

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024 Issue



A blue jay finds cover among a thicket of bare branches. Photograph by Andrew Kane.

We have been blessed with a mild winter so far. One can hope for a nice balance of soft, fluffy snow for snowshoeing and skiing, and the hint of an early spring as our days will soon become longer. During our winter months, the River has a chance to rest and rebalance. I find the peace and solitude on the River this time of the year very healing. One of my favorite sounds is the pine trees gently whistling in the winter winds. I often stand on my porch just to listen and see if I can hear nature's whispers. I appreciate that all elements of nature need to have an opportunity to rest and rejuvenate to prepare for the changing season.

Each quarter we share an article from the collections of Minna Anthony Common. This current article shares her thoughts and observations about the Winter's Hedgerow she observed during an outing. While hiking our trails at the Nature Center, you may see small creatures and signs of wildlife that are less

obvious during the warmer months. Keep an eye out for prints in the snow the next time you visit, just as Minna did. We recently observed a hawk securing its prey in our snow-covered backyard. It was wonderful to see such a lovely creature so close to us.

The Nature Center has been busy throughout the past few months with creative activities each weekend and lots of visitors enjoying the trails. Our Holiday Bonanza was a great success, and we welcomed many artisans and local guests for the day. We will continue to host a variety of activities throughout the winter. We hope you will join us.

Robin Colello-Poplaski
Board President
Friends of the Nature Center

The Minna Anthony Common Series

Hedgerow Trip Is of Interest

Many Signs Give Indications
That Wild Life Flourishes in
Hedgerows in the Winter Season

by **Minna Anthony Common**

February 25, 1933

*Reprinted with permission from the
Watertown Daily Times.*

A stroll along a hedgerow on a mild winter's day is alive with fascinating possibilities. In a country so long inhabited as this, no sign of foxes or other large animals are apt to be encountered, and even the woodchucks are holed up. But the smaller animals live lives fully as thrilling, fully as adventurous, as these larger wild folk, and leave signs, too, which are fully as interesting to explain.

Hedgerows are few and far between in this world of well-ordered farms so such a really wild and neglected strip is sure to be a haven of many wild creatures. The name hedgerow is probably borrowed from the neat hedges of England which border their fields in place of fences. Here it is applied to a tangled row of small growth along a border line.

Everything about a hedgerow satisfies the artist's eye, but its appearance is painful to the person who loves nature only when it is clipped and pruned into tidiness. All kinds of shrubs, small trees, and vines get together here and make by chance pictures of beauty. The angular branches and bobs of sumac – the twisted and pointed buds of viburnums are artistic. The smooth stretched satin bark of black cherry and the speckled bark of mountain ash are beautiful. The strands of grape vines, the pale green of alders, the bright scarlet of osiers, the sheen of pussy willows, the dusky haws of prickly ash, the rattling seed pods of bladder nuts contribute their share of interest.

The tracks in the snow about the bushes tell many a story. Here a squirrel scampered along the fence to his hiding place in a tree. A little mouse had gone in and out about this clump of weeds and brush. His long tail dragging made little lines beside his foot marks. The mole, following his habit of burrowing just beneath the surface of the snow, had left a tell-tale ridge behind to show his course to all who cared to look. Here a rabbit sat and nibbled a bit of bark, became frightened here and jumped in great leaps, and there a trampled place showed where the whole rabbit family had held a reunion under the light of the moon. On a little rise of ground was a rabbit "form" – just a cozy look-out beside a clump of tall weeds where the bunny sat hidden from all but one side and viewed the world before him for possible enemies.

Tracks of pheasant and partridge were not common. In fact along the whole hedgerow there was only one of each. The pheasant had sat beneath a bush to feast on seeds, then had run a short distance before taking flight. His tail left marks in the snow. The partridge had wandered farther, but had stayed more closely beneath the shelter of the bushes. In the crack of an old red cedar fence post was a partridge tail, spread fan-wise. Fresh meat showed it had been recently severed. It might have been the tail of the one that had made the track. A skeleton of a woodchuck swaying from a bush proved hunters sometimes passed that way.

There was little to mar the quiet of the scene. Only the muffled beat of axe blows from the depths of the distant woods, and a few bird calls. Crows, gulls, downies, nuthatches, and a flock of starlings covered the bird list, but nests aplenty showed birds must have been quite numerous along that hedgerow last summer. One robin's nest had been capped with a domed roof made of twigs, feathers, and moss. A wee round hole on one side was the door of the mouse that lives in the trees. Inside the next were shells of beechnuts and acorns, but the mouse was not at home.

We sat on a big stone to eat our lunch and had a cheery fire to keep us warm. Our unseasonable stroll was surprisingly enjoyable. ■

From the Director

Dear Nature Center Community,

Our fall was filled with change – comings and goings, endings and new beginnings. In late September, Nature Center Rd. was closed for two weeks due to ecologically-sensitive construction, and access to the Nature Center was temporary closed. While contractors were busy making much-needed repairs and upgrades, we were busy making progress of a different kind. In September and October we offered 15 off-site programs within the local community. All October programs were conducted at other State Parks in the Thousand Islands Region. From our *Full Moon Hike* on Keewaydin’s Riverside Trail, *Nature’s Table* at the Keewaydin Marina Pavilion, or *Novice Birdwatching* on the Morgan Island Trail in Kring Point State Park, we enjoyed exploring and interpreting our sister State Parks. A heartfelt thank you to Keewaydin State Park and Kring Point State Park for graciously opening up your facilities to us!

In other happenings, we bid a fond farewell to our outgoing 2023 SCA Parks Corps Member Seth Blair (see page 3) as well as celebrated the retirement of our Park Manager Steven J. Cline (see page 4). We extend a warm welcome to two new Friends’ board members, Kristen Kratzert and Eileen Price (see page 13), we look forward to working with you!

All the best to you and your families in 2024! Thank you for continuing to place the Nature Center at the heart of your outdoor pursuits. Check out our calendar of events on pages 7–10 for a robust lineup of programs and events this winter. We’ll see you out there!

Gabriela Padewska

Director

Minna Anthony Common Nature Center



Eel Bay: a silhouetted forest illuminated at golden hour

For Your Consideration

Take on the Centennial Challenge!

Are you up for the challenge? 2024 marks our Centennial – as you head out on your next adventure to a New York State park or historic site, we invite you to take on the Centennial Challenge! Complete 24 out of 100 activities, win prizes! After completing 24 activities you’ll earn a commemorative Centennial prize, as well as an entry into a random drawing for one of 24 three-year Empire Passes and a Centennial swag bag! Learn more: <https://parks.ny.gov/100/challenge/>



Thank You from Outgoing SCA Member, Seth Blair

Seth demonstrates casting at one of our fishing clinics

Dear Supervisors, Coworkers, Board Members, Volunteers, Sponsors, and Patrons,

Working at the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center these past five months has been an amazing experience. The amount of effort, dedication, and time I have seen the people I work with put into this place really shows in both our patrons' experience and the quality of our programs and exhibits.

As an environmental educator, I was able to teach adults and children about the wonders of fishing, furbearers, camping, and maple sugaring. As a gardener, I learned about many different native plants and how to care for them as well as the invasives species that permeate throughout Upstate New York. All this knowledge that I accrued is priceless, and I cannot wait to utilize what I have learned here in my future career.

Thank you all for your support and your expertise. I wish you all the best and I hope to see everyone again.

Sincerely,

Seth August Blair
SCA NYS Parks Corps Member, 2023



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Park Manager Steven J. Cline Retires



Steve receiving plaque from fellow Park Managers

Congratulations to our Park Manager, Steven J. Cline, who retired in November after 36 years of service to NY State Parks! In honor of his dedicated management of Wellesley Island State Park, Steve was awarded the *Special Service Award* at the Statewide Agency Leadership Meeting’s annual L.L. Huttleston Awards Ceremony. Steve, thank you for your leadership, technical expertise, and stoic problem-solving over the years! We wish you lots of well-deserved R & R in retirement!



Surprise! Staff threw Steve a retirement party



Steve prepares the ground for planting trees during a community stewardship event



Steve was often seen in his yellow duster raincoat at many rainy Autumn Festivals

Holiday Bonanza Highlights



Friends Board President, Robin Coello-Poplaski, reads "Night Tree" by Eve Bunting.



Volunteers Joe Leskoske (left) and Stephen Sourwine set up lunch – compliments of the Friends



Heading to the best tree to hang the fruity garland inspired by the story "Night Tree"



Patrons of all ages enjoyed make-and-take ornaments and evergreen swags instructed by volunteers Rosie Swedrock (right) and Linda Adams (not pictured)



Nature Center Director, Gabriela Padewska (right), with swag-maker-extraordinaire Alena Roberts

Holiday Bonanza Highlights

Saturday, December 9th, 2023 – Mother Nature was calm, mild, and overcast until the late afternoon when sunshine peeked out for our annual Holiday Bonanza. Easy traveling weather brought us many visitors, 118 in total, including staff and volunteers! As adults and children created their own swags and decorations in our classroom, *Nature Claus* stood tall in the background by a crackling fire, adorned with Nature's critters, while amazing live music softly filled the air. Families enjoyed the center room with local vendors sprinkled throughout, displaying their fun, crafty, and great-tasting homemade foods and goods. One corner featured Clayton Shurfine Supermarket's tasty donuts (kindly donated) with hot cocoa on the side. And, of course, the raffle table, which is always our visitors' favorite.

Raffle donors included Andrew Kane, Feather in Flight Productions, who donated a magnificent metal photo of a ship on a sandy shore. Tad Kring of Kring Ranch Alexandria Bay donated a unique, hand carved 3' wooden bear holding a round tree cookie and a rustic table. We are always grateful to Cranberry Boggs of Alexandria Bay as well, who donated a beautiful hanging glass window with painted branches. We thank all our donors!

And of course our wonderful and very appreciated volunteers: Wink Beadel, Maggie Lort, Rosie & John Swedrock, Linda & Ken Adams, Stephen Sourwine, Kathy and Joe Leskoske, and Paula Torino. We cannot forget our Friends' board members who not only volunteered but cooked and served the mouthwatering, flavorful, *best-food-ever* for all our patrons and volunteers – their generosity topped off another great Holiday Bonanza family event! Our annual Holiday Bonanza is a day we plan for families to celebrate the winter season both outside in nature and inside the Nature Center, all while enjoying the holiday happenings of good food, crafts, stories, music, raffles, and shopping.

This great day was generously sponsored by Rusty Johnson of Rusty Johnson Masonry, Kohls of Watertown, and Price Chopper of Alexandria Bay. Thank you to all who helped make this another great Holiday Bonanza!

Darlene Sourwine
Community Outreach Coordinator
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center



Merry volunteers Maggie Lort & Wink Beadel greet visitors with warm and welcoming smiles



Newest Friends Board Member Kris Kratzert (right) and RJ Dietz serve up potato latkes



Festive Friends Board Member Jeff Hanna

Winter Programs



Scan to see the calendar of events on our website.

Registration required for some events.
Please email MACNatureCenter@parks.ny.gov
or call **(315) 482-2479** to register.

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](#). Eclipse lead-up programming denoted by ● Solar System Trail launches 3/1.

RECURRING EVENTS

NATURE FUN DAY

First Saturday of the Month: January 6, February 3, March 2

Bring the family and enjoy a winter fun-filled day!

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. FREE SNOWSHOE DAY Gear up and get outside – for free! Take a pair of snowshoes out on our trails and explore winter! Weather permitting: seven inches of snow is needed to take our snowshoes out on the trail. Please call for conditions.

10:00 a.m. FEATHERED FRIENDS Every winter the Nature Center builds a bird feeder station to help the wintering bird population. Birdseed will be provided to feed the birds. Our feathered friends may even land and take seed from your hand or your head! All ages are welcome.

1:00 p.m. NATURE MOVIE End your day by warming up inside the Nature Center while watching a family-friendly, awe-inspiring documentary about the wonders of the natural world.

FULL MOON HIKES ●

Thursday, January 25 // 4:00 p.m. Wolf Moon: RSVP by 1/23

Saturday, February 24 // 5:00 p.m. Snow Moon: RSVP by 2/22

Sunday, March 24 // 7:00 p.m. Worm Moon: RSVP by 3/22

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.

PACK BASKET CLASS

Saturdays: January 13 and March 16 // 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (duration: 7 hours)

Have you ever wanted to weave your very own pack basket? Come join a small class to learn this traditional craft. This is an all-day workshop, please bring a lunch. Space is very limited, please call to reserve your spot. Fee is \$100.00; payment is due at event. This class is recommended for adults.

JANUARY *Also see recurring events listed above.*

FIRST DAY HIKE

Monday, January 1 // 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a beautiful walk through the woods, get some fresh air, and greet the New Year. Following the hike, we'll return to a warm fire and hot beverages in the Nature Center.

WILDLIFE IN WINTER

Sunday, January 7 // 1:00 p.m.

Did you know that by midwinter deer are in an almost semi-hibernating state? Deer decrease how much food they eat by about 30 percent and their activity by 50 percent! Come learn even more exciting facts and take a hike! Please make sure you are prepared for the weather!

FAMILY AFTERNOON MOVIE *Adventure-themed*

Sunday, January 14 // 1:00 p.m. (duration: 1.5 hours)

Please join us this winter afternoon for a funny, adventurous, and heartwarming family movie... complete with a fire, popcorn, and drinks! Call the Nature Center with questions about the film.

"I HAVE A DREAM" CELEBRATION

Monday, January 15 // 11:00 a.m.

In collaboration with Clayton's Hawn Memorial Library, we're celebrating Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with some activities geared towards his dream. Librarian Laura Orvis will start with a reading of *Goodnight Racism*, we'll have a discussion of the famous "I Have a Dream" speech, and finish with a craft that will help identify and embrace our own dreams. This program, while primarily geared towards children, is suitable for all ages

4TH ANNUAL ICE FISHING CLINIC *at Dewolf Point State Park*

Saturday, January 20 // 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! Grilled hotdog lunch provided. Dress warmly, and bring face-coverings and extra gloves for the kids! Restrooms NOT available at Dewolf Point SP, so please plan accordingly.

BALD EAGLE WATCHING

Sunday, January 21 // 10:00 a.m.

The bald eagles are here! Wellesley Island is one of the best places in New York State to see these magnificent birds. We'll search for these cold-weather visitors along frozen waterbodies and in the treetops overhead. BYO binoculars and dress for cold, windy weather.

ADULT BARN QUILT WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 27 // 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (duration: 3 hours)

Our Barn Quilt Workshop is back! We'll be creating 12"x12" traditional barn quilts for your barn, garage, or just about anywhere. Space is limited so please register early! Material fee \$25. RSVP by 1/25.

WINTER WELLNESS: MAKE YOUR OWN FIRE CIDER

Sunday, January 28 // 11:00 a.m.

Has your wellness mindset drained now that it's late January? Join us for this workshop to make your own wellness... Fire Cider! This herbal tonic combines horseradish with root vegetables like

ginger, garlic, and onions, which are then dissolved in apple cider vinegar. Optional hot peppers are added to make it fiery. You'll sample some of our cider and start your own to take home and enjoy after approximately six weeks. Registration is limited. RSVP by 1/26.

FEBRUARY *Also see recurring events listed above.*

HIDE AND SEEK HIKE

Sunday, February 4 // 1:00 p.m.

Can you spot the animals? Test your spotting skills in the Nature Center's hide and seek game. Find all the critters we have hidden around the building and then join us for a short nature hike to search for wildlife outdoors! Please don't forget to dress for the weather.

DOG SLED DEMONSTRATION by RIVER FEVER MUSHING

Saturday, February 10 // 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 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.

BIRD WATCHING HIKE

Sunday, February 11 // 10:00 a.m.

What birds are around in winter? Come on by for a birding hike to spot and learn about some of our local feathered friends. Please be prepared to hike and dress appropriately for the weather. BYO binoculars or borrow a pair of ours.

SNOW FAIRY HOUSES

Saturday, February 17 // 1:00 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.

WILDERNESS SKILLS: TRACKING 101

Sunday, February 18 // 1:00 p.m.

Have you ever walked a trail, or even your land, saw tracks and wished you could identify who or what visited, and roughly how many? Join outdoorsman Patrick Dove on the trail to improve your tracking skills. Before we head out, we'll discuss what we may see. Afterward, we'll chat and learn more while we enjoy a warm cup of hot cocoa and donuts.

KIDS' WEEK!

Monday, February 19 – Friday, February 23

11:00 a.m.—Noon: Nature Games School's out! This winter break, stop by the Nature Center for some winter fun! We will have programs daily. Monday–Friday topics: scavenger hunt, Critter Scene Investigations (CSI), turtle feeding + craft, a bird migration game, and Care of Magical Creatures followed by a movie. Pack a lunch and stay for the 1:00 p.m. hike!

1:00 p.m. Guided Hike Join us for a fun winter hike! Snowshoes provided (weather permitting).

FAMILY AFTERNOON MOVIE *Space Documentary* ●

Sunday, February 25 // 1:00 p.m. (duration: 1.5 hours)

Calling all space nerds! Come watch an awesome space show! Recommended for 9 years old and up. During the documentary, we will have popcorn and hot drinks!

MARCH *Also see recurring events listed above.*

WINTER TRACK EXPLORATION

Sunday, March 3 // 10:00 a.m.

Join us on a 1-mile hike to find signs of our local animals! We'll learn about what tracks and signs they leave behind. Dress for the weather!

WINTER WILDLIFE DAY

Saturday, March 9 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (drop-in)

Do you know how animals adapt to being outside in winter? Find out by joining us for a family-friendly celebration with games, crafts, campfire, and a snowshoe hike (weather permitting).

NEW MOON ADVENTURES ●

Sunday, March 10 // 8:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of stargazing with our friends from the Sci-Tech Museum! A New Moon night is ideal for dark skies. Enjoy learning about constellations and observing Jupiter with its many moons and more! All of this will be accompanied by a fire and s'mores (of course!).

FAMILY AFTERNOON MOVIE *Space-themed PG-13* ●

Sunday, March 17 // 1:00 p.m. (duration: 2.5 hours)

Please join us this winter afternoon for a funny, adventurous, and suspenseful space-themed movie... complete with a fire, popcorn, and drinks! Movie rated PG-13.

SPRING EQUINOX: HIGH NOON HIKE ●

Wednesday, March 20 // 11:30 a.m.

Come celebrate the vernal equinox with an early afternoon hike! Hike begins promptly at 11:30 a.m. to be able to enjoy solar noon on the trails. Please be prepared with proper footwear. We may have snow, slush, or mud. Feel free to call for trail conditions: (315) 482-2479.

SUGARING DURING THE THAW

Saturday, March 23 // 10:00 a.m.

How many gallons of sap does it take to make one gallon of maple syrup? Find out the answer to this question and many others in this hands-on presentation by Sugarmaker David Neuroth.

LET'S GO FLY A KITE!

Friday, March 29 // Noon–1:30 p.m. (drop-in)

Welcome spring with us by flying kites! We'll have a few on-hand, but you're encouraged to bring your own too. There's no better springtime fun!

SOLAR ECLIPSE CRAFT ●

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

Celebrate the upcoming total solar eclipse by joining us for a fun solar-eclipse craft and some fun space-themed activities!

SPRING ANIMALS

Sunday, March 31 // 1:00 p.m.

Learn about the baby animals that are being born in the spring!

We're Hiring!

Kenneth Deedy Environmental Steward

This tri-organizational internship opportunity is for a passionate individual ready to assist the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT), Save The River (STR) and the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center (MACNC) in their individual missions. The Deedy Steward will spend three weeks at each organization immersing themselves in the Thousand Islands region and what it is to be an environmental steward. This is an opportunity unlike any other – a true environmental internship in and of the Thousand Islands!

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FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER

we are
HIRING

**KENNETH DEEDY
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD**

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 31!

[HTTPS://TILANDTRUST.ORG/CAREERS/CURRENT-OPPORTUNITIES](https://tilandtrust.org/careers/current-opportunities)

THANK YOU to the following 47 Friends for joining or renewing their commitment recently

Robin Colello-Poplaski	Watertown, NY	Chris Murray	Clayton, NY
Kenneth & Meredith Nims	Clayton, NY	Brad & Mary Pat Adams	Wellesley Island, NY
Jaclyn Moll	Rochester, NY	Barb Eldridge	Watertown, NY
Greg & Cynthia McLean	Clinton, NY	Riveredge Resort	Alexandria Bay, NY
Tracy Agnello	Tonawanda, NY	Skip Behrhorst & Donna Fisher	Basalt, CO
Robert & Kathleen Hanna	Washington, NC	Thomas & Eileen Henion	Hilton, NY
Darrell & Judy Rippeteau	Washington, DC	Robert Nassau	Wellesley Island, NY
Jeff & Linda Batts	Yulee, FL	Linda McTague	Wellesley Island, NY
Windsor & Eileen Price	Skaneateles, NY	Jennifer Caddick	Clayton, NY
Meghan Caddick	Clayton, NY	Radley & Shaundra Beach	Wellesley Island, NY
Steve & Julie Dziewisz	T.I. Park, NY	Tony & Lisa Tambasco	Fairport, NY
Royal & Ann Garlock	Alexandria Bay, NY	Bob & Donna Pakan	Wellesley Island, NY
Ali Fernaays	Rochester, NY	John & Claudia Topping	Wellesley Island, NY
Chris & Jana Lambert	New Hartford, NY	Jess Esford Family	LaFargeville, NY
Bruce Alexander	Dexter, NY	Sabrina Nims Family	LaFargeville, NY
Erica Hoffman	Atlantic Beach, FL		

Annual Meeting 2024



Friday, April 12th // 4:15 p.m.–4:45 p.m.

Join us for our 2024 Annual Meeting! Open to all members – the entire membership of Friends of the Nature Center is invited to attend. Discover all the good work that has been done in the past year – and learn how you can help! Both charitable contributions and volunteerism are integral to the Nature Center’s continued success. Join in-person at the Nature Center or through Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81560055183>

Meet Our Newest Friends' Board Members!



Kris and Wellesley attend our First Day Hike

Kristen Kratzert

Kristen grew up in Whitesboro and attended Hamilton College, Tel Aviv University American Program Medical School, and did her residency at NYU Medical Center. She is a retired physician and founder of The Women's Wellness Place in Syracuse, NY. She practiced for over 30 years. Her significant other, RJ Dietz, is a retired dentist who volunteers at a dental clinic in Syracuse. They live on Wellesley Island and are frequent visitors to the Nature Center. They like to hike, cross-country ski, and snowshoe, and have brought many family members and friends to the Nature Center. Kristen is also a board member of a nonprofit in Syracuse, A Tiny Home for Good, and hopes to be able to help the Friends of the Nature Center board extend its wonderful work. When she is not volunteering, she's walking her dog, playing pickleball, and gardening.



Eileen out with Aoife on the Nature Center's terrace

Eileen Price

Eileen has been part of nonprofit organizations her whole adult life. She's a frequent volunteer and has served on many advisory boards. She was Director of Development and Special Events Coordinator for the Syracuse Opera for 18 years, helped raise money for and build two playgrounds in Skaneateles and T.I. Park, and was the leader of the team of volunteers that raised money for and built the Recreational Center in Skaneateles. Eileen was also President of the Skaneateles Ski Club for eight years, volunteered at the Skaneateles Library, and was a charter member as well as Vice President of Zonta of Skaneateles for four years. She has always had a strong desire to help her local community. Now that her three daughters are grown, she is spending more time at the River where she enjoys morning hikes at the Nature Center. Eileen has been an Equitable Financial Advisor for 15 years and would like to offer her financial and service expertise to the Friends of the Nature Center.



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. Assistant

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*
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- Gifford Lewis
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- Meredith Sullivan
- Jeffry Weldon

WELLESLEY ISLAND STATE PARK

Paula Torino, *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!**FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER
ANNUAL MEETING****Friday, April 12****4:15 p.m.–4:45 p.m.**

Join us for our 2024 Annual Meeting! Open to all members – the entire membership of Friends of the Nature Center is invited to attend. Discover all the good work that has been done in the past year – and learn how you can help! Both charitable contributions and volunteerism are integral to the Nature Center's continued success.

Join in-person at the Nature Center or through Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81560055183>

TOTALITY ON THE RIVER**Monday, April 8****10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**

Join us for an unforgettable viewing of the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse at the Wellesley Island State Park marina! We will have food trucks, amateur astronomers, eclipse activities, a solar telescope, and more! Bring a lawn chair and experience the magic of 100% totality. Eclipse glasses will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Limited parking available, park will close once parking capacity is reached. Please be advised NO camping or RV parking. Park is open for day-use only from sunrise to sunset. Entry to the park outside those hours is prohibited



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.