

# NEWSLETTER

*Summer 2024 Issue*



*Summer waters glisten on Delaney Bay. Photographed by Andrew Kane* 

Welcome Summer! This is our usual rejoice along the River. For those that are blessed to be here in the offseason, the arrival of summer is what many crave. The warmth of the sun and the smell of the warm River air is nostalgic.

Our summer article from Minna describes her visual memory of coming upon a beautiful water garden near Murray Isle during a paddle. This brings me back to my own childhood when my mother would take me for a row in her St. Lawrence Skiff on a warm summer day when the wind was calm. We would collect a couple water lilies and bring them home. She had a specific glass bowl we would fill in an effort to create our own water garden at the cottage. To this day, finding a water lily is a tradition I must do each summer.

The marshes and riverbanks along the Nature Center are full of beautiful plants and flowers this time of year. We invite you to take a stroll or hike and take in some of the River's palette of colors. You will certainly have a visit from several dragonflies during your time. We love when our visitors share experiences, memories, and photographs with us. Be sure to stop by and visit our staff and volunteers after your walk. I wish you all a spectacular summer filled with wonderful memories and adventures.

Robin Colello-Poplaski  
*Board President, Friends of the Nature Center*

---

**The Minna Anthony Common Series**

---

**Wild Water Garden Pictured****by Minna Anthony Common****August, 10, 1933***Reprinted with permission from the  
Watertown Daily Times.*

Wild flowers in the woods and along the roadsides show results of the long continued dry weather just as do corn fields and home gardens. Even in the marshes the usual abundance of bloom is quite lacking. Only water gardens are thrifty as ever, possibly even more gorgeous because of the high temperatures and abundant sunshine.

Water gardens are found in nooks and out-of-the-way coves along the banks of many of the Thousand Islands. Poking about with a canoe or a rowboat in shallow places quite apart from motor boat lanes, one after another these little garden surprises come to view. Sometimes only a few flowers are grouped under an overhanging rock or behind a lichen-covered boulder; sometimes they are spread by the thousands over acres of shallow water; sometimes they are in thick isolated clumps behind a screen of reeds; and sometimes they are merely a fringe along the water's edge.

All gardens know how seldom a perfect garden is achieved – colors will clash. This or that gets scraggly or runs out or grows too luxuriantly and pushes entirely out of bounds. If there are such troubles in the tended garden, it is most surprising that a wild one free from all care should ever even approach perfection!

During one of the recent hot days while paddling idly about the borders of a reedy bay near Murray Isle on the St. Lawrence, we came suddenly upon a gem of a water garden. It was not very large and was completely hidden except from one side. The shore behind it was heavily wooded with hemlock and oak; on one side were high cliffs of red-brown granite, windswept and rain-washed and speckled with gray. On the other side was a bed of tall, broad-leafed, cattail rushes decorated with numerous velvety brown "tails," and a rocky shoal too small to be called an island. Among the cattails, as far back as the eye could penetrate, were full-flowered spikes of deep blue

pickerel weed growing closer together as they neared the open and ending in a dense massed clump in the foreground. Where they left off white water-lilies began. Contrary to custom, the perfect full-blown blossoms were raised like lotus flowers several inches above the surface of the water. A few stalks of delicate white burred flowers, so fragile that they crumbled at a touch, and one lone yellow lily finished the foreground.

Such a combination as this may often be met with though seldom so tastefully arranged, but this garden did not end thus. It was the islet that made the difference. On its summit grew a dozen rose-purple lythrum spikes. In the rock cracks were corydalis plants, their fine foliage cut gray in color and their flowers pink tipped with yellow. A little pocket of soil nourished a thrifty Robert plant thickly bespattered with pink blossoms. A single blue hairbell leaned over the water and was reflected there. At one side grew a sturdy overpowering clump of thoroughwort. Its coarse, rough, hairy leaves and untidy flowers were strangely out of place.

Just behind the islet on the bank was a bed of pale green sensitive ferns, some dark brown sedges, a mass of tall open-sprayed marsh grass, and in its midst, a stately spike of rosy purple-fringed orchids. A few stalks of yellow loosestrife and a festooned vine of red-berried nightshade completed the garden. It was artistic, balanced, perfect, except for the thoroughwort.

We rested on our oars drinking in its beauty, then – it had to be done – removed the thoroughwort.

After that one jarring note was gone, we floated idly and feasted our eyes on that lovely spot, wondering at the harmony of color and the perfection of everything, at the blue water, the dainty flowers, the white clouds and the bright sunshine reflected so dazzlingly from the yellow blossoms. A damsel fly with crimson body and black wings floated into the picture and came to rest on a reed. A big dragonfly dashed about on a zigzag course to nowhere in particular. A score of water boatmen skated from one pad to another. A wee turtle appeared on a leaf to sun himself. With a sudden flurry of wings two young bittern rose up from the cattails where they had been standing still all this time and flew away to more remote places. A family of wild ducks quacked and a marsh wren burst into song. To the tune of this happy concert we picked up our oars and went our way leaving the little water garden to its friends, the insects and the birds. ■



---

## From the Director

Dear Nature Center Community,

As the weather warms, we welcome summer – and our summer staff, residents, and visitors – with open arms. The North Country landscape erupts in vibrant hues of color, and our Nature Center equally sees a bustling influx of park lovers. We are lucky to have a wonderful staff of returning seasonal employees this year: Anneliese Hardman, Bailey Hoard, Ian McTavish, Cecelia Thompson, Grace Tolla, and Colin Withers. As you will read on page 13, Kim Cullen, our long-time Environmental Education Coordinator was recently promoted to a new position at Southwick Beach State Park! We will all miss her infectious enthusiasm and outdoor education expertise. We wish her the very best in her new role!

The Nature Center has a full schedule of programs and events this summer. We have created several opportunities to get out on the River, including kayaking and our signature Voyageur Canoe trips! Our Voyageur Canoe was lovingly restored last year by our Maintenance Supervisor, Gary Phillips, and is back and better than ever! We are providing on-the-water programs five days a week and our trained staff are ready to guide you on your next paddling adventure! See our highlights calendar on pages 8–11. In addition to those listed, there is public programming every day in July and August. Check out birding on Saturdays!



A special *congratulations* to the Friends of the Nature Center for another successful Night for Nature! Thank you, Friends, for your partnership and support! Enjoy photos from the event on pages 4–5.

Please stop by and enjoy the trails, the water, the Center, and the programs! Lastly, consider becoming a volunteer. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the Nature Center's community. Every summer I am reminded of how integral our volunteers are to our operations. *Thank You* to all the caring individuals.

Gabriela Padewska

*Director, Minna Anthony Common Nature Center  
Wellesley Island State Park*

---

## For Your Consideration

### NY State Parks Centennial Challenge

2024 marks the centennial of NYS Parks, and they have created a Centennial Challenge. There is a list of 100 activities designed to give you a chance to get outdoors and discover our state parks, to learn more about our New York State history at our historic sites, and to give back to preserve all our properties for the next generation. If you complete 24 items – many of which can be done here at Wellesley Island State Park – you'll earn a commemorative Centennial prize. You can download the **Goosechase app** at your app store, or you can download the checklist at:

<https://www.parks.ny.gov/documents/100/OPRHPCentennialChallengeChecklist.pdf>

*Night for Nature 2024*



**NIGHT FOR NATURE**

**JULY 11, 2024**

Join us in celebrating the wonderful legacy of Minna Anthony Common!



*Registration Crew ready to welcome guests*

Heavy rain challenged the volunteers setting up the annual *Night for Nature*, but Mother Nature provided mostly dry weather for the actual event. This year's version included live music, a silent auction, a needle-in-the-haystack raffle, a Minna Anthony Common portrayer, the always delicious hors d'oeuvres from the Clipper Inn, and the first appearance of the *Sipper* Boat-Bar from the Wood Boat Brewery. Many thanks to the sponsors, guests, NYS Parks staff and volunteers who came together to make the evening a success.



*Gefell Brothers bartending*



*Wonderful food service from the Clipper Inn*



*Sipper Boat-Bar from the Wood Boat Brewery*



*Attendees pose in front of an Eel Bay sunset*



*Night for Nature Fun Photobooth Images*



**THANK YOU to the following 122 *Friends* for joining or renewing their commitment recently**

Mark & Leslie Allen	Pittsford, NY	John & Rosemary Swedrock	Wellesley Island, NY
Arthur Mack & Mary Jo Champion	Clayton, NY	Brian & Kate Breheny	Clayton, NY
Kristen Kratzert	Wellesley Island, NY	Robert & Judy Parmiter	Newark, NY
Joseph Vars & Mary Beth Robinson	Rochester, NY	Peter & Laurel Pike	Watertown, NY
Tara Parmiter	Brooklyn, NY	Karen Green	Manlius, NY
Stewart Dutfield & Jean Kerr	Delmar, NY	Kathleen Hummel	Clayton, NY
Richard & Carolyn Glass	Dunedin, FL	Jenny Spencer	Watertown, NY
Emma Dundon	Clayton, NY	Flory Basile	Syracuse, NY
Kerry & Joe Koen	Hamilton, NY	Dr. Al & Judy Gianfagna	Watertown, NY
Julia Toce	Clayton, NY	Paul & Sandy Garrett	Wellesley Island, NY
Fritz Hager & Leslie Rowland	Wellesley Island, NY	Allan Newell	Hammond, NY
Carolyn Marlowe	Glen Park, NY	Joseph & Dr. Mary Beth Vay	Rochester, NY
Caroline Batterson	Sackets Harbor, NY	Rick & Michele Gefell	Watertown, NY
Mary McNeil	Syracuse, NY	Leslie Tolman	Libertyville, IL
Margaret Reid	Fayetteville, NY	Jami Edwards	Clayton, NY
Don & Linda Blauvelt	Naples, FL	Jodi Towne	Mannsville, NY
Allison Latcheron	Pittsburgh, PA	Kim Gilberti	E. Syracuse, NY
Don & Kate Dixon	Coventry, CT	S. Tyler Goldberg	Louisville, KY
Don & Kelly Coon	Watertown, NY	Manford Jerome	Wellesley Island, NY
Larry & Nancy Kuhl	Wellesley Island, NY	Mary H. Arnot	Towson, MO
Rick Gregware	Clayton, NY	Brand & Kelli Gould	Denver, CO
The Kinnie Family	Clayton, NY	Susan Whitney	Wellesley Island, NY
Bill Munro	WPB, FL	David Clements	Wellesley Island, NY



**THANK YOU to the following 122 *Friends* for joining or renewing their commitment recently**

Richard & Kathleen Stout	Houston, TX	Ann Ward	Alexandria Bay, NY
Ronald & Betsy Jacobs	Alexandria Bay, NY	James & Pauline Little	Alexandria, Bay, NY
John & Melinda Comstock	Alexandria Bay, NY	Audie & Laura Cerow	Clayton, NY
Linda Stagnitta	Alexandria Bay, NY	Bob & Beth Weldon	Watertown, NY
Kim Burbank	Ft. Drum, NY	Sandra Geiss	Clayton, NY
Dani Baker & David Belding	Wellesley Island, NY	Ted Meylor	Westfield, NJ
Nancy Martin	Syracuse, NY	Ted & Margaret McNally	Wellesley Island, NY
Andrew & Holly Kane	Liverpool, NY	Ed & Claudia Smith	Oriskany, NY
Tom & Irene Carman	Wellesley Island, NY	John & Kate Johnson	Watertown, NY
Scott & Donna MacPherson	Alexandria Bay, NY	Pat & Dory Sheldon	Wellesley Island, NY
Al & Jane Arras	Manlius, NY	Marion Huntley	Fineview, NY
Audrey Tripp	Mexico, NY	Jonathan & Heather White	T.I. Park, NY
Mary Ellen Gilmore	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL	Harold & Sue Johnson	Watertown, NY
John Johnson	Watertown, NY	Mike & Jean Kimber	Fayetteville, NY
Sue Johnson	Watertown, NY	Tom & Karen Allen	Fairport, NY
Joseph Latt	Wellesley Island, NY	William & Anna Napoli	Wayland, MA
Maryallis Latt	Wellesley Island, NY	Alex & Leslie Carman	Stowe, VT
Don & Barbara Rumph	Wellesley Island, NY	Alec & Gabrielle Johnson	Watertown, NY
Kenneth & Tina Vanhatten	Theresa, NY	Francis Doheny	Cape Vincent, NY
Gary Phillips	Cape Vincent, NY	Steve Baker	Fairfield, CT
Ken & Chuck White Family	Ithaca, NY	Shelley Lofberg	Wellesley Island, NY
John Bober & Lesley Snelling	Sante Fe, NM	Phyllis Schwartz	Camillus, NY

**THANK YOU to the following 122 *Friends* for joining or renewing their commitment recently**

Gloria Reinman Clayton, NY  
 Chris & Anita Brown Beltsville, MD  
 Dan & Maggie Lort Wellesley Island, NY  
 Bernard & Barbara Forth Fayetteville, NY  
 Barbara Hupp Wellesley Island, NY  
 Louise Strayer Tucson, AZ  
 Don & Sheila Smith Wellesley Island, NY  
 Scott & Cynthia Mahoney Freeport, ME  
 Bonnie Gray & Agnes Chrietzberg Richmond, KY  
 John & Lori Arnot Clayton, NY  
 Matt & Sara Elliott Fayetteville, NY  
 Christina Kotula Camillus, NY  
 Ken Sachse Wellesley Island, NY  
 Roberta Calhoun-Eagan Canandaigua, NY  
 John & Pat Peach Clinton, NY  
 Peter Adler Wellesley Island, NY  
 Eileen George Longboat Key, FL  
 Frank & Mary Costello Syracuse, NY  
 Lynn Pyke Wellesley Island, NY  
 Chris Woodley Clayton, NY  
 Ellen Wilson Winchester, MA  
 Larry & Jo Ann Golden Wellesley Island, NY

Robert & Diane Miron Manlius, NY  
 Cary & Jacqueline Derrigo Watertown, NY  
 Nigel & Lee Gardner Skillman, NJ  
 Bernie Slate Clayton, NY  
 Jennifer Coon Millbrook, NJ  
 Tom & Carrie French Potsdam, NY  
 Gifford & Sue Lewis Webster, NY  
 Jane Simpson Clayton, NY  
 COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIPS  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Shaver Clayton, NY  
 Mr. & Mrs. Vince Barton Valatie, NY  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Dulas Ann Arbor, MI  
 Azure & Roxi Arnot-Wisse Penfield, NJ  
 Steve Sourwine Alexandria Bay, NY



# Summer Highlights

JULY + AUG + SEPT  
2024

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](#). Additionally, every day in July and August we offer public programming, and our Pollinator House and Potting Shed are open daily!

## RECURRING EVENTS

### VOYAGEUR CANOE \*

**Mondays, Wednesdays, and Sundays in July and August // 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.**

Our 36-foot, 16-passenger Voyageur Canoe is back! Must be 5 years old or older to participate. Program may be canceled due to weather conditions or not meeting the minimum of 8 adult (16+) paddlers. \$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 16 years old. Please call to register.

### KAYAKING\*

**Tuesdays, July 9–August 27 // 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

Enjoy a morning out on the water! Learn to kayak with basic strokes and techniques, then go out on the St. Lawrence River for a scenic shoreline paddle! Bring a hat, water, shoes that can get wet, and sunscreen. Must be 16 or older to participate. \$10 per person. Please call to register.

### RIVERKEEPER TRAINING + KAYAKING\* *with Save The River*

**Thursdays, July 18–August 15 // 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

Come learn about how you can become a Riverkeeper volunteer while brushing up on your kayaking skills! Perfect for those new to kayaking or more experienced paddlers wanting a refresher on proper paddling technique. Save The River will help us learn about the various factors that threaten the health of our river and what you can do to help. Must be 16 or older to participate. Participants will receive a t-shirt and an invasive species guide. \$10 per person.

### BIRDING WITH WALT AND JOE

**Saturdays in July and August // 8:00 a.m.**

Come join us on a bird-watching adventure! Wellesley Island, just outside the Atlantic Flyway, is a birders' paradise. We'll look at field guides, field markers, and learn how to come away with greater knowledge on how to identify birds! Bring your own binoculars if you can; if not, we'll have some spares.

### **ADIRONDACK RAPTORS**

Friday, July 26 // 11:00 a.m.

Friday, August 23 // 11:00 a.m.

Join Mark Manske of Adirondack Raptors and his educational birds for an exceptional opportunity to get up close and personal with live birds of prey!

### **TALL TALES FROM NATURE** *with storyteller Lynn Morgan*

Friday, July 19 // 10:00 a.m.

Friday, August 2 // 10:00 a.m.

Listen to fun and exciting folktales from around the world, retold by professional storyteller Lynn Morgan. Stories are for all ages. Lynn encourages participants to be a part of her wonderful stories.

### **WHO NEEDS THE NIGHT?**

Thursday, July 25 // 10:00 a.m. *read by a Nature Center educator*

Friday, August 16 // 10:00 a.m. *read by the author Heather White*

We all do! Join us for a reading of *Who Needs the Night?* by Heather White. This book engages all of us to think about the harmful effects light pollution has on the animals of the 1000 Islands region. It also teaches us what we can do to minimize these negative impacts to create a better future!

### **NIGHT SKY ADVENTURES**

Friday, July 12 // 9:00 p.m. *with Sci-Tech Museum*

Saturday, August 3 // 8:30 p.m. *with amateur astronomer John Rusho*

Friday, August 30 // 8:00 p.m. *with amateur astronomer Tim Abel*

Join us for an exciting viewing of the North Country's night sky and celestial bodies up close! In collaboration with local astronomers, we'll explore the heavens using a telescope and learn about constellations, planets, and stars. Program subject to weather.

### **FULL MOON HIKES\***

Sunday, July 21 // 8:50 p.m. *Buck Moon: RSVP by 7/19*

Monday, August 19 // 7:50 p.m. *Sturgeon Moon: RSVP by 8/17*

Tuesday, September 17 // 6:45 p.m. *Harvest Moon: RSVP by 9/15*

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. Following the hike, we'll host a bonfire and snacks! Program subject to weather. Please call to register.

### **EDIBLE + MEDICINAL PLANTS OF THE 1000 ISLANDS REGION**

Tuesday, July 23 // 2:00 p.m. *with Nature Center Gardener Colin Withers*

Saturday, August 24 // 2:00 p.m. *focusing on late summer/autumn edibles*

Saturday, September 14 // 2:00 p.m. *featuring soap making*

Join us as we explore our human relationship with the land, the food it produces, and how we can employ tools and information to live a healthier, more sustainable, self-sufficient lifestyle. We will learn about foraging practices and some edible and medicinal plants of the region.

### **JUNIOR RANGER HIKES** *with Park Ranger Jaxon Ditch*

Wednesday, August 7 // 2:00 p.m.

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

Come explore the trails with Ranger Jaxon! Learn how to prepare for a hike, stay safe in the woods, and look for animals and plants that live all throughout our State Parks. Come away with outdoor skills for your next Parks adventure!



**PACK BASKET WORKSHOPS\* FULL – accepting names for waitlist.**

Sunday, July 14 // 10:00 a.m. (approx. duration 4 hours) *Mini Pack Basket*

Saturday, August 10 // 9:00 a.m. (approx. duration 7 hours) *Full-size Pack Basket*

Friday, September 20 // 3:00 p.m. (approx. duration 4 hours) *Mini Pack Basket*

Come learn how to set up and weave a traditional pack basket out of reed! You'll learn about basket patterns, the weaving process, different ways to put a harness on the basket, and the historical importance of pack baskets in the region. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Full-size baskets 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! *Please RSVP early, as registration is limited and classes fill quickly.*

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

**CRAFT CAFÉ: INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Thursday, July 4 // 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Happy birthday, America! We'll be celebrating by hosting some field games and festive crafts. Drop on in for some fun before the fireworks!

**HAAS THE GREAT BLUE HERON** *with Save The River*

Friday, July 5 // 10:00 a.m.

Join *Save The River* for a reading of *Haas the Great Blue Heron* written by local author Juliane B. Flora. This heartwarming story is about a great blue heron father who anxiously awaits the arrival of his chick. Come learn about the fascinating world of this amazing bird and its habitat along the St. Lawrence River. After the reading, kids can explore a great blue heron nest, test their wingspan, and try out other fun hands-on, heron-themed activities.

**MUSHROOM HIKE WITH JEAN FAHEY**

Friday, July 19 // 1:00 p.m.

Jean Fahey, President of the CNY Mycological Society, will be at the Nature Center to teach about the wild mushrooms that grow on Wellesley Island. We'll learn how mushrooms grow, then hike to look for wild mushrooms on our trails!

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

**BLUE PLANET** *with Save The River*

Friday, August 9 // 10:00 a.m.

Join *Save The River* for a discussion, games, and crafts about our earth's water.

**PERSEID METEOR SHOWER**

Tuesday, August 13 // 10:00 p.m.

Lay down a blanket and stare at the stars this August we will have a chance to view the Perseid meteor shower! You bring the blanket; we'll bring a telescope, and the night sky will provide the rest.

**THE MIGHTY MERGANSER: MINI DECOY PAINTING\*** *with the Antique Boat Museum*

Friday, August 16 // 1:00 p.m.

Join the Antique Boat Museum to learn about some of our aquatic feathered friends. There will be duck trivia and the chance to paint a mini merganser decoy. Supplies are limited, please call the Nature Center to reserve your spot.

**CHILDREN'S FISHING DERBY** *sponsored by the Barbara & Daniel Butts Enrichment Fund*  
**Saturday, August 17 // 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

Join the fun at the Nature Center's fishing derby for children 14 and under! Prizes for longest, most fish caught, and "luck of the draw." BYO: Bring Your Own Bait & Tackle. Fish must be taken with rod and reel; all legal baits allowed. Thank you to the Barbara & Daniel Butts Enrichment Fund for sponsoring the prizes.

**VERNACULAR PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE**

**Sunday, August 18 // 10:00 a.m.**

The Ackland Art Museum defines vernacular photographs as "those that are made by individuals, typically presumed to be non-artists, for a wide variety of reasons, including snapshots of everyday subjects taken for personal pleasure." While we may not all be professional photographers, we all take pictures with our smartphones! Thanks to advances in technology, you too can take professional quality photos with your smartphone and a bit of talent. Come learn how to get the most out of your camera device on this fun hike!

**HIKE AND EAT** *Friends of the Nature Center member event*

**Saturday, August 24 // 4:00–7:00pm**

Join fellow members for a one-hour hike followed by a shared dish meal! Bring your favorite prepared dish to enjoy with friends. Refrigeration available. Please call to register.

**ISLAND HOPPING EXCURSION: WELLESLEY TO GRINDSTONE\***

**Sunday, August 25 // 8:00am–1:00pm**

Join us for a special Voyageur Canoe excursion as we paddle to Canoe Point State Park on Grindstone Island. This round trip 4-mile trek is for experienced paddlers aged 18 and over. In between paddling trips, we'll have an hour on Grindstone for lunch and an optional guided hike to Picnic Point State Park. Bring a lunch and water bottle and prepare for a fun day! Program subject to weather. \$10 per person. Registration required.

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

**CRAFT CAFÉ: LABOR DAY**

**Monday, September 2 // 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (drop-in)**

We're getting our craft on this Labor Day with some fun crafts to enjoy. Take advantage of the lazy days of summer with options for all ages!

**INSPIRED BY MINNA: DIY NATURE JOURNALS\***

**Sunday, September 8 // 10:00 a.m. (duration approx. 3 hours)**

Celebrate Minna Anthony Common's birthday by joining us for a nature journal workshop! In honor of Minna's legacy as an artist and naturalist, learn how to make your own nature journal and then take to the trails to creatively record your observations of the natural world. Recommended for ages 8+. Please call to register.

**ADULT BARN QUILT WORKSHOP: WORLD PEACE DAY EDITION**

**Saturday, September 21 // 10:00 a.m. (duration approx. 3 hours)**

In celebration of the International Day of Peace, we'll be creating 12"x12" peace-sign-themed barn quilts! Material fee \$25. Space is limited so please register early. RSVP by 9/18.

*We'll see you out there*

Thanks to the Sponsors of *Night for Nature* 2024

*Anonymous*  
*Silver Line Party Rental*  
*Sherry Phillips*  
*Dr. James Tague & Lori Thistle*  
*Trey & Barbara Vars*  
*W.D. Mechanical*  
*Island Lawn Care & Maintenance*  
*The Hon. Phil Reed*  
*Alex & Leslie Carman*  
*Joe & Kathy Leskoske*  
*Ted & Mary Mascott*  
*Allan Newell*  
*Wellesley Island Building Supply*  
*Eileen Price*  
*John Renzi*

*Martin Yenawine*  
*Todd Atkinson*  
*Jeremy Smith*  
*Matt Delaney*  
*Michael Simpson*  
*Michael Hazelwood*  
*The Enchanted Edible Forest*  
*@ Cross Island Farms*  
*Creative Landscapes LLC*  
*Luxury Island Cleaners*  
*Feather in Flight*  
*Michael Mason Custom Builder*  
*Capital Wealth Advisors*  
*Poplaski & Dunn*  
*Purcell Construction Corp.*

*KPR Mechanicals*  
*Ronsons Gold Star Liquors*  
*McKinney Inc. dba*  
*Bradley's Military Surplus*  
*Weldon & Weldon*  
*Financial Coaching*  
*G.L. Wills & Sons*  
*Wellesley Island Market*  
*Erica Hoffman*  
*Peter & Laura McDermott*  
*John Bober & Lesley Snelling*  
*The U.P.S. Store in*  
*Alexandria Bay*

*A Special Thank You to Our Oak, Hickory & Maple Sponsors*



*Don Metz*  
*Patricia Constable*  
*Uncle Sam Boat Tours*  
*Marguerite & Robert Cleary*  
*Thomas & Leah Neely*  
*Widrick Auto Sales*  
*A.T. Matthews & Dier*



---

**Congratulations to Kim Cullen!**

**Kimbrie (Kim) Cullen, who has been a fixture at the Nature Center for many years, has taken a new position with NYS Parks, and she has penned this farewell note to us all:**

Hello Friends,

I am pleased to announce that I have taken a new position in NY Parks. I have been chosen to run the nature center at Southwick Beach State Park. I am so excited at this new opportunity! Southwick Beach is a beautiful state park. If you have never been there, I suggest you put it on your bucket list. Southwick Beach has many features; it has a beautiful, extensive beach, hiking trails, playgrounds, a concession stand, and, of course, a brand-new nature center. Even though I am really excited about this new chapter in my career, I will miss everyone I've worked with, and of course, the visitors. The nature center will always have a special place in my heart. I was a part of the nature center ever since I was a kid. I can remember running down the hills on the trails with my brothers, wondering who would get there first.

When I started working at the nature center, I was overjoyed that I was able to share the preserve with others. I was going to be a part of helping families make awesome memories.

The fondest memories while working at the nature center were the school programs. They also have a special place in my heart. Many children have their first experience with the woods during a field trip. I have seen so many children frightened of the outdoors. The field trip program gives a positive experience and changes that fear into love. The hugs, thankyou's, smiles, laughter, and wonder make the job special. Without the field trips, we would have a huge population of children that don't care about the outdoors. I have had children get off the school bus in tears, afraid of getting lost. Those same children would be mad when it was time to leave, because they were having too much fun. To me, all the hard work makes it worth it. I helped a child learn how to love the outdoors.

Looking back at my time at the nature center, my favorite story is about teaching a pre-school class. The energy of this class was awesome. Before we headed out on the trail, we talked about what we might see. One of the animals we talked about was a porcupine. As we started walking down a trail, a little boy shouted at the top of his lungs, "I so want to see a porkchop!"

The nature center is truly a special place. I am so proud I was a part of it for so many years. Looking to the future, I look forward to working in another special place. I hope that everyone will put Southwick Beach on their bucket list. I would love to help make new memories and share some old ones!

See you at the beach!

Kimbrie Cullen  
Environmental Education Coordinator



**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.



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**THE FRIENDS OF THE  
NATURE CENTER, INC.**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Robin Colello-Poplaski, *President*

Gifford Lewis, *Vice President*

Kerry Roberge, *Treasurer*

Karen Allen, *Secretary*

Peter Adler

Lori Arnot

Jane Arras

Richard Gefell

Sue Johnson

Kristen Kratzert

Joseph Leskoske

Eileen Price

Jeffry Weldon

**WELLESLEY ISLAND STATE PARK**

Paula Torino, *Assistant Park Manager*

**MINNA ANTHONY COMMON  
NATURE CENTER**

Gabriela Padewska, *Director*

(Kimbrie Cullen, *Enviro. Education Coor.*)

Bree Foley, *Environmental Educator*

Dana Higgins, *Visitor Services Coordinator*

Gary Phillips, *Maintenance Supervisor*

Darlene Sourwine, *Community Outreach Coor.*

**Mark Your Calendars!****CHILDREN'S FISHING DERBY****Saturday, August 17****9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.***Sponsored by the Barbara & Daniel Butts Enrichment Fund*

Join the fun at the Nature Center's fishing derby for children 14 and under! Prizes for longest, most fish caught, and "luck of the draw." BYO: Bring Your Own Bait & Tackle.

*Learn more on page 11.***ISLAND HOPPING EXCURSION:****WELLESLEY TO GRINDSTONE****Sunday, August 25****8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

Join us for a special Voyageur Canoe excursion as we paddle to Canoe Point State Park on Grindstone Island. This round trip 4-mile trek is for experienced paddlers aged 18 and over. Bring a lunch and water bottle and prepare for a fun day! Program subject to weather.

Registration required

*Learn more on page 11.***New York State Golden Park Program**

If you are a New York State resident 62 or older, on Monday – Friday (except holidays), you can obtain free vehicle access to most state parks, boat launch sites and arboretums and fee reduction to state historic sites and state-operated golf courses. Simply present your currently valid NYS Driver License or NYS Non-Driver ID at the park entrance. **No application is required as your License/ID serves as your pass.**



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***May–October (Operating Season):**

Nature Center open daily

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.\*

**\*Extended Hours in July & August**

Saturdays and Sundays

9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.



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