



**FRIENDS OF FIVE RIVERS**

Supporting Environmental Education

56 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054 · Phone: 518-475-0295 · www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org

*Tapping into New York's Sweetness*

November 25, 2024

Dear Friend:

We are so lucky to be New Yorkers sharing in the sweetness this state has to offer by way of our state tree, the sugar maple.



Many of us know of this glorious tree, but perhaps do not know how to safely tap into its potential sweetness. Five Rivers Environmental Education Center offers many experiences for you to learn, such as the Maple Open Houses or the Friends of Five Rivers Maple Sugaring at Home program. School groups also enjoy our Guided School Program lessons of Marvelous Maples and Advanced Maples, teaching students the wonders of the sugar maple.

As one teacher explained, the Advanced Maples program is designed to challenge young scholars to scientifically think about the maple sugaring process from start to finish. "The program providers take care to include a great variety of science and inquiry-based activities that allow the students to fully understand and immerse themselves in the knowledge that is being provided to them," said Jada Schmidt, School Culture Coordinator for Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys.

Nancy Conway, Friends' Director of Education, explains that the lesson's goal is to provide students the opportunity to discover the sappy mystery behind bark. Using common plants, students investigate the structures through which plants produce, transport, and store sap. This new, first-hand knowledge deepens the students' understanding of the life processes occurring within a sugar maple, the value of each drop of its sap, and in turn each drop of their syrup.

However, like any of our amazing hands-on, science-based educational programs, funding is required to keep up with the demand. While Friends of Five Rivers is the non-profit support arm of the Department of Environmental Conservation owned facility, our organization is not funded by the state. We rely on membership, grants, and generous tax-deductible contributions to help us sustain our mission of environmental education to students and families. With environmental education programs, come our highly skilled staff, training of volunteers, and the production of materials. All this takes time, effort, and yes, funds to sustain the level of excellence that we strive for in our programs.

We are currently in the process of upgrading our "sugar shack," also more widely known in the off-season as Goose Lodge, for the upcoming Maple season by adding heat, securing a new evaporator, and modernizing equipment to enhance our programs.

**Will you help us in sustaining our Maple Sugaring programs and improving upon our sugar shack so generations may learn the skills of tapping trees to turn sap into syrup?**

Please consider making a year-end, tax-deductible contribution for these efforts, and help us sweeten our Maple Sugaring programs for all to learn and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Paulette Doudoukjian, *Executive Director*  
Friends of Five Rivers

A non-profit charitable organization 501c3 EIN: 23-7309978

**YES! The Maple Sugaring Experience at Five Rivers is important to preserve.**

- \$750
- \$500
- \$250
- \$125
- \$75
- \$50
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



*Your tax-deductible contribution is so appreciated!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_