



Spring Programs

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



Scan to see the calendar of events on our website.

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

RECURRING EVENTS

FULL MOON HIKES ●

Tuesday, April 23 // 7:00 p.m. *Pink Moon: RSVP by 4/21*

Thursday, May 23 // 8:15 p.m. *Flower Moon: RSVP by 5/21*

Friday, June 21 // 8:20 p.m. *Strawberry Moon: RSVP by 6/18*

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.

APRIL Also see recurring events listed above.

CHASING COMETS at "A" Camping Loop in Wellesley Island State Park

Thursday, April 4 // 8:30 p.m.

Come join us as we look into the night sky and find comet *12P/Pons-Brooks*. We'll meet at the A loop bathhouse and walk down to the river. Amateur astronomer, Tim Abel, will bring his telescope and we'll also have a spotting scope and extra binoculars. Please bring a flashlight.

PIN-HOLE PROJECTOR

Saturday, April 6 // 10:00 a.m.

Let's get ready for the solar eclipse by creating a pinhole projector. This fun, easy project will help you safely see the solar eclipse.

SOLAR ECLIPSE: TOTALITY ON THE RIVER at the Wellesley Island State Park Marina

Monday, April 8 // 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Join us for an unforgettable viewing of the 2024 Great North American Solar Eclipse! We will have food trucks, amateur astronomers, eclipse activities, 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.



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

TURKEY CALLING FOR BEGINNERS *with Outdoorsman Patrick Dove*

Saturday, April 13 // 10:00 a.m. (duration approx. 3 hours)

Let's talk turkey! Learn about the skill of turkey calling from outdoorsman Patrick Dove. Watch and listen to turkey call demonstrations. Then learn how to call them by trying various turkey calls yourself! This is a fun experience and a wonderful outdoor skill to learn.

MINI PACK BASKET WORKSHOP

Sunday, April 14 // 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Come on out and learn to weave your own mini pack basket! This is a smaller version of the traditional pack basket, but it's oh so cute! \$40 materials fee. Limited registration, so please RSVP by 4/12.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 20 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (drop-in)

10:00 a.m. Shoreline Cleanup // **12:00 p.m.** Guided Meditative Hike

Join us for a day of focused attention on Mother Earth. Our program will include activities throughout the day as well as some opportunities to gain insight on a number of conservation strategies. Give back by helping with our trash cleanup at 10 a.m. (Please bring gardening gloves if you have them), take a guided meditative walk in nature at noon, and enjoy the interactive and informational conservation topics offered by our educators. Throughout the day, we'll be showing the film, "The Story of Stuff," which provides insight on the lifecycle of our stuff. Also enjoy complimentary food and beverages for all participants.

PERCH FISHING ON EEL BAY *with Fishing Guide Ethan Forbes*

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

Let's go fishing! Join us and drop a line or cast out and see how many perch, or other fish, you can catch. Bring your own poles if you can; we have a limited few. Bait will be supplied. Please note **AGES 16 AND UP WILL NEED A FISHING LICENSE.** Ages 15 and under can fish without a license.

ARBOR DAY

Friday, April 26 // 10:00 a.m.

Let's hug a tree! What better way to celebrate our native trees than to learn about them? Today we will walk in the woods among the trees and learn just what trees do for nature and for us! After our hike, we'll have a craft. Then when you're done, take a tree of your own home to plant in your yard to celebrate Arbor Day every day as you watch it grow.

"TIME FLIES" FLY-TYING WORKSHOP *with Fishing Guide Ethan Forbes*

Saturday, April 27 // 10:00 a.m.

Going fishing? Before you go, join fishing guide Ethan Forbes as he teaches the art of fly tying. Learn the skills of how to make your own flies for fishing and the colors that attract many varieties of fish. This is a workshop all you anglers won't want to miss!

EYE SPY SPRING

Sunday, April 28 // 1:00 p.m.

Come join us in a fun hike while we try to find signs of spring. Please remember to bring your mud boots. This might be a muddy fun hike.

HOMESTEADING IN THE THOUSAND ISLANDS *at River Yoga (234 James St, Clayton, NY)*

Sunday, April 28 // Talk 3:00 p.m. // Tea Time 4:00 p.m. // Yin Yoga 5:00 p.m.

Join us in this presentation on how native edible and medical plants can be used to better you and your environment. We will explore practical methods that you can employ in your daily life to become a more conscious consumer. You are what you eat. If you don't know what you're eating, do you know who you are? Talk and tea time are free, yin yoga \$16.

MAY Also see recurring events listed above.

I LOVE MY PARK DAY

Saturday, May 4 // 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Show your Nature Center some love! Volunteer to spruce up the Nature Center grounds from a long winter. Help us prepare for another busy summer season. This is the day when we get out our mop buckets, sponges, garden trowels, rakes, and clippers, and work to beautify our Nature Center. Lunch will be complimentary for all volunteers. To preregister, visit ptny.org/ilovemypark or call the Nature Center at (315) 482-2479.

CINCO DE MAYO: TAMALES WORKSHOP

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

What better celebration of Latino heritage than through partaking in their delicious cuisine? We'll spend the day making tamales from scratch! All participants will take home a bag filled with their luscious creations! \$10 materials fee. Space is limited, RSVP required by 5/3.

CELEBRATING MOMS! *in collaboration with River Wellness*

Saturday, May 11 // 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Join us today in celebration of Moms! We'll host an early hike (weather permitting). Then, for Mom at 10 a.m., we'll have a complimentary yoga class with the folks from River Wellness in Clayton. Following yoga, River Wellness will be offering relaxing chair massages as well. While the moms relax, kids and dads can enjoy games & crafts (make something for Mom!). After relaxation, we'll host a luncheon to top off our day together. Massage sessions will be \$10 and are available on a limited basis. RSVP required by 5/5.

AMAZING AMPHIBIANS

Sunday, May 12 // 10:00 a.m.

Hop, crawl, or swim on by for a fun 3-mile hike to find and learn about our local amphibians. Please dress for a hike and for possibly getting muddy!

ARMED FORCES DAY *sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center*

Saturday, May 18 // 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

In appreciation of our Military Service members and Veterans, join us for this special day. Test your speed and skills on our obstacle course and enjoy a short hike. After all that fresh air, our Military Service members and Veterans will be treated to a 5-minute chair massage by the staff of River Wellness between 11am–1pm. Food and drinks will be provided. RSVP appreciated by 5/16.

OSPREY VIEWING

Sunday, May 19 // 1:00 p.m.

Ospreys migrate up to the North Country to return to their nests. Join us on a guided hike along our shoreline and roadside nest platforms to see if we can spot these beautiful birds.

AMERICAN FLAG WALL HANGING + CAMPFIRE FOOD

Friday, May 24 // 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Come celebrate Memorial Day weekend by turning a paper bag into a beautiful American flag wall hanging. Please wear clothes you don't mind getting paint on. Then come grill hotdogs over a campfire... complete with all the fixin's! Program subject to weather. RSVP by 5/22.

MEMORIAL DAY SUMMER KICKOFF + FIELD DAY

Saturday, May 25 // 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

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

PATRIOTIC BARN QUILT WORKSHOP

Sunday, May 26 // 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Join us, kids and adults alike, for our patriotic barn quilt workshop. The kids will make a 6”x6” star with background and border and the adults will make a 12”x12” flag-themed barn quilt. These classes will run concurrently – perfect for families! Due to the nature of the process, children should be 8 or older to participate. Please wear clothes you don’t mind getting paint on! Class size is limited, so please RSVP by 5/20. Materials fees: Adults/\$25 and Children/\$10

CRAFT CAFÉ: MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 27 // 10:00 a.m.

We’re getting on our Red, White and Blue with some fun crafts to enjoy the morning and show your patriotism! Complimentary tea and lemonade will be served.

JUNE *Also see recurring events listed above.*

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: LEAVE NO TRACE WORKSHOP *with Adirondack Mountain Club*

Saturday, June 1 // 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Join us with our friends from the Adirondack Mountain Club to celebrate our beautiful trails! We’ll learn about “Leave No Trace” in the classroom and then take our new knowledge trail-side to experience how to enjoy the outdoors with minimum human impact. Registration is limited, please RSVP by 5/25.

I BIRD NY: BIRDWATCHING HIKE

Sunday, June 2 // 10:00 a.m.

Did you know that Wellesley Island State Park is a part of the *NYS Birding Trail* network? Join us as we take to the trails and learn about identifying birds! We’ll listen to songs and find field markers of our feathered friends. BYO binoculars; if not, we will have some spares!

ASK THE FISHING GUIDE: FISH ID + FISH CLEANING *with Fishing Guide Ethan Forbes*

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

So, you caught a stringer of various kinds of fish – perch, bass, or maybe an invasive goby – now what? Join us with local Fishing Guide Ethan Forbes to learn how to identify your catch and how to clean and filet your fish using different techniques. Bonus: learn how to clean a pike – one of the toughest fish to clean. If you like to fish, this program is for you!

DON’T MOVE FIREWOOD!

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

Come join us on a hike along Eel Bay trail to look for signs of the Emerald Ash Borer. Learn how to prevent the spread of this invasive species, and to keep watch for early signs of this destructive insect. Hike will be approx. 1 mile. Please dress for the weather.

CRAFT CAFÉ: PRESSED FLOWER LANTERN

Sunday, June 9 // 11:00 a.m.

This pressed flower craft is a great activity for kids and adults. Pressed flower lanterns are SO PRETTY and so easy to make! We’ll have everything here, just bring yourselves! Complimentary tea and lemonade will be served. Please RSVP by 6/5.

POTTING SHED WORKSHOP: NATIVE PLANTS

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

Curious about our gardens? Join us at the Potting Shed for a talk about our some of our native plants followed by a chance to plant your own! We will have spare gloves for those without, and if you wish, you can bring your plants home and start your very own native plant garden.

CELEBRATING DADS!

Saturday, June 15 // 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Come out to the Nature Center today to celebrate dad! We'll have some cool activities including an obstacle course, fishing (bring your licenses and fishing poles! some poles available), crafts, and food. You and your dads will not want to miss this!

WILDFLOWER WALK

Sunday, June 16 // 11:00 a.m.

Come join us on the trails as we search for native wildflowers. We will be going on a guided walk starting from the Nature Center and then down Middle Trail to learn how to identify common ephemeral flowers and plants.

JUNETEENTH

Wednesday, June 19 // 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a look at the history of Juneteenth and the NY State parks and historic sites that had significance in the abolition of slavery. We'll explore some of the interesting music, songs, and artwork that came from the period of slavery. Did you know quilts played a role in the Underground Railroad? We'll create a colorful quilt to take home.

SUMMER SOLSTICE

Thursday, June 20 // 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a special celebration of the summer solstice! We'll spend the evening with live music, food, beverages, natural mandalas, flower crowns and more! Summer never started so good! RSVP appreciated by 6/17.

POLLINATOR CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 22 // 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate *National Pollinator Week* with a demonstration and discussion of beekeeping and the benefits of bees with local beekeepers. Learn how to do the "Bee Dance" and build a solitary beehive to take home. Local honey will be available to taste.

GARDEN TOUR: PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

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

Come take a walking tour of the Nature Center's native plant gardens with our gardeners and learn about easy-to-grow, beautiful plant options to create local habitat and welcome pollinators into your yard! We will also have native plants for you to take home and get you started. Additional plants will be available by suggested donation.

ETHNOBOTANY with Herbalist Sue-Ryn Burns

Saturday, June 29 // 1:00 p.m.

Ethnobotany is the study of a region's plants and their traditional uses. Join herbal artist and Wellesley Island resident, Sue-Ryn Burns, as we explore herbal healing, identify local plants, and discuss foraging wild foods. Sue-Ryn has more than 40 years of active experience working with healing herbs for people as well as animal companions.

WATER COLORING!

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

Calling all artists! Come on by to learn or practice your water-coloring skills. We will have lots of pictures and props to draw inspiration from and, weather permitting, we will be outside.



Scan to see the
calendar of events
on our website:
macnaturecenter.com/calendar

We'll see you out there