Unit, spoke about the findings from the Amphibian & Reptile Atlas Project of NYS at the FFR Annual Meeting,.

Jan. 2011: FFR received three year ZBGA grant. The grant funds interns for the Center.

Mar. 2011: FFR introduced its new website at www.friendsoffiverivers.org.

Apr. 2011: The FFR Board adopted a budget of \$113,485 for 2011-12 fiscal year.

May 2011: Volunteer Recognition presentations are made with guest speaker Angie Berchielli, Wildlife Expert, presented slides of the River Otters.

June 2011: Samuel Lewis and James Carroll, graduating seniors at Bethlehem, received the third annual *Wendy Suozzo Memorial Award* for pursuit of environmental studies.

The FFR Board held a retreat for planning and to evaluate needs.

Craig Thompson was given the Beacon Leadership Award by the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley for his work on making the Center's facilities and programs accessible to people with disabilities.

Aug. 2011: Joanne Macklin joined the staff of FFR.

Sept. 2011: Fall Festival attracts one of its largest turnouts ever, with approximately 2400 attendees on a beautiful fall day.

Oct. 2011: FFR sold approximately 12 tons of bird seed at the annual sale.

Leda Loux retired as FFR Administrator after 18 years of serve. Joanne Macklin is named our new Administrator.

Nov. 2011: FFR received one year DEC grant to fund intern positions at the Center.

Five Rivers and You.

With budget and staffing cuts at the Center, your interests in protecting Five Rivers and in providing environmental education needs to heard now more than ever. Your membership ensures the continued health and vitality of the Center and its programs. The Friends continue to energetically represent your interests in supporting the Center. Watch for our special events as we celebrate the Center's and our 40th anniversary in 2012.

Most importantly, please reach out and encourage your friends and neighbors to join the Friends. Be an ambassador for the Friends among your friends!

Selected Highlights

Guided School Program:

Each year dedicated volunteer instructors make it possible for about 4000 children to come to Five Rivers for a variety of environmental education programs. The children range in age from 3-18. Since this programs inception thirty years ago, nearly 200,000 children have gone through this program. The program currently offers five lessons during the Spring, Fall and Winter months. The lessons are taught based on the age of the children in the group. Subjects include pond life, stream life, animal signs, insects and explorer. In the winters there are lessons on winter challenges and snowshoeing. We have about 30 volunteer instructors whom we train to teach the lessons offered in the program. FFR has a growing demand for its bus scholarship program that provides schools with financial assistance to bring their students to the Center.

The Guided School Program is being temporarily housed in the Visitor Center as work on the new Guided School Program Building progresses. The project has an anticipated completion date of June 2012. This project has been made possible by the great generosity of friends Herb and Peggy Repass.

Donations for the Guided School Program and the Bus Scholarship Program are always helpful to keep this vital program available to the youth of our area to foster better understanding and appreciation of the environment.

Friends' Funds At Work

During the past year, Friends of Five Rivers funds have supported, among other initiatives

- Internships
- School Bus Scholarships
- Wendy Suozzo Memorial Scholarship
- Teacher Resource Library
- Trail maintenance and repairs
- Food and care for Center animals

Board of Directors Update

The Friends of Five Rivers Board of Directors consists of sixteen members, serving three-year terms, for a maximum of nine years (yes-- we have term limits!) The following Board changes took place in the last year:

Elected 11/10:

First Term: Lisa Kwong, Anna McMahon and Robert Rosenthal

Second Term: Maureen Brown and Janet Messina


Third Term: Richard Bader

Current Board Members and Staff

Rich Bader, President
Jan Messina, Vice President
Bob Greenman, Treasurer
Phyllis Hathaway, Executive Committee Member
Beth Manning, Executive Committee Member

Paul Benzing	Lisa Kwong
Ron Berger	Anna McMahon
Maureen Brown	Maggie Moehringer
RoseAnne Fogarty	Barbara Muhlfelder
Miles Garfinkel	J. Michael Naughton
Robert Gordon	

Administrator: Joanne Macklin
Guided School Program Coordinator: Nancy Conway



Thank You!

THANKS LEDA

We bid a very fond, see ya later, to **Leda Loux** and wish her well in retirement from her post as Administrator of the Friends. In her 18 years, Leda has worked with 2 Center directors, 6 board presidents, 4 school program coordinators, 8 Center staff members, and innumerable board members, interns, and volunteers. She cites the wonderful friendships that developed with this multitude as the greatest reward for her years of service. Leda's tenure witnessed the completion of Nature Accessible Backyard Trail and the acquisition of the Bishop, Joel, Foresman, and Miller properties. Some of her more memorable experiences involve critters - feral cats, mice, hawks, geese, ducks, owls, snapping turtles, fox, deer and their antics and mishaps. She will remember fondly Craig Thompson's chili and desserts at staff meetings, the ghost at the farm house, birdseed sales, silent auctions, holiday parties, fall festivals, and countless other activities involving her Friends and the Center she loves and served so well. We will miss her but then again we expect to see her around as one of our devoted volunteers. Thank you, Leda, for all of your years of selfless devotion!

For Gifts for your family or friends, think Five Rivers.

The bookstore and gift shop has a variety of affordable educational gifts from children's books, bird feeders, t-shirts, sweatshirts and educational books. Get your gifts and support the activities at Five Rivers.

The shop is open Monday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We are closed on Sundays.