

# AT RTPI ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

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## *'Speaking With One Voice' Focuses On Children's Programs*

By JOHN WHITTAKER

Friday was a typical day for everyone working at the **Jamestown Audubon Nature Center**.

Various groups took walks around the complex, hiked the various trails and played in the discovery room.

This time, however, the pupils stayed in the classroom while the teachers got to have all the fun.

Thanks to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute's "Speaking With One Voice" conference, the teachers had the chance to revisit their youth — if only for three hours.

"A lot of our school groups schedule time inside the building as well as part of their program," said Jennifer Schlick, the center's coordinator of education. "We played in the Discovery Room — that's our 'please touch' room — and we looked at the Roger Tory Peterson art on the second floor."

Mrs. Schlick said the visit focused on programs the Audubon Center offers to area children rather than the natural resources located on its land. So teachers took nature walks, did some pond dipping and talked about the center's pond ecology programs, among other activities.

"We had a walk we call the Discovery Walk and we did a few of those activities," she said. "We stopped out on Big Pond and looked at some of the migrating birds and on the way back we stopped in the woods to highlight a fourth-grade program we have about food chains. We looked at our eagle habitat, which eventually will house an injured bald eagle on our site."

A pair of student-teachers from the State College at Fredonia attended the field trip and said they learned about programs they can use once they have their own classrooms.

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