

NEWSLETTER

Children and Nature

Bringing modern kids into contact with their environment.



Corey Lemmer, Age 7, experiencing the wonder of butterflies "first hand." She is a summer visitor of Westminster Park, Wellesley Island

Minna Anthony Common dedicated her life to the promotion of environmental education and preservation.

In that spirit, the Friends of the Nature Center aspires to introduce current and future generations to the beauty and serenity found in their world. With features like the Junior Naturalist Program, children learn to appreciate the flora and

fauna of the woods, while exploring the majesty of the Saint Lawrence River.

There is also the ever popular butterfly house, where your child can personally witness the wonder of butterfly metamorphosis.

We can't wait to see you this spring... Remember to bring your rubber boots!

The Friends of MAC Nature Center Board Report

Hello Friends,

I am very pleased to report that SPRING is coming to the Nature Center. Lots of winter cross country skiing and snow shoeing, but now we look forward to cleanup of trails and grounds.

The Friends Board adopted the effort to replace the Butterfly Netting covering the Butterfly House. Fundraising events and programs are being established to ensure our ability to cover the investment.

We continue to support school group visits and programming for the young members of our community. Our efforts continue to increase, and our commitment, as always, requires additional funding. We are always looking for new ways to help with these monetary requirements.

Last but not least, I am pleased to announce two new board members, Matt Elliott and Barb Eldridge. We look forward to seeing you on the trails soon!

-Kerry Roberge
Board President

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide scientific, educational and charitable promotion, advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding in conservation and nature education, and to establish



necessary facilities for the instruction in these fields, to encourage and arrange for seminars, exhibits, lectures and field trips, to establish nature trails and promote conservation programs.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*LOVE ALONG THE
NARROWS*



*Mike Kabrs and his fiancée
Estee Wagoner overlooking the
Murray Isle Narrows*

As spring slowly starts here at the Nature Center, a heart-warming love story will hopefully help melt away the snow and begin the new season.

Local residents Estee Wagoner and Mike Kahrs frequent the Nature Center twice a month to hike the wooded trails and experience its spectacular views. On a seemingly perfect August morning, the couple embarked on yet another beautiful walk in the woods – little did Estee know the surprise that awaited her!

“We were hiking the Narrows Trail, by Murray Island,” says Estee. “All of a sudden Mike grabbed my arm... My first reaction was to scream, because

that usually means there’s a snake around! When I looked again, he was down on one knee with a ring. I had no idea at all!”

Estee teaches for the Alexandria Bay Central School District and Mike works for Jordstat Construction. They balance their time off between hiking, kayaking, and family.

Estee and Mike will wed in May at Saint Cyril’s in Alexandria Bay. We wish them many more splendid walks together at The Nature Center.

- Matthew Elliott

Please share your Nature Center stories and photos with us at: mollyfarrell@parks.ny.gov

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS JOINED OR RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT THIS YEAR:

- | | |
|--|---|
| John and Louise Cahill, Londonderry, NH | Meg Kerr and Bob Vanderslice, N. Kingston, RI |
| Leslie and Fritz Hager, Wellesley Island, NY | Susan Waterman, Camden, NY |
| Nancy Eustance, Hamilton, NY | Joan Davison, Highland, NY |
| Dr. John Eppolito, Clayton, NY | William and Diana Grater, Clayton, NY |
| Joseph and Kathleen Leskoske, Wellesley Island, NY | Sarah Baldwin, Clayton, NY |
| James and Pauline Little, Alexandria Bay, NY | Dr. Kurt Bretsch, Flanders, NY |
| Amy Schwezman, Watertown, NY | Michael and Sandra Geiss, Clayton, NY |
| Anne Thompson, Pardeeville, NY | Sarah Haussacker, Clayton, NY |
| Ed and Claudia Smith, Oriskany, NY | Connie Dack, Redwood, NY |
| Matthew and Sara Elliott, Fayetteville, NY | Sarah Heise, Alexandria Bay, NY |
| Peggy Millett, Alexandria Bay, NY | Brianne Kirchoff, Watertown, NY |
| Sandra Cranker, Alexandria Bay, NY | Mary Mitchell, Alexandria Bay, NY |
| Cindy Todd, Alexandria Bay, NY | Diane Heise, Clayton, NY |
| Robin Martin, Alexandria Bay, NY | Lucy Gionet, Redwood, NY |
| Edward C. McNally, Wellesley Island, NY | |

We hope you all will be part of our family for years to come... *Thank you* for your generosity!

EXPLORE THE NARROWS TRAIL FOR YOURSELF!

A full trail map is available online at

<http://macnaturecenter.webs.com/trail-map>



NEW 2015 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!

Members of the Friends of the Nature Center provide the critical means and resources necessary to support the thousands of visitors that stream in throughout the course of the year. Most of our members rejoin annually and for that we are immensely grateful. Membership is rarely a decision of economy, but is more often a statement of support for part of your community. As a sign of our appreciation, we have increased the benefits for members this year!

All levels - Quarterly newsletter, 10% discount at our gift shop, discounts on some program fees, and a Minna Anthony Common T-Shirt (redeemable at the Nature Center). The *Oak* and *Hickory* membership levels award an **Empire State Pass** that grants unlimited day-use vehicle entry to **ANY** New York State Park for 1 year.

Birch - \$25	Oak - \$150
Maple - \$75	Hickory - \$250

Lifetime - \$1000 - A portion of your donation will go to the Endowment Fund.

Please call or visit our website for more details - <http://macnaturecenter.webs.com/>

THANK YOU FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF MIKE ELLIOTT

We want to thank the Elliott family who thought of the nature center to honor the memory of Mike Elliott. We also want to thank the loved ones and friends of Mike for their generous donations. Some of the money donated will go toward the purchase of new kayaks for our Friday evening kayak tour, and the remainder will go toward the Butterfly Netting Drive. A sincere thank you, again.

If the Nature Center holds special meaning in your life, please consider a gift in your will or your estate planning to the Friends of Minna Anthony Endowment Fund. Leave a legacy so that this natural treasure can be loved by those who follow.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

In our last newsletter I mentioned how I hoped we would have enough snow this winter for people to enjoy skiing and snowshoeing at the Nature Center and I think it is safe to say we achieved that goal!

We started the year with our First Day Snowshoe Hike which took place on a very cold, snowy, Thursday morning. Mike and Cecelia Madore, Leah Hotaling and the Scheffield family, including dogs Max and Benji, braved the elements to attend our hike (pictured right). Since then, over 1200 patrons have come to the Nature Center ensuring we remain busy through the cold winter months.

Many have enjoyed skiing and snowshoeing the trails. School groups have come to learn about animal tracks and winter adaptations while trying their hand at snowshoeing. Also, we have led two moonlight snowshoe hikes. We started a guided weekend hike series that people enjoyed and set up booths at a few off site programs.

In some respects, I feel it is easier to see signs of animals in the woods in winter than other times of the year. When temperatures warm even a little, groups of deer come to the forest the North Field Loop meanders through to bed down in the fallen oak leaves. Porcupines tunnel through the snow as they cross the trails to climb nearby trees. Sometimes you will see a lone porcupine high in an oak or maple tree near the cliff edge above Eel Bay happily sleeping or eating bark even as the cold winter breeze blows.

Above all else, winter is the perfect time to watch the foraging flocks that come to our bird feeders. We have watched countless chickadees, common red polls, hairy, downy, and red-bellied woodpeckers, dark-eyed juncos and more devour an entire feeder of black oil sunflower seeds in a single day.

Much to our disappointment we have lost the battle against the squirrels that have grown rather rotund these last few months due to the volume of



bird seed they have consumed. Yet I suppose they have every right to eat our bird seed, if it helps them survive the long winter.

Winter is also inevitably the time of year when we work to prepare ourselves for the busier seasons. We redesign exhibits, such as the new Minna Anthony Common exhibit we created for one of our display cases, update brochures, and begin scheduling programs for the spring and summer.

It is hard to imagine spring as I walk outside into the blistering cold, but I know it is just around the corner as I sit listening to the frogs in our aquariums calling to each other. They are telling me spring is coming even if you cannot see it yet. We have a number of exiting, new programs planned for the spring and summer and we hope to see all of you at the Nature Center once the snow melts!

- Molly Farrell, Environmental Educator II



ARE THESE BUTTERFLIES THE SAME?

Check out this fun video from Minute Earth describing the unique blending of New York's official butterfly, the Red-Spotted Purple, with its Canadian neighbor, the White Admiral. Either click on the link below or type it in your browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4STC1r-nVs>

BACKYARD FEEDERS

The idea of turning your backyard into microhabitat for wild animals is gaining in popularity as habitats become increasingly fragmented due to development. One method of attracting native wildlife and insects to your yard is to plant native species in your landscaping that can serve as food sources for local wildlife species. The native plants will attract local insects, birds, mammals, and perhaps amphibians, turning your backyard into a mini functioning ecosystem.

During the cold winter months one of the best ways to create valuable microhabitat space is to hang a variety of birdfeeders. The seed, fruit, and suet you supply will provide an assortment of bird species with critical nutrients needed to survive the winter. It is estimated that 65 million Americans enjoy watching and feeding the foraging flocks that visit backyard feeders throughout the winter. Plan ahead for next winter and you can join in the fun!

Seed Variety:

It is important to understand what food will attract the most birds, what feeders function most effectively (and perhaps, are the most squirrel resistant), and where to hang the feeders to maximize the effectiveness of the microhabitat you are creating. Black oil sunflower seeds attract a variety of bird species and tend to be reasonably priced and readily available.

Some avid birders will tell you birds tend to not like millet

(Gerry Smith, Onondaga Audubon Society, personal communication, 2015) but if choosing between white and red millet, birds tend to prefer white millet, which is sometimes called Proso. Safflower seeds are preferred by cardinals and many other birds and tend to not be eaten by squirrels and some of the more “pesty” bird species such as starlings and house sparrows.

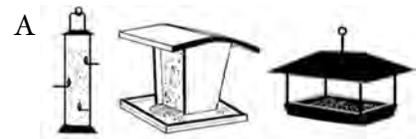
If you are trying to attract cardinals to your feeders be sure to provide some nearby cover, like a shrub or evergreen tree, as they will not come to feeders that are exposed to predators. Hanging a feeder full of thistle or Niger seed will be sure to attract goldfinches, siskins, and redpolls but Niger seed tends to be a bit more expensive than some of the other seed mixes.

Fresh fruit hung around a metal coat hanger might attract robins, bluebirds, cedar waxwings, and mockingbirds in the late winter, and orange slices are sure to attract orioles in May. Suet or peanut butter will be enjoyed by woodpeckers and other birds looking for extra fat to help them survive cold winter nights too.

Types of Feeders:

After you have selected your feed, you need to decide what kind of feeder you will use. Feeders come in many varieties but are designed to attract different birds. Hopper-type feeders store a large reserve of seed that slides out of openings in the feeder as the birds eat. There are numerous designs of tubular or rectangular hopper feeders designed to hang from trees, posts, or wires. Tufted titmice,

chickadees, house finches, grosbeaks, and nuthatches will all frequent hopper feeders (photo A).



If you are interested in attracting ground-feeding birds, flat tray-like feeders suspended close to the ground are best (photo B).



Feeder Maintenance:

Feeders need to be cleaned several times each winter to prevent the spread of disease or the development of mold. Regularly raking wasted seed, seed husks, and bird droppings from the feeding area is also advisable.

It is recommended that feeders be placed at least 10 feet from any area predators such as house cats or hawks could hide. Placing feeders within 10 feet of dense evergreens or shrubs will provide birds with a place to hide if they sense danger coming. Providing nearby cover will also increase the diversity and frequency of species visiting your feeders.

Birds need to eat every day, particularly in the winter when temperatures are low and snow is deep. Keep your feeders filled regularly and you are guaranteed to have regular avian visitors to brighten up the short winter days.

- Molly Farrell

Critter Kids - Mud Masters

Spring is here and with it comes lots of **mud**! **Mud** forms when there is too much water for the soil to absorb. Excess water is very common in March and April as the heavy winter snow melts guaranteeing there will be lots of marvelous **mud**!

What is Mud? **Mud** is soil and water mixed together. Soil and thus, **mud** is basically decomposed plants, animals, poop (also known as scat), and bones!

Mud has many purposes! Many different species of wildlife depend on soil and **mud** to survive! Take a look

below to discover more fascinating facts about **mud** and the critters living in it.

EARTHWORMS - Earthworms are very important to soil health and to plants growing in it. Worms transport nutrients and minerals from below to the surface through their waste (poop). As they burrow, they consume (eat) soil, extracting nutrients from decomposing organic matter like leaves and roots. This is very helpful for the plant life because just one earthworm can eat up to a third of its body weight in a day!



The moist wet soil, or **mud** makes it easier for the earthworm to move and eat the decaying plant matter. Earthworms also need the moist soil to be able to breathe through their skin.

YELLOW SPOTTED SALAMANDERS-

Adult yellow spotted salamanders spend most of the day hiding underground or beneath rocks, rotting leaves, and logs. They are a nocturnal animal which means they come out from their hiding spots at night to hunt.



They eat just about anything they can catch and swallow, including worms, spiders, insects, and slugs (all **mud** dwellers).

Salamanders are gentle creatures. Their only defense is to secrete a mild sticky toxin from their backs and tails that predators do not like.



Even though salamanders cannot hurt humans, you still should not touch them. They need to keep their skin wet and moist, so they can breathe through their skin.

Take a look on the next page for more fascinating facts on **MUD!**

BEAVER - Beavers are the largest North American rodent. They use **mud** and sticks to build lodges and dams. When the **mud** dries it acts like concrete and holds the sticks into place. Beavers are able to change their habitat by constructing dams to control the water level. Controlling the water level keeps the opening to their lodge under water. This helps keep out predators.

The picture to the right is of an old beaver dam that was found off East Trail.

The dam is no longer there, but you can still see evidence of active beavers there.



BUTTERFLIES- All butterflies benefit from **mud**. Male butterflies land on wet ground to drink up minerals such as salt using their straw like tongue, called a proboscis. The **mud** contains many nutrients from decaying materials that male butterflies need to mate with female butterflies. This ritual is called **mud-puddling**.

Female butterflies do not **mud- puddle**. They fly from flower to flower drinking sweet nectar. Butterflies also like rotting fruit. The picture on the right is a Painted Lady Butterfly drinking from a rotting orange.



proboscis

BLOODROOT AND OTHER SPRING FLOWERS- Bloodroot is one of the first flowers seen in spring. This perennial plant grows from its roots each year. Bloodroot needs wet **mud** to grow as it cannot grow in dry soil. The snow melt water will trigger this plant to wake up and begin growing in the spring. Moisture from the **Mud** helps seeds produced the previous year sprout (also known as germination).



Fun fact - Bloodroot gets its name from the red fluid that it produces. This happens when you pick or break off part of it.

Kids Corner

Mud Scavenger Hunt

Take a walk in your own backyard or take a hike on the Nature Center trails, but before you head out to explore, make sure to put on your **rubber boots**. If you decide to look under logs and rocks, leave everything exactly the way you found it so wildlife can continue to live there.

Below is a scavenger hunt for critters that use **mud** to help them survive in the wild. See how many you can find.

--- SMALL EARTHWORM

--- UNDERGROUND SPIDER DEN

--- LARGE EARTHWORM

--- SPIDER UNDER A ROCK

--- SALAMANDER

--- BUTTERFLY MUD-PUDDLING

--- CENTIPEDE

--- UNDERGROUND ANT COLONY

--- MILLIPEDE

--- ANIMAL TRACKS IN THE MUD

--- BIRDS NEST WITH MUD

--- A STICK STUCK IN THE MUD

--- BEAVER LODGE

--- A ROTTING LOG

--- BEAVER DAM



by Kim Cullen

Spring Volunteer Opportunities

I Love My Park Day

Saturday, May 2nd, 9am-3pm
Lunch will be provided.

3rd Annual Run Wild

Saturday, May 16th, 9:30am
Volunteers will be needed the day of the run to hand out water, help with registration, and cheer on the runners.

Butterfly House & Gardening Training

Sunday, May 17th, 1pm
Learn about native plants and the importance of pollinators while helping us maintain the Nature Center's many gardens.

Trail Guide Training

Saturday, June 6th, 1pm
Learn more about our trail system and the process of leading an interpretive hike. No prior experience is necessary.

Volunteer Training Day

June 6th, 10am
Are you interested in volunteering regularly at the Nature Center?

Children's Fishing Derby

Sunday, June 14th, 12:30-4 pm
We will need help registering participants, recording fish, and managing the crowds.

Please pre-register by calling the Nature Center at 315-482-2479.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Sue Mahoney volunteering at the game ticket table at the 2014 Autumn Festival.

Thank you!

We would like to sincerely thank Sue Mahoney who started to regularly volunteer at the Nature Center this winter. She comes in every Friday and spends the day with us working on any project we need help with that day.

Volunteers like Sue, who are able to come in for set hours every week are crucial to running the nature center. Her help at the front desk and gift store, especially during the busy spring fieldtrip season frees up staff to help run the school programs.

We greatly appreciate the help each and every volunteer provides us. Thank you again for your support Sue!

Come Volunteer at the Nature Center!

We are always looking for volunteers to help out with any number of tasks at the Nature Center. Volunteers form an integral part of our success and regardless of your interests, abilities, or level of mobility we can surely find a task you will enjoy. Bring your friends and volunteer as a group! This year we are particularly looking for volunteers who can come in for regular hours. If you are only available sporadically, however, we could still use your help. Please call 315-482-2479 if you are interested in volunteering.

The Board of Directors of The Friends of the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center

Kerry Roberge
President

Barbara Butts
Vice President

Jonathan White
Treasurer

Jane Arras
Secretary

Molly Farrell
Director

Nancy Boynton

Sue Johnson

Chase Miller

Lynn Morgan

Leslie Rowland

Joseph Leskoske

Michele Walton

Heather White

Matthew Elliott

Barb Eldridge

SPRING PROGRAMS 2015

315-482-2479

-- TRAINING PROGRAMS --

Butterfly House & Gardening Training

Sunday, May 17th, 1pm

We are always in need of volunteers interested in gardening. Come learn about native plants and the importance of pollinators while helping us maintain the Nature Center's many gardens.

Call 315-482-2479 to pre-register.

Volunteer Training Day

June 6th, 10am



We need of people who can man our front desk, work in the gardens, or help with programming. Come to our Volunteer Training Day to learn about how you can help out at the Nature Center. Regardless of your interests or mobility, we can find a volunteer job for you and welcome your help!

Trail Guide Training

Saturday, June 20th, 1pm

Are you interested in leading or assisting with guided hikes for school groups or summer patrons? Come learn more about our trail system and the process of leading an interpretive hike. No prior experience is necessary. Preregistration is required for this program. Register by calling the Nature Center at 315-482-2479

Canoe Training

Thurs, June 25th & Fri, June 26th, 9am

Our 36 foot canoe requires a lot of paddling power. Before the summer schedule starts our staff needs to practice steering this thousand pound fiberglass canoe and learn how to interpret the program. If you like to paddle or are interested in assisting with our summer canoe trips, this training is for you! Please call 315-482-2479 to preregister.

----WORKSHOPS----

2nd Annual March Pack Basket Class

Saturday, March 28th, 9am

Learn to weave a traditional pack basket from start to finish. The cost of the programs includes all materials. Each participant will leave with a completed basket. Participants are encouraged to bring a bag lunch. Preregistration is required by calling the Nature Center at 315-482-2479.

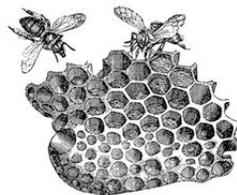
\$65 for members, \$75 for non-members

Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping with Scott Ouderkirk

Saturday, May 23rd, 10am

Have you ever considered becoming a backyard beekeeper? Learn the basics of beekeeping and honey production from local beekeeper Scott Ouderkirk. He will teach you the fundamentals and provide information on where to purchase supplies while answering any questions you may have about beekeeping. Please call 315-482-2479 to preregister.

\$5 per person



Lynn Morgan

The Great Storyteller

June 7th and 24th, August 7th and August 21st at 1pm

Professional storyteller, Lynn Morgan, tells traditional folktales from around the world. Many stories incorporate songs or other audience participation techniques. This event is fun for all ages.

TILT's 2nd Annual "For the Trees" Arbor Day Community Event

April 25th, 9:30am

To celebrate our 30 years of conserving the place we love, TILT plans to plant 30 new trees along our Lois

Jean and John MacFarlane Trail, with the help of volunteers. Bring the whole family

and also enjoy workshops, hikes and exhibits from TILT

and our partner organizations! This event will take place at TILT's Zenda Farms Preserve in Clayton.

For additional information, call TILT at 315-686-5345.

TILT's "For the Birds" Celebration at Zenda Farm Preserve

May 30th, 10am

An exciting new birding-related event, featuring a variety of workshops that kids, families, birders and birders-in-training can enjoy! The event will

be held at the Thousand Islands Land Trust's Zenda Farm Preserve in Clayton. For additional

information, call TILT at 315-686-5345.

SPRING PROGRAMS 2015

315-482-2479

----GENERAL PROGRAMS----

Annual Open Meeting

April 11th, 10am

The Nature Center relies on the support of our membership and the financial and volunteer support of our members is integral to its continued success. The entire Friends of the Nature Center membership and anyone else interested in learning more about the critical role of the Friends of the Nature Center, Inc. is invited to attend our annual open meeting.

Alpaca Wool Crafts with Home Again Farms

April 18th, 2pm

Join Home Again Farms, a local alpaca farm from Theresa, to learn about alpacas and create useful items from left over alpaca fur. Participants will have the opportunity to make nesting feeders and dryer balls. There is a \$5 registration fee to cover the cost of supplies. Preregistration is required. To register or for additional information, please call the Nature Center at 482-2479.

I Love My Park Day

Saturday, May 2nd, 9am-3pm



Show your Nature Center some love! Join with other volunteers to spruce up the Nature Center for spring and get it ready for

another busy summer season. This is the day when we get out our mop buckets, sponges, garden trowels, rakes, and clippers and get to work making our Nature Center beautiful. Lunch will be provided. Visit <http://ptny.org/ilovemypark/> for more information and to preregister. You can also preregister by calling the Nature Center (315-482-2479). Preregistration is required.

US Coast Guard Certified Boater's Safety Course

Sunday, July 19 8am-4pm

This class is for adults and children. There is no fee for the class but if you are 18 or older you will be required to pay the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites a \$10 fee for your boating safety certificate. Please call Gary Kocher at 315-486-5230 to preregister. For more information, visit <http://nysparks.com/recreation/boating/safety-courses.aspx#sthash.yEioiLUU.dpuf>.

Signs of Spring Hike at the Indian River Lakes Conservancy

May 9th, 1pm

Celebrate spring on Grand Lake Reserve as we look for the birds, blooms and bugs that return with warmer weather! Call the IRLC at 315-482-4757 for additional information or to preregister.

Run Wild

Saturday, May 16th, 10am

Join us for the 3rd Annual Run Wild 5K Run/Walk. Race Day Registration begins at 8:00am and the 5K race starts at 10:00am. The \$15 registration fee includes a long-sleeved t-shirt for the first 100 registrants. To preregister for the race, complete and clip the form on page 9 then mail your check to the Nature Center. You can also pick up a form at the Nature Center. Call 315-482-2479 for additional information.

**Spider's Fishing Programs**

Saturdays, May 23rd, June 13th, July 4th, August 1st, September 5th, and October 3rd

Two programs are offered each day: Basic Fishing from 11:00am to 1:00pm and Basics of Fly Fishing from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Join Spider on the Nature Center dock as he shares his knowledge and love of fishing. Spider brings a limited number of fishing poles, hooks, bobbers, and worms. If you can bring your own tackle, it will allow for more participation in the program. This is a free program. Donations will be accepted by the Friends of the Nature Center to defray the cost of this and other programs.



SPRING PROGRAMS 2015

315-482-2479

-- FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS --

North Country Earth Day at the Thompson Park Zoo

Saturday, April 18th, 10:00am to 4pm

Come join the Earth Day celebrations at the Thompson Park Zoo! Learn about the natural world around you and the importance of protecting our natural resources. Discover new places and ways to enjoy the outdoors. There will be numerous family friendly activities and many different organizations will be at the event, including the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center. For additional information, call the Thompson Park Zoo at 315-782-6180.

Ready Set Fun Book Fest

May 9th, 11am to 2pm

Each year over 1,500 children and parents join WPBS, our community vendors, and local children's authors for this literacy focused, hands-on event held at the Bruce M. Wright Memorial Conference Center on Faichney Drive in Watertown. Admission to this event is the donation of a canned good or non-perishable food item. This year, collected items

will be going to the food bank at the Urban Mission in Watertown. Come join the Nature Center and many other local organizations at this family friendly event. For additional information, visit http://www.wpbstv.org/cms-display/ready_set_fun.html.

Children's Fishing Derby

Sunday, June 14th, 12:00-3:30pm

Come join in the fun at our fishing derby for children 14 and under! There is a \$2.00 entrance fee that will go towards supporting future programming at the Nature Center. Prizes will be awarded to participants in three categories: the longest, heaviest, and most fish. Fish must be taken with rod and reel; all legal baits will be allowed.

Preregistration is required. Please call 315-482-2479 for additional information.

Birds of Prey

Fridays, July 3rd, July 31st, and August 14th, 1pm

Rick West will be returning this summer with his Birds of Prey. Programs will be held outside if possible or inside the museum in case of inclement weather.

REGISTRATION FORM



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Female

Male

Email: _____

I, (print your name) _____ Absolve the State of New York, its employees and volunteers, and the Friends of the Nature Center from any liability resulting from participation in this event.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please send me information about other upcoming Nature Center programs

This program is supported by the Friends of the Nature Center and NYS Parks



Please complete this form and return it to the Nature Center with your registration fee by May 9, 2015. Your \$15 registration fee can be paid by cash or check. Please make your check payable to the Friends of the Nature Center.

Program Spotlight

Junior Naturalist Program

This summer visit the Nature Center and become a Junior Naturalist. This three part series is full of fun activities to do outside. Complete all three packets and receive a Junior Naturalist patch. This program is recommended for ages 7 and up. The program is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$4.00 to cover the cost of the patch.

Natural Birthday Parties at the Nature Center

Make this a birthday special for your child with a Natural Birthday Party at the Nature Center. Children ages 5 to 12 can choose from seasonally appropriate themes such as Turtles, Exploring Ponds, Trees, Beavers and

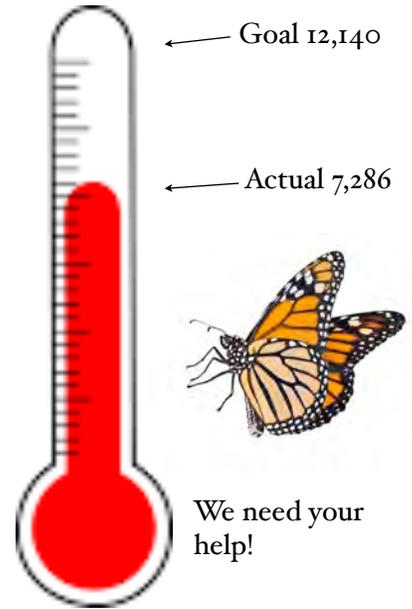
more. Call the Nature Center for more information or to schedule a party. Members \$45; Nonmembers \$60.

Memorial Day Weekend Plant Sale

May 23rd-25th, 9:30am-3pm

Help the Nature Center raise funds to replace our aging butterfly netting by coming to our Memorial Day Weekend Plant Sale. We will have an assortment of native flowering plants and more for sale. Incorporating native plants into your landscaping can help provide valuable food resources and shelter to local bird and wildlife species.

Butterfly Netting Project



Friends of the Nature Center, Inc.
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center
Wellesley Island State Park
44927 Cross Island Road
Fineview, NY 13640



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**