

# Spring Calendar

Registration required for some events.  
Please call **(315) 482-2479** to register.  
\*Denotes registration requirements.



Scan to see the  
calendar of events  
on our website.

All programs meet at the Nature Center and are free unless otherwise stated.  
Our calendar of events can also be found on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

## RECURRING EVENTS

### FULL MOON HIKES\*

**Saturday, April 12 // 7:15 p.m. Pink Moon: RSVP by 4/10**

**Monday, May 12 // 8:30 p.m. Flower Moon: RSVP by 5/10**

**Wednesday, June 11 // 9:20 p.m. Strawberry Moon: RSVP by 6/9**

Join us on the trails for our monthly full-moon hikes! Please wear sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing for warmth, and bring your own headlamp and/or flashlight. We'll leave the Nature Center promptly to catch a view of the moonrise. Following the hike, we'll host a campfire! Program subject to weather. Limited space, please RSVP no later than 2 days prior to event.

### PACK BASKET WORKSHOPS\*

**Friday, May 23 // 3:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Mini Pack Basket**

**Friday, May 30 // 4:00 p.m. –8:00 p.m. Mini Pack Basket at *Kring Point State Park***

**Friday, June 27 // 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Full-size Pack Basket at *Keewaydin State Park***

Come learn how to set up and weave a traditional pack basket out of reeds! This heritage craft of the Thousand Islands and Adirondack regions can be learned in a day – we provide the materials and instruction for the class. Recommended for ages 12+. Full-size basket workshops are \$100. Mini pack basket workshops are \$50. Payment is due at event (cash or check only at Kring Point or Keewaydin; credit cards accepted at Nature Center). Bring a lunch and water bottle and prepare for a fun day! *Class size is limited, so please RSVP early.*

**APRIL** *Also see recurring events listed above.*

### WILDLIFE HIKE

**Saturday, April 5 // 10:00 a.m.**

Happy Earth Month! Come appreciate the earth with us as we explore three wildlife-related activities. Bring water and dress for the outdoors.



New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation



**Minna Anthony Common Nature Center**  
Wellesley Island State Park | Thousand Islands Region

**MUD CANDLES\*** *in collaboration with the Thousand Islands Arts Center*

**Saturday, April 5 // 10:00 a.m.** Part 1: Vessel painting at the TI Arts Center Pottery Studio

**Saturday, April 12 // 10:00 a.m.** Part 2: Candle making at the MAC Nature Center

The MAC Nature Center and TI Arts Center join forces for this interactive and educational program! We'll first paint ceramic vessels at the TI Arts Center and then fill those vessels with homemade candles at the Nature Center. Participants are asked to attend both classes. Recommended for ages 18+. RSVP required. Free program.

**TURKEY CALLING FOR BEGINNERS** *with outdoorsman Patrick Dove*

**Sunday, April 6 // 10:00 a.m.**

Let's talk turkey! Learn about the skill of turkey calling from outdoorsman Patrick Dove. Watch and listen to turkey-call demonstrations. Have fun learning how to use various turkey calls. There will be a lot of gobbling going on here! This is an awesome experience for all ages and a wonderful outdoor skill to learn. RSVP appreciated.

**NATIONAL GARDENING DAY CELEBRATION**

**Sunday, April 13 // 1:00 p.m.**

April garden chores may be daunting, but getting your garden ready for the season starts now! In the spirit of *National Gardening Day (4/14)*, come learn about seed germination and propagation. We will have native seeds ready to hand out.

**BARN QUILT WORKSHOP: SPRING BLOOMS\***

**Saturday, April 19 // 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**

This barn quilt workshop will help your garden bloom! Today, we'll be creating a 2'x2' "Spring Blooms" barn quilt. Recommended for ages 12+. Please bring a lunch and water bottle. There is a \$40 material fee for this class. Half price (\$20) for returning quilters who are using a board from a previous workshop! Please mention if you're using a board from a previous class so we can get your board prepped. Please RSVP by 4/15.

**NATURAL DYES WORKSHOP\***

**Sunday, April 20 // 1:00 p.m.**

In this hands-on workshop, you'll explore how to use the plants you already know and love in a creative new way! From tie-dyeing to bundle dyeing and even learning how to dye with kitchen scraps, we have you covered with so many inspiring natural dye projects. You will learn how to use natural elements to dye everyday items, including fabric, paper, and more! RSVP required.

**EARTH DAY CLEANUP**

**Tuesday, April 22 // 10:00 a.m.**

Happy Earth Day! Join us as we pay back the planet with a shoreline cleanup. Please, bring water and dress for the occasion. BYO work gloves if you have a pair.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HOLIDAYS: EARTH DAY & ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, April 26 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.** *Guided hikes on the hour, every hour*

Celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day holidays with us today! We'll spend the day focused on Mother Nature, hosting fun, educational activities and offering insightful information on conservation strategies we can all benefit from. Topics include how to be a conscious consumer, regenerative farming, demo on the birding app Merlin, and more! All interested participants will take a native tree/shrub home to make your home space GREEN! We're hosting hikes on the hour, every hour! Bring a lunch and spend the day with us!

**FISHING ROD SELECTION** *with local fishing guide Ethan Forbes*

**Saturday, April 26 // 12:00 p.m.**

Have you ever felt disappointed with different fishing techniques and their low success rates only to find out later that you had the wrong rod power and/or action? In this seminar on rod choice, led by local fishing guide Ethan Forbes, learn about the right tool for the job. Your next fishing trip will thank you!

**DARK SKY** *with astronomer John Rusho*

**Sunday, April 27 // 8:00 p.m.**

Join us as we look deep into the night sky and celebrate Dark Sky Week! Astronomer John Rusho will help us to see into the sky and pick out interesting celestial bodies and phenomena. Please bring a lawn chair and/or a blanket and dress for the weather. Please RSVP; event subject to clear skies.

**MAY** *Also see recurring events listed above.*

**I LOVE MY PARK DAY\***

**Saturday, May 3 // 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

Show your Nature Center some love! Volunteer to spruce up the Nature Center grounds for spring and another busy summer season. This is the day when we get out our mop buckets, sponges, garden trowels, rakes, and clippers, and work to beautify the Nature Center. RSVP requested. To preregister, visit [ptny.org/ilovemypark](http://ptny.org/ilovemypark) or call the Nature Center.

**SPRING FOREST FLOOR**

**Sunday, May 4 // 10:00 a.m.**

Come explore the forest floor with us as we take a first-hand look at the organisms living there! Great for children of all ages. Dress for a hike and bring water.

**NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDEN DAY**

**Friday, May 9 // 1:00 p.m.**

National Public Garden Day's goal is to raise community awareness about public gardens' educational and psychological benefits. Come check out the Nature Center's native gardens and learn about greenspace preservation, plant conservation, water usage, and home gardening!

**YOGA IN NATURE\*** *with yoga instructor Lori Arnot*

**Saturday, May 10 // 10:00 a.m.**

Join professional yoga instructor Lori Arnot, from Clayton's River Wellness Center, for a free yoga class! Refresh with yoga on our scenic Eel Bay-facing lawn, weather permitting, or inside our classroom if we can't be outside. BYO yoga mat. Please RSVP by calling the Nature Center.

**MOTHER'S DAY HIKE + SEED GIVEAWAY**

**Sunday, May 11 // 1:00 p.m.**

Bringing your mom a bouquet of flowers on Mother's Day is certainly a sweet gesture, but why not take it a step further? Bring her straight to the source! Mother's Day is the time of the year when wildflowers are in bloom. That makes it a great time to thank the woman who raised you by taking her on a hike to show her the beautiful array of wildflowers that Wellesley Island has to offer. Soak up the scenery of Mother Nature! After the hike, we'll do a native seed giveaway.

**FOOD-PRODUCING TREES** *with organic farmer Dani Baker*

**Friday, May 16 // 6:00 p.m.**

In celebration of National Love a Tree Day, Dani Baker will present a talk on the numerous fruit, nut, and berry trees she is growing on Wellesley Island – and that you may be able to grow on

your property as well! Dani Baker is a Wellesley Island resident, co-owner of Cross Island Farms, creator of the Enhanced Edible Forest, and author of *The Home-Scale Forest Garden: How to Plan, Plant, and Tend a Resilient Edible Landscape*.

### **NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP DAY**

**Saturday, May 17 // 10:00 a.m.**

Time to take action! Help us by participating in National River Cleanup Day. We're hiking out to clean up South Bay! Please wear hiking shoes and bring gloves, a water bottle, and a snack.

### **POND STUDY: BUGS DON'T BUG ME!**

**Sunday, May 18 // 1:00 p.m.**

Come get your hands dirty as we explore what's living in our pond. Dress to get muddy!

### **PLANT SOMETHING DAY**

**Monday, May 19 // 1:00 p.m.**

Take a few minutes to plant something today! It could be a flower, a tree, or an indoor plant. Come to the Potting Shed to learn about selecting plants, watering, and overall care of our little green friends. We'll also be handing out native seeds for you to propagate in your garden.

### **SUMMER KICKOFF: FIELD GAMES**

**Saturday, May 24 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (drop-in)**

Come up to our field for some awesome summer games! Weather permitting, we'll offer a variety of outdoor games that will be sure to have you primed for summer! Suitable for all ages.

### **CONNECTING WITH NATIVE HERITAGE** *with local archeologist Ken Knapp*

**Saturday, May 24 // 1:00 p.m.**

The Region's native heritage is present everywhere we look today, but it's a hidden and forever-lost heritage in many ways. We know some of this heritage today and, to a certain degree, it can still be understood and seen through the eyes of our Region's New York State Parks. Nearly every Regional Park location is related to a focused, Native-used, natural resource like Eel Bay – or has the best access to one, or simply is a beautiful place that all humans are intuitively attracted to. Some are also related to Pathways or Native travel routes, or a variety of other Native activities. Come join us to learn about the fascinating hidden heritage of the Thousand Islands.

### **POND STUDY: MACRO + MICROINVERTEBRATES**

**Sunday, May 25 // 1:00 p.m.**

Are you interested in our local wetland inhabitants? Are you looking for a deeper understanding on entomology and herpetology in our area? Join us for our aquatic macro/microinvertebrate study!

### **LEARN ABOUT COMPOSTING**

**Thursday, May 29 // 1:00 p.m.**

Composting is a process of turning organic waste into nutrient-rich soil that can be used as fertilizer for plants. This special day is a chance for everyone to dive into the world of composting and to learn about the many benefits it has for the environment and individuals. Learn about this age-old practice and its necessity for a more sustainable future!

### **MINDFUL BIRDING**

**Saturday, May 31 // 9:00 a.m.**

Join us to deepen your connection to the natural world and to yourself. Experience the meditative quality of birdwatching through focused awareness, calm observation, and silent time outdoors. Afterward, we'll gather as a community to share our bird stories and observations from the field.

## **MEDITATION HIKE** *with meditation teacher Lori Arnot*

**Saturday, May 31 // 10:00 a.m.**

Join Lori Arnot, from River Wellness Center in Clayton, for a peaceful hike on our trails. Connect with nature, find calm, and focus on the sights, sounds, and rhythms of the natural world. This mindful hike offers a chance to recharge and find your inner peace in the beauty of nature.

**JUNE** *Also see recurring events listed above.*

## **CHILDREN'S STORY TIME + ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday, June 1 // 1:00 p.m.**

In celebration of International Children's Day, join us for a three-part story time hosted by our Environmental Educators. Related activities to follow! Recommended for ages 3–8.

## **NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK + POTTING SHED ACTIVITIES**

**Monday, June 2–Friday, June 6 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**

Gardening is a wholesome avocation that encourages appreciation for nature and concern for the preservation and enhancement of our environment. It provides a special source of fulfillment when patience, foresight, and collaboration with soil and sunlight are finally repaid with lovely flowers and luscious harvests. Join us this week as we host Potting Shed hours, work in our garden, and give away native seeds!

## **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: LEAVE NO TRACE WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, June 7 // 1:00 p.m.**

Join us to celebrate our beautiful trails! We'll learn about the principles of "Leave No Trace" (LNT) in the classroom and then take our new knowledge trailside to experience how to enjoy the outdoors with minimum human impact.

## **EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANTS: SPRING EDITION**

**Sunday, June 8 // 1:00 p.m.**

June marks a vibrant transition in the local food scene as a variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables reach their peak. With longer days and warmer weather, the soil yields an abundance of fresh produce. Join us as we explore humans' relationship with the land, the food it produces, and how you can employ tools and information to live a healthier, more sustainable, self-sufficient lifestyle.

## **NATURAL HISTORY OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS**

**Saturday, June 14 // 10:00 a.m.**

Let's learn about the River! Join us for an interactive presentation and hike. We'll learn about how the islands formed and where the water flows on our short walk.

## **KITE FLYING FUN WITH DAD**

**Sunday, June 15 // 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (drop-in)**

On this day, we'll not only recognize Global Wind Day, but also take advantage of some time to spend celebrating dads! What better way than kite flying? We'll have a few kites on hand, but best to bring your own. Drop in and show us your kite-flying skills!

## **JUNETEENTH**

**Thursday, June 19 // 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for a look at the history of Juneteenth and the NY State Parks and Historic Sites that were significant in the abolition of slavery. We'll explore some of the interesting music, songs, and artwork that came from the period of slavery. Did you know quilts played a role in the Underground Railroad? We'll create a colorful barn quilt to take home!

## **SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION\***

**Friday, June 20 // 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.**

Join us for a special celebration of the summer solstice! We'll spend the evening with music, refreshments, natural mandalas, flower crowns, and more! Summer never started so good! RSVP appreciated by 6/15.

## **POLLINATOR WEEK + POTTING SHED ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday, June 21 and Sunday, June 22 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**

Celebrate Pollinator Week 2025 at the Nature Center as we focus on the vital role that pollinators play in our ecosystems, economies, and agriculture. Visit us this weekend at the Potting Shed as we explore native plants pollinators love, the difference between native bees and non-native bees, and how your garden can help cultivate a world where both nature and humanity thrive in harmony.

## **“JUST TO BEE AWARE” BEE DEMO** *with beekeeper Hans Junga*

**Saturday, June 21 // 1:00 p.m.**

Join beekeeper Hans Junga to learn about beehives, beekeeping, and what to BEE aware of when harvesting honey. There will BEE an opportunity to see hives up close and other beekeeping items. This is a favorite! You will certainly want to BEE at this program!

## **NATURE PLAY**

**Sunday, June 22 // 1:00 p.m.**

Bring your imaginations! Come make fairy houses with us using all natural materials. Recommended for ages 5+. Dress to be outdoors.

## **UPCYCLING CRAFT\***

**Tuesday, June 24 // 1:00 p.m.**

In celebration of National Upcycling Day, join us as we rescue supplies from going to a landfill with our upcycling craft! Learn to make a flower press, windchime, and bird feeder from recycled materials. RSVP by 6/20. Recommended for ages 5+.

## **WELLESLEY ISLAND CLIFF HIKE**

**Saturday, June 28 // 10:00 a.m.**

Are you ready to hike? Join us for a scenic hike through Eel Bay and South Bay. This will be a rocky 3.5-mile hike. If you're up for the challenge, be sure to wear your hiking boots! Bring water and hiking poles if you are accustomed to extra support. Recommended for ages 13+.

## **DUGOUT CANOE + PRIMITIVE BUSHCRAFT SHOWCASE** *with bushcrafter Jack Downing*

**Sunday, June 29 // 1:00 p.m.**

Join us as we travel back in time with primitive bushcrafter Jack Downing. Back to a time when if you needed something to survive you had to grow, gather, catch, or create it yourself. Experience the primitive past as you listen to Jack Downing describe how to tan an animal hide, carve your own bow, canoe paddle... even how to make your own dugout canoe! This is Jack's way of life – in today's modern world, he creates with only primitive tools.



Scan to see the  
calendar of events  
on our website:  
[macnaturecenter.com/calendar](http://macnaturecenter.com/calendar)

*We'll see you out there*