

RTPI eNews

July 2026

Museum Hours:

Wed-Sun, 10 am to 4 pm

Mon-Tue, by appointment (call 716-665-2473)



Dear RTPI Friend,

This is my first summer here both at RTPI and in Chautauqua County and wow, is it fun and busy! I hope you all are making the most of this gorgeous season and that a visit to RTPI is in your plans. It's also been lovely to be able to meet more of you during your visits here.

We have a brand new show that just opened on the second floor along with two other gallery transformations. We had a summer intern helping us with some outdoor projects, we are offering weekly yoga classes and more!

We're so grateful to those of you who supported us during Give Big Chautauqua, have joined as members and/or sent in extra support during our Spring Appeal. If you believe in connecting people with nature through art, education, and conservation, I hope you'll become a member soon as we work to carry on the legacy of naturalist and artist Roger Tory Peterson, preserve his collection, and inspire new generations of birders, naturalists and artists! It's supporters like you that make our work possible. At the end of the email you'll see a story about how Roger's life's work continues to impact people today!

Gratefully,

Stacey Otte-Demangate, CEO

Support RTPI Today!



Bird Day Dash

ROGER TORY PETERSON INSTITUTE

10k, 5k, Fun Run
Saturday, August 29, 2026

9:00AM - 311 Curtis St.



**Register Before July 31st for
Early Bird Pricing and a T-Shirt!**




Harter Secrest & Emery LLP
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS



 Jamestown Area
Pathology, LLC



Cochran & Zandi
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INSURANCE | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

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We're celebrating Roger Tory Peterson's birthday in a brand new way this year – with a 10k, 5k and Kids Run, PLUS an after-party at RTPI! *While you're at it, you'll be helping raise funds to support RTPI's mission to offer inspiring nature art exhibitions, preserve the Peterson art and archives and expand our outdoor "living exhibitions"!*

~ Roadrunner 10K Run

~ March of the Penguins 5K Run/Walk

~ Duckling Dash 1 Mile Kids Run

Early Bird Registration (until July 31) \$35 for 10K and 5K, \$5 Duckling Dash

Normal Registration (Aug 1-29) \$45 for 10K and 5K, \$5 Duckling Dash

Start times: 10K – 9 am, 5K and Duckling Dash to follow

After party at RTPI 10:30 am-1:00 pm with DJ, activities, refreshments, and food for purchase. T-Shirts given to those who register by July 31st.

Register NOW

Programs and Events through August



Throughout August, join us on Saturdays for **Yoga** (rain or shine) or **Birdwatching** with experienced guides in our Peterson Preserve! Click [HERE](#) for dates and reservations.

Celebrating America's 250th CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORY EXPO

Aug. 2, 2026, 10 am - 4 pm

Join us and dozens of others representing different historical aspects of Chautauqua County during America's 250th! We also would love some volunteers to table for us. So if you would like to sit for us for 2-3 hours and enjoy the event before or after, please call us at 716-665-2473. You can find Expo details [HERE](#)



Papermaking Class
August 16, 2026 1 pm - 3 pm
Instructor: Deb Eck



Kid Friendly Event!
Booksigning and Bird Drawing
Author & Illustrator: Will Hillenbrand

Members \$20, Nonmembers \$25

You'll learn about the ancient craft of papermaking and then get to try your hand. Our instructor will have pre-gathered some natural materials here at the RTPi Preserve plus bring all the other supplies. Then it's your turn: scoop, pull, and press your own sheets using a traditional mold and deckle. No prior experience is needed — just curiosity and a willingness to get your hands wet. You'll leave with a small collection of handmade sheets, each one a unique record of the plants and place where it was made. Learn more and sign up: [HERE](#)

August 2, 2026 Noon to 1:30 pm

Explore the creative process behind the starred-review book ***Light as a Feather*** at a lively event. Known for his engaging stories and artistic skill, Hillenbrand will share behind-the-scenes stories about how the book came to life. See for yourself how “shape seeing” inspires his art as Hillenbrand leads you through this special way of creating. ***After his talk, join a hands-on workshop to try shape seeing and spark your own creativity.*** **Free Event and All Ages Welcome! Register [HERE](#)**

Staff & Volunteer News

We are sorry to say goodbye to **Liam McSteen** who was with us for just over a year as an ever-friendly and helpful Visitor Experience and Program Associate. At his goodbye party, he shared that when he arrived at RTPi from Ohio, he knew very little about birds but by the time he left he had counted more birds this year than anyone else on the staff team! He is leaving to pursue his passion of working in pottery in Minnesota but will come back and visit with us before long. Thank you, Liam for a job well done and congratulations on pursuing your passion (and happy birdwatching)! See you soon!



Summer Intern, Kian Kischke

This summer we welcomed an intern from Hobart & William Smith Colleges, majoring in environmental studies. Kian has been busy identifying plants in our native plant garden and Preserve, removing some of the invasives, and most importantly, has created handsome signage that will identify several of our native plants and explain why native plants are vital to ecosystems. We appreciate that **Twan Leenders and Carol Markham, of Everwild Land Trust** took time out of their day to walk Kian and staff through the Preserve to point out pesky invasives like Multiflora rose that need to be removed near the trail, as well as examining our native plant garden in front of the building, where



poison ivy and thistle are threatening to take over.

In August, Kian is off for a semester abroad in Australia. Since his family now lives in Chautauqua, we hope we'll get to see him sometime in the spring! **Thank you, Kian!**

And if you like working with plants, we need you! We would like to grow our volunteer pool and get more support for our native plant garden and Preserve. Please email Cat Reitz at creitz@rtpi.org, or reply to this email!



American Germander

Teucrium Canadense



Native to New York, American Germander thrives in moist soils and provides valuable habitat and food for pollinators. Native plants like this help maintain healthy and resilient ecosystems.

- Roger Tory Peterson

Artwork and text © Roger Tory Peterson, *A Field Guide to Wildflowers*, 1968.



2025 Artist in Residence, **Kelly Monaghan**, is back in our galleries, this time with an exhibition after she spent time in the Peterson Archives last year. Her show, *Resilience in Flight* shows many species of bird in flight that are at-risk yet resilient birds in flight across diverse landscapes. Visit soon as her paintings will be flying away after September 20, 2026!

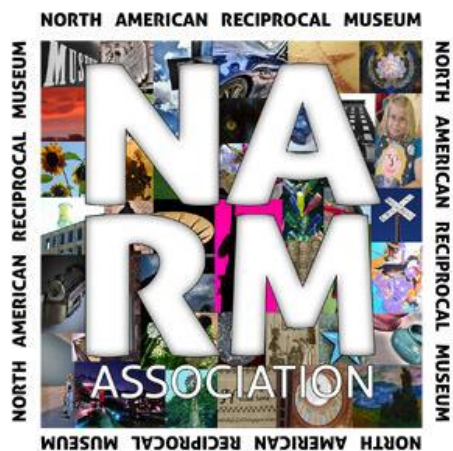
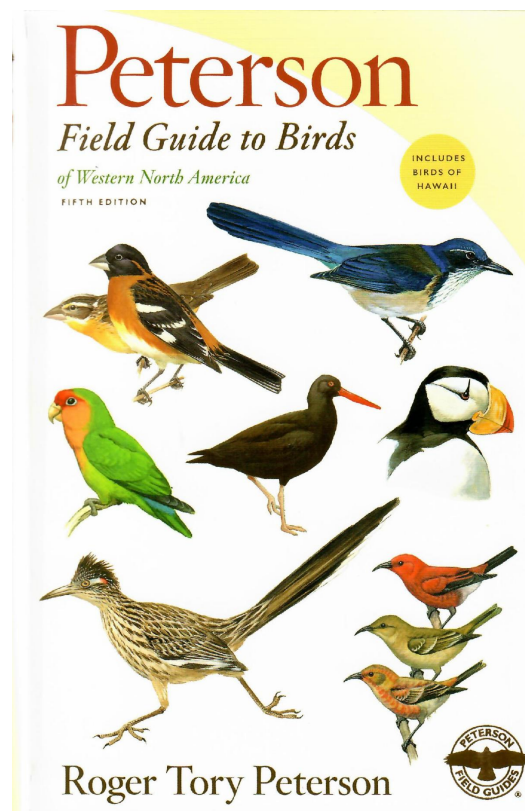


Curator Rachael Kosinski has transformed the Breckenridge Room, aka Fireplace Room, into a cozy and comfortable **study space**. All guests and JCC Students are encouraged to grab a book, bring a laptop or just have a seat and rest in this lovely space. Bookshelves are full of bird-related guides to peruse (sorry, they can't leave the premises), a small collection of bird eggs and sculptures. Come to relax, study and enjoy!

Roger's Field Guides Still Making an Impact

We recently received a note and graduation announcement from Hannah Shimada. "...I recently graduated from Harvard University. I just wanted to give you a shout out for the role that the *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America* has played in my life. This book became my gateway to observing and understanding the bountiful life of birds all around me...I want to celebrate this accomplishment with you for the impact you've had on my college experience, making milestones like this possible."

Hannah, congrats from all of us on your graduation and for sharing the impact that Roger Tory Peterson continues to have, even in this day of phone apps like Merlin and eBird. Let us know if you need a Western-focused field guide given your move to the Seattle area!



Reciprocal Museum Membership!

We recently joined the North American Reciprocal Museum Association for you! If you join at the \$100 Northern Cardinal level or above you will be part of a network of over 1400 museums in the US, Canada and more that gives you free or reduced admission and often other member benefits. You can see the list of participating museums [HERE](#). If you have questions about your membership level or status, just call (716-665-2473 ext. 226) or [email](#) Jeanne Fralick, our development director.

Join or Upgrade TODAY

Plan Your Visit Today

For a full Schedule of exhibitions and programs, please visit our website at RTPI.ORG



**Council on
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Roger Tory Peterson Institute | 311 Curtis Street | Jamestown, NY 14701 US

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