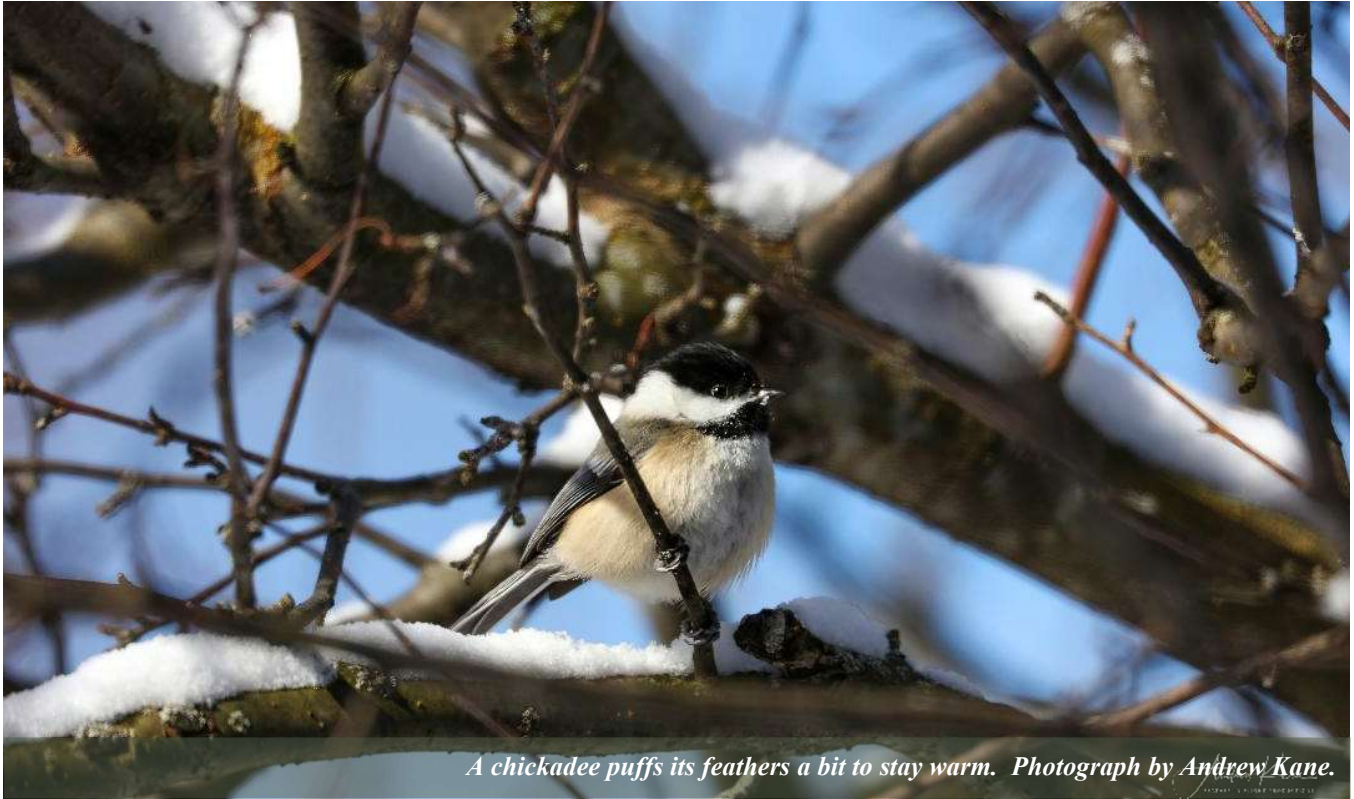


NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025 Issue



A chickadee puffs its feathers a bit to stay warm. Photograph by Andrew Kane.

We enjoyed a lovely Autumn along the River this year. The colors were gorgeous and the temperatures were such a gift. It appears to be one of the warmest I have experienced. The River was very active with boaters through late October. Many enjoyed some late-season gardening and preparations for the next growing season as well. Winter is beginning to whisper to us. The early sunsets and very brisk temperatures are certainly upon us. Nature has begun its preparation for its long winter's nap in our area.

Each quarter we share an article from the collections of Minna Anthony Common. This current article shares her thoughts and observations about chickadees and how to make suet feeders for them. The Nature Center has several bird stations that can be observed from inside the building. Minna also discusses how tameable and curious chickadees are. A popular Winter program at the Center includes feeding

birds from seed atop your cap! In addition, many small animals scurry about and show us clues about their lives during the winter season. Footprints and tracks from squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks are common to see. Keep an eye out for prints in the snow the next time you visit. Winter is a fabulous time to hike our trails.

The Nature Center has been busy throughout the past few months with creative activities each weekend and lots of visitors enjoying the trails. We will continue to host many wonderful events throughout the winter season. We hope you will join us.

I wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season.

Robin Colello-Poplaski
Board President
Friends of the Nature Center

The Minna Anthony Common Series

Chickadees Are Friendly Birds

Snow and chickadees – how closely they
are allied in our thoughts

by **Minna Anthony Common**

November 13, 1933

*Reprinted with permission from the
Watertown Daily Times.*

This autumn has been one of many delightful sunny days growing gradually shorter and colder as the season has advanced. Then came a snow flurry and with it the chickadees. For several weeks now small companies of these happy-go-lucky birds have been rollicking about the brush and woods in the open country not far from the city. Food has been plentiful. Perfectly good insects could still be found here and there by sharp eyes, but a hard frost put an end to such things and so the chickadees have flocked into the city. Now, if they find a hospitable welcome and an abundance of food here, they will make this their abiding place for the winter.

In summer a chickadee's natural food is made up of small insects, in winter larva and insect eggs which lie dormant in bark crevices. He prefers the kinds of insects which infest tree branches so the more often he can be induced to inspect our apple and plum trees, the greater the chance for a good clean crop next year. The food which most nearly approaches the chickadee's natural diet is beef suet and we can purchase a winter's supply for dime.

There are several ways to prepare the suet for the birds. The simplest is to select a chunk with skin on one side, wrap it round about tightly in all directions with string, and tie it securely to a tree branch. If it is placed on the underside of the limb the English sparrows cannot get to it easily, while position is immaterial to a chickadee. He seems to prefer to work head downwards.

Another way is to crumble the suet all up and place it in a wire mesh bag which is hung beside a tree trunk.

Yet another method is to melt the suet, mix in some broken nutmeats and sunflower seed and while it is still warm, smear the mass on a rough board and then to fasten it onto a tree somewhere.

Suet placed in a swinging container is not quite so satisfactory. Of course, it can be crumbled and added to the other bill-of-fare of any feeding station. Then it becomes the common property of all the birds: sparrow, starlings, doves, etc., and does not seem so truly the chickadees' own.

Chickadees are trim little birds all gray and black and white. The black they wear on the head like a cap and on the breast like a bib. They are most active and dance energetically about the branches from morning until night. As they flit about, they sing chattily in a deep tenor voice, "chick-a-dee-dee" or whistle two full, clear notes, "fee-bee." Once learned it is surprising how often this sound will be heard along the city streets.

Birds, there can be no doubt, talk to each other. One calls in one part of the woods and the answer comes back from another quarter. Often the birds approach each other as they call. Quite as readily they respond to a clever imitation call. Many bird whistles are too highly keyed for the human powers, but the whistle of the chickadee is easy to imitate. The bird always responds, coming closer and closer, with a curiosity of which he is not at all ashamed. He may even alight on the outstretched hand for a better inspection. If the hand contains a few cracked nut meats he may sample them. No wild creature, not even a chipmunk or a squirrel is more readily tamed than a chickadee. Chickadees will get so that, at a familiar call, they will come fluttering down from the tree tops all about and pick food from any hand they see outspread. The prick of their tiny feet leaves a lasting impression.

Their cheerful songs as they come each morning for their breakfast will brighten the whole day. Feeding them is not charity either, for they pay well for what they receive. After each meal, the nearby fruit trees get a quick inspection and many an insect egg with its potentialities for evil gets devoured. Chickadees are good citizens – useful, cheerful, industrious, helpful, worthy of their hire.

■

From the Director

Dear Nature Center Community,

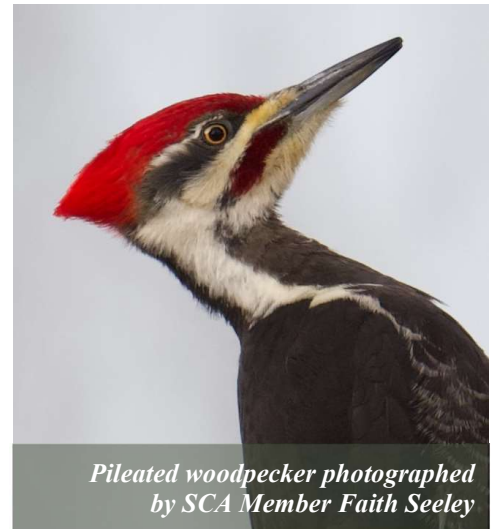
As the leaves descend and the weather cools, we realize the season of thanksgiving is upon us. We truly have plenty to be grateful for here at the Nature Center. We have had a magical, light-filled autumn filled with creative programming, nature exploration, and community togetherness. Our collaboration with the Friends of the Nature Center resulted in the successful return of Autumn Festival! This annual event celebrated its forty-fourth run this year! Many thanks to the volunteers that helped run the event, new and faithful vendors, as well as staff and board members who made the event a day of classic fall fun. Our volunteers and board members make this event possible – our sincere gratitude to each and every one. A special thank you to Joe Leskoske, Autumn Festival Event Chair, who worked diligently to make this event better than ever, and to Darlene Sourwine, our Community Outreach Coordinator, who tirelessly went out of her way to bring new ideas to fruition and to muster a team of amazing volunteers.

This November we also say “farewell” to our AmeriCorps/SCA members. Walt Gibson, Elijah Schoof, and Faith Seeley have been tremendous assets to the Nature Center team. They have served with excellence as Environmental Education Stewards and have enriched the Nature Center with their many contributions to their respective focus areas. Wishing Walt and Faith the very best for their next adventures! I’m also very happy to welcome back Elijah next year as a returnee! We know they will thrive in all their future endeavors. Please, read their reflection pieces on page 3.

As 2024 and our Centennial Celebration wraps up, the Nature Center staff and I would like to wish you all a merry winter and all the best for 2025! Thank you for continuing to support the Nature Center by attending our programs and enjoying our trails. You’ll find our new winter calendar on pages 8-12. We look forward to serving you in 2025.

Warmly,

Gabriela Padewska
Nature Center Director



*Pileated woodpecker photographed
by SCA Member Faith Seeley*

For Your Consideration

Download the NY State Parks Explorer App!

From the oceanfront shores of Long Island to the mighty Niagara Falls, more than 250 parks, historic sites, trails, golf courses, boat launches, and campgrounds are just a few taps away. With the New York State Parks Explorer App, you can plan getaways, explore favorite regions, and discover new adventures and cultural gems with easy access to enhanced trail mapping, must-sees, things to know before you go, and regularly updated information including special events and alerts.



Student Conservation Association (SCA) Member Reflections



Our 2024 AmeriCorps/SCA members gearing up for the Total Solar Eclipse: Walt (left), Elijah, and Faith

Walt Gibson: My name is Walt and this year I served as the Gardening and Land Stewardship SCA member. This program has given me the wonderful opportunity to explore and provide programming to the Thousand Islands Region. There have been many ups and downs as with any year, but I truly have fallen in love with the St. Lawrence watershed. At the Nature Center my duties have revolved around maintaining trails, leading field trips (something I had never done before and found extremely rewarding!), providing programming on birds, and holding our Voyageur Canoe steady throughout the summer. I will continue to serve with the SCA next year, as a trail steward in the Finger Lakes.

Elijah Schoof: Gratefulness is a word I've often found myself using to describe my current position in life. As the Digital Media + Design SCA member, I'm grateful to the Nature Center, the community for appreciating me, and the SCA for supporting me and the work I do. It feels so nice to work for an organization you are proud to represent. Truly, I have never felt as validated in my life as I do here at the MAC Nature Center. I do awesome work and contribute to society in a fashion I was previously ignorant of. Again, the support of my coworkers and this organization has allowed me to excel in this position. Thank you. I look forward to returning to the island next year as MACNC's Gardening and Land Stewardship SCA member!

Faith Seeley: Hello all! I'm Faith and I had the pleasure of being a SCA environmental educator over the past 10 months here at MACNC. My focus area during my term was animal care, meaning that I got the chance to work with all our wonderful animal ambassadors and Bree, our excellent full-time animal carer. I've learned so much and had many fantastic experiences; my favorite was being part of a beaver dam removal within the park. I can't thank you all enough for welcoming and supporting me throughout my time here; I'll be taking a little bit of MACNC magic with me as I pursue a career as an environmental educator and animal carer. Be seeing you!



MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

100 YEARS New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

11TH Annual

Holiday Bonanza!

Come enjoy live music, local craft vendors, raffles, food, hot beverages, holiday craft-making for both children and adults, and more! Bring your family and friends to have fun at this festive community event. Please call the MAC Nature Center at (315) 482-2479 with questions.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14TH, 10-3PM

Scenes from the 44th Autumn Festival



Goddess of the Autumn Festival



Field of Scarecrow Contest Entries



Staff and Volunteers sporting antlers



Getting the pumpkins ready



Rick West and Friend

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & DONORS

AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2024

WELLESLEY ISLAND
DAK Design and Construction
Wellesley Island Building Supply
Joe & Kathy Leskoske

ALEXANDRIA BAY
Big M
FX Caprara
North Country Seed and Feed
Price Chopper

CLAYTON
Clipper Inn

WATERTOWN
Sydenstricker Nobbe—John Deere
Kohl's
Sam's Club
Target

HAMMOND
Stout Ready Mix

LATHAM
Merritt Basile—Goldman Sachs

Too early to think about Spring? An update on the Pollinator House

A "Bee Hotel" has been installed near the pollinator house. It is meant to be a home for solitary pollinator bees. Hollow reeds and holes drilled in wood mimic the real-life structures that solitary bees nest in.



Bee Hotel by the Pollinator House, which is now 'open air' to let them come and go



Close-up of holes in Bee Hotel



Adrian & Jeanna Kratzert visit



Summer Flowers
Photo Courtesy of Darlene Sourwine



Bee Hotel was built by Robert Birchmeyer, Jr. (2/11/56 – 7/17/23) and donated to the Nature Center in his honor.

Winter 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*

Sunday, December 15 // 3:45 p.m. Cold Moon: RSVP by 12/13

Sunday, January 12 // 2:45 p.m. Wolf Moon: RSVP by 1/10

Wednesday, February 12 // 5:30 p.m. Snow Moon: RSVP by 2/10

Thursday, March 13 // 6:30 p.m. Worm Moon: RSVP by 3/11

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 with plenty of time in hopes of catching a view of the moonrise. Following the hike, we'll host a campfire and snacks! Program subject to weather. Limited space, please RSVP no later than two days prior to event.

PACK BASKET WORKSHOPS*

Sunday, December 8 // 9:00 a.m. (approx. duration 8 hours) Full-size Pack Basket

Saturday, January 11 // 9:00 a.m. (approx. duration 8 hours) Full-size Pack Basket

Sunday, February 16 // 10:00 a.m. (approx. duration 5 hours) Mini Pack Basket

Saturday, March 15 // 9:00 a.m. (approx. duration 8 hours) Full-size Pack Basket

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 10 and up. Full-size basket workshops are \$100. Mini pack basket workshops are \$50. Payment is due at event. Bring a lunch and water bottle and prepare for a fun day! *Class size is limited, so please RSVP early.*

NATURE FUN DAY (drop-ins welcome)

Saturday, January 4 // 10:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Saturday, February 1 // 10:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. *A Ballerina's Tale*

Saturday, March 1 // 10:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. *Hidden Figures*

10:30 a.m. HIKE // 12:00 p.m. CRAFT // 1:00 p.m. NATURE MOVIE

Bring the family to the Nature Center and enjoy a fun-filled day! We'll be taking a hike in nature, having lunch, doing a craft, and watching a great nature movie for all ages. Just bring yourself (and maybe a friend), a lunch and water bottle, and layers for the outdoors. We'll supply the rest! Please RSVP so we have enough popcorn!

DECEMBER *Also see recurring events listed above.*

ORNAMENT-MAKING WORKSHOP*

Saturday, December 7 // 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (drop-in)

In this holiday workshop, you'll be able to create three different handcrafted ornaments. Your holiday tree or mantle will sparkle with the beauty of nature! Come one, come all, and get your merry going! Material fee \$5. RSVP by 12/4.

HOLIDAY BONANZA *with the Friends of the Nature Center*

Saturday, December 14 // 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Join us for some holiday cheer at the 11th annual Holiday Bonanza! Come enjoy live music, local craft vendors, raffles, food, hot beverages, holiday craft-making for both children and adults, and more! Bring your family and friends to have fun at this festive community event. It's a great way to enjoy the holiday season!

WINTER SOLSTICE x LUMINARY HIKE

Saturday, December 21 // 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Follow the lighted path to celebrate the coming season of light! Come experience half-mile North Field Loop lit with trailside luminaries on this festive, self-guided night hike. We'll hike our way to a bonfire where we'll celebrate with mulled cider and music! (All of you musicians, please bring your instrument!) Please dress for weather and bring a flashlight/headlamp. Snowshoes will be provided (weather permitting). RSVP by 12/19.

TURTLE TALK

Thursday, December 26 // 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a turtle encounter! We'll introduce you to some of our favorite ambassadors. Don't miss this chance to learn something new about these ancient reptiles! Bring your questions and curiosity.

FUR TALK

Friday, December 27 // 1:00 p.m.

Furbearers are found in a wide range of habitats, including fields, forests, and wetlands in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada. Typical furbearers include coyote, beaver, raccoon, gray fox, red fox, opossum, river otter, mink, muskrat, and weasel. Join us to learn about different furbearers in New York State and get a chance to feel their furs.

STRING ART*

Sunday, December 29 // 11:00 a.m.

We're crafting again! Join us this morning for a string art class. These are pieces of art you make by wrapping or sewing colored thread, using a pattern, to make a lovely design. We'll have a few patterns to choose from. This craft is recommended for ages 8+. Seating is limited, please RSVP by 12/26.

YEAR-END BONFIRE

Tuesday, December 31 // 5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Join us at our bonfire where we'll discard those burdens that have weighed us down in 2024 and embrace the freshness and positivity of 2025! The Nature Center will provide mulled cider and cocoa throughout the duration of this drop-in celebration! If you have a musical instrument and/or a singing voice, please bring them! Please dress for weather and bring a flashlight or headlamp. RSVP by 12/29.

JANUARY *Also see recurring events listed above.*

FIRST DAY HIKE

Wednesday, January 1 // 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. *Guided Hikes at 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.*

Kick off the New Year in nature! Join us for this annual event held across New York State. Hikes are self-guided all day (choose your own adventure on over 9 miles of nature trails) or join us on one of our easy, guided hikes at 9:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Please dress for the weather. Snowshoes will be provided if necessary. Stop in the Nature Center for free giveaways!

NATIONAL BIRD DAY: LEARN TO BIRDWATCH

Sunday, January 5 // 10:00 a.m.

Come celebrate National Bird Day at the Nature Center! Have you ever wanted to learn to birdwatch using a field guide and binoculars? We'll guide you on how to identify birds using these tools, then we'll hit the trails to practice! Binoculars and field guides will be provided. All ages welcome.

FULL MOON HIKE*

Sunday, January 12 // 2:45 p.m. *Wolf Moon: RSVP by 1/10*

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 with plenty of time in hopes of catching a view of the moonrise. Following the hike, we'll host a campfire and snacks! Program subject to weather. Limited space, please RSVP no later than two days prior to event.

TRACK IT!

Saturday, January 18 // 1:00 p.m.

Come join us to learn the tracks of our local animals! We will have an activity and a craft. Dress for the weather; we will go for a hike to look for tracks!

NATURE LOVES INCLUSION

Sunday, January 19 // 11:00 a.m.

Join us on a walk-and-talk about diversity in nature. We'll go out on our nature trails to discuss and discover diversity in harmony. Dress for the weather; snowshoes will be provided if needed.

5TH ANNUAL ICE FISHING CLINIC *at Eel Bay boat launch in Wellesley Island State Park*

Saturday, January 25 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (drop-in)

Join the Nature Center and outdoorsman Patrick Dove at our annual ice fishing clinic. Learn about ice augers, setting and baiting tip-ups, ice conditions, and more! Extra tip-ups will be set for those who'd like to try their luck at landing the "big one!" Grilled hotdog lunch provided. Meet at Eel Bay boat launch, near H Area Campground. No restrooms on-site, the Nature Center is a 2-minute drive away. Fishing license required for ages 16 and up (available at Thousand Islands Bait Store). Dress warmly, bring ice cleats, face-coverings, and extra gloves for the kids!

BARN QUILT WORKSHOP: SNOWFLAKE

Sunday, January 26 // 9:00 a.m. (approx. duration 6 hours)

This barn workshop will help you embrace winter! We'll be creating a larger 2'x2' "Snowflake" barn quilt that will make your winter porch sparkle with the season. Recommended for ages 12+. RSVP by 1/20. \$40 fee. Please bring a lunch and water bottle.

FEBRUARY *Also see recurring events listed above.*

GROUNDHOG DAY

Sunday, February 2 // 1:00 p.m.

Join the Nature Center for a movie and discussion. Learn about why we celebrate this holiday and stay to watch the cinematic classic *Groundhog Day*. All ages welcome.

EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANTS: WINTER EDITION

Saturday, February 8 // 1:00 p.m.

Winter marks the end of the growing season in the Northern Hemisphere, but that doesn't mean you cannot still find fresh produce on the market. Seasonal eating in February centers around robust root vegetables and hearty greens that can withstand the colder weather. Join us as we explore humans' relationship with our land, and the food it produces. We will focus this talk on the limited yet nutritious selection of seasonal produce in New York.

ANIMAL VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT

Sunday, February 9 // 1:00 p.m.

Do not forget your pets on Valentine's Day! Come on by and make cards for your pets, the animals at the Nature Center, or any other critters in your life! All materials provided.

DOG SLED DEMONSTRATION with RIVER FEVER MUSHING *at H-Area Campground in Wellesley Island State Park*

Saturday, February 15 // 10:00 a.m.

Ever wonder what it takes to run a dog sled team? Come meet local dog sled team River Fever Mushing! Watch the dogs in action with a live mushing demonstration outdoors (weather permitting) followed by a meet-and-greet. Please leave your dogs at home for this program to avoid any potentially distracting socialization with the team dogs. Join us at the H-Area Campground on Nature Center Road in Wellesley Island State Park. No restrooms on-site, the Nature Center is a 2-minute drive away. This is an outdoor event so dress warmly.

KIDS' WEEK: MAMMALIAN MAYHEM

Thursday, February 20 // 2:00 p.m.

Discover clues and become nature detectives! Learn about what mammals live on Wellesley Island and how they hunt, adapt, and survive in our local environment. This fun indoor activity is great for elementary-aged children and up.

KIDS' WEEK: SNOW FAIRY HOUSES

Friday, February 21 // 2:00 p.m.

Do you believe in fairies? Come join us for a reading of *Fairy Houses* by Tracy Kane followed by a short hike! Dress for the weather and be ready for building fairy houses in the cold.

BIRD FEST

Saturday, February 22 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (drop-in)

In recognition of Bird Feeding Month, fly with us into all things birds! We'll have a number of crafts, educational opportunities, and birding time out on the trail to learn about and enjoy the variety of birds in our area. Please dress for weather. Snowshoes will be provided if needed.

TERRIFIC TURTLES

Sunday, February 23 // 1:00 p.m.

Did you know a group of turtles is called a bale? Come by and learn more fun facts, enjoy a craft, and watch a turtle race.

MARCH *Also see recurring events listed above.*

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

Sunday, March 2 // 1:00 p.m.

Join us in celebrating World Wildlife Day! We will have a craft, activity, and show! Please dress for the weather; we will be going on a short hike.

WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Saturday, March 8 // 10:00 a.m.

Join us in celebrating International Women's Day! We will be celebrating with make-and-take crafts and games like Jeopardy. Learn about influential women in science, including our very own Minna Anthony Common.

JEOPARDY: WINTER IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

Sunday, March 9 // 1:00 p.m.

Answer: A hidden gem where you experience nature and beauty, where people love to be year-round! Question: "What is the MAC Nature Center?" Join us for a fun game of winter-themed Jeopardy, test your knowledge on various winter happenings from animals to the history of snowshoes, cross-country skis, North Country lore, and more!

PRIMITIVE SKILLS: BOW & ARROW MAKING *with bushcrafter Jack Downing*

Sunday, March 16 // 1:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered how some of the first bows and arrows were made? Join woodsman and bushcraft enthusiast Jack Downing as he demonstrates the primitive skill of carving a bow and arrow. This lost art was once a survival skill and way of life for Indigenous people. You won't want to miss this!

SUGARING DURING THE THAW *with local sugarmaker David Neuroth*

Saturday, March 22 // 10:00 a.m.

Journey through the "sugar bush" with a hands-on presentation by sugarmaker David Neuroth to discover how sap transforms into syrup. We'll top this event off with some sweet maple syrup!

WORLD PLANTING DAY

Sunday, March 23 // 1:00 p.m.

Happy World Planting Day! Express your appreciation for these green oxygen machines by learning about the myriad benefits they provide. Furthermore, this day occurs in spring, which is prime tree-and-plant-growing season! We'll be giving away native plant seeds to take home so you can join the 66% of U.S. households who already have at least one houseplant!

EARTH HOUR

Saturday, March 29 // 10:00 a.m.

Visit the Nature Center to get ready for Earth Hour! Learn about the Earth Hour worldwide movement, sustainability, "going green," and how to participate and join the cause.

PRIMITIVE SKILLS: SUGARING OF MAPLE SAP *with bushcrafter Jack Downing*

Sunday, March 30 // 1:00 p.m.

Go back in time to experience a way of life reliant on nature and what it could provide. Join woodsman and bushcrafter Jack Downing in preparing maple syrup the primitive way – from tapping a tree, harvesting the sap, then sugaring. The sugaring process begins over a campfire where Jack will boil the sap in a cast-iron cauldron. Dress warm for an outdoor experience you won't want to miss!

THANK YOU to the following 12 *Friends* for joining or renewing their commitment recently

Stephen & Diane Heath	Wellesley Island, NY	Rozalia Berlin	Queens Village, NY
Frank & Victoria Martino	Brooklyn, NY	Gregory & Cynthia McLean	Clinton, NY
Arthur Mack & Mary Jo Champion	Clayton, NY	Robert & Kathleen Hanna	Washington, DC
Kerry Roberge	Watertown, NY	Royal & Ann Garlock	Alexandria Bay, NY
Kylie Gorgen	Tonawanda, NY	Aly Fernaays	Rochester, NY
Darrell & Judy Rippeteau	Washington, DC	Holly Dunn & Family	Fairfax Station, VA



Autumn View Along the Eel Bay Trail

Many Ways to Support the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center

Here are some options:



- Sign up to be a Nature Center Volunteer; you can assist with programs, gardening, work in the gift shop, and many other activities
- Join or renew your membership in the *Friends of the Nature Center*
- Become a Board Member of the *Friends of the Nature Center*

Please contact the Nature Center if you are interested in any of these opportunities!



MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center support environmental education programming that fosters conservation of local ecosystems, encourages outdoor recreation, and inspires our visitors to develop an increased respect for the natural world.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation works in partnership with the Friends of the Nature Center.



THE FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER, INC.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Robin Colello-Poplaski, *President*
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Paula Torino, *Park Manager*

MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

- Gabriela Padewska, *Director*
- Bridget Foley, *Environmental Educator*
- Dana Higgins, *Visitor Services Coordinator*
- Gary Phillips, *Maintenance Supervisor*
- Darlene Sourwine, *Community Outreach Coor.*

Mark Your Calendars!**HOLIDAY BONANZA***with the Friends of the Nature Center***Saturday, December 14****10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Join us for some holiday cheer at the 11th annual Holiday Bonanza! Come enjoy live music, local craft vendors, raffles, food, hot beverages, holiday craft-making for both children and adults, and more! Bring your family and friends to have fun at this festive community event. It's a great way to enjoy the holiday season!

See the flyer on page 4 of this newsletter

FIRST DAY HIKE**Wednesday, January 1****9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.***Guided Hikes at 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.*

Kick off the New Year in nature! Join us for this annual event held across New York State. Hikes are self-guided all day (choose your adventure on over 9 miles of nature trails) or join us on one of our easy, guided hikes at 9:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

Please dress for the weather. Snowshoes will be provided if necessary. Stop in the Nature Center for free giveaways!



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

**Minna Anthony Common Nature Center**

Wellesley Island State Park

44927 Cross Island Road

Fineview, NY 13640

(315) 482-2479

HOURS OF OPERATION*Trails Open Sunrise to Sunset Daily***October–May (Off-Season):**

Nature Center open Wednesday—Sunday

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays



Thank you, **The UPS Store** of Alexandria Bay,
for your quality printing services.