

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2026 Issue



The Harvest Full Moon over Ridge Trail. Photo courtesy of Erik Hultgren.

It's hard not to notice that autumn is on our doorstep as the air turns crisp and the sunsets creep in earlier each day. It seems as though the summer just started, and what a great summer it was on the River!

The Nature Center was busy all through the season — families on the trails, school groups visiting in June, full moon hikes, and crafting workshops. Our first-ever Drum Circle brought the community together, and musicians shared their talents at Porch Fest. The Fourth of July was filled with field games and ice cream, and our War of 1812 program on the Battle of Cranberry Creek brought local history to life with demonstrations and re-enactments. Our Night for Nature featured wonderful food, music, an amazing silent auction, and lots of camaraderie. Although the weather didn't always cooperate, spirits stayed high, programs were well attended, and fun was had

by all! Thank you to all who support the Nature Center.

For many, the fall is a time of new beginnings – new schools, new friends, new schedule. For the natural world it is a time of slowing down, calming of the winds, quieting of the bird song. As Minna was “captivated by the gorgeousness of some scarlet maples flaming against a background of dark green hemlocks on the edge of a woods”, I hope you will also venture into the woods and find a stump to set upon and observe the amazing world we live in.

Hope to meet you on the trails,

Emma Dundon
Board President
Friends of the Nature Center

The Minna Anthony Common Series

Visit to Quiet Woods Related

by **Minna Anthony Common**

October 20, 1932

*Reprinted with permission from the
Watertown Daily Times.*

Driving slowly along a byroad just to enjoy October's sunshine and balmy air, we were captivated by the gorgeousness of some scarlet maples flaming against a background of dark green hemlocks on the edge of a woods. Our immediate desire was to go into those woods and the farmer, a prosaic enough man, gave surprised and willing permission.

We negotiated the pasture bars successfully and followed a cow path along an old rail fence down to the edge of the grove. A blue jay saw us coming and warned all the wood folk with a few shrill cries. Unexpectedly a creek, too wide to leap, too deep for stepping stones, blocked our way. The path, however, solved our problem, for it led to a rough plank bridge. Once across this, it skirted the woods on the way to grassy pastures somewhat farther away. We preferred the semi-darkness to the grove itself. Such trees we found there! Old giants that towered up and up without a branch then spread out above the tops of the woods. There was no underbrush because of the dense shade and there were very few young trees. Massive sugar maples, some of them fully six feet through, a dozen hemlocks almost as tall as church spires, basswood so straight and commanding one doubted its identity, some vagabond birches with ragged bark fluttering, a few beeches that would make century old tree look like a youngster, and a pine or two were only a few of the monarchs that ruled over these woods. We were grateful to the succession of men who had spared them for us to enjoy.

The flat top of a stump offered a comfortable seat. From this vantage point we contemplated the scene spread before us. There

was the play of light and shade on the huge tree trunks, the red and gold sunshine coming through the swamp maple leaves, the songs of the birds, the trickle of the small brooks that meandered all about through the woods on their way to the large creek outside, the chatter of a squirrel, the hum of a late cicada, and the rustle of fallen leaves. Not a sound from the outside world penetrated the peaceful solitude of this wild place. A languorous feeling stole over us as we sat there, robbing us of all initiative, all sense of time, and making us willing to forget our petty worries and bothersome duties. An odor sweet and indescribable came to us faintly. Idly we wondered what it could be.

Time pressed and we reluctantly left the stump and started back toward the bridge. A whistling whirr greeted our first movement. A startled partridge was beating a noisy retreat through the woods. Stupidly we gazed at the place he had left, a scooped out red pine dust spot on the ground not 20 feet from where we had been sitting. Why had we not seen that partridge dusting himself? A little peeved, we moved, on consoled somewhat by the cheery whistles of the chickadees cavorting in the low-hung branches of the hemlocks and by the incessant music of the wee kinglets in the highest treetops. Then another partridge rose with a bank almost from our feet. Its white-tipped tail marked its rapid retreat. This one had evidently been busy eating partridge berries.

No rocks at all appeared in the woods and the bed of the brook was sand washed into ripples. The shores were sandy muck and there in the damp rich earth thrived marvelous beds of ferns. Some species were still green while others had turned the most beautiful creamy white. Walking among them we discovered it was from them the delightful odor came, for they were the fragrant fern whose fronds Parsons calls "the plumes of departing summer."

What a paradise for the collector of ferns or of mosses this grove would be! What studies in harmony of color for the artist could be seen here! But its peaceful restfulness and quiet beauties alone are most soul-satisfying for the humble lover of outdoors. ■

From the Director

Dear Nature Center Community,

Our signature Eel Bay summer sunsets have been magnificent this year. The season has been graced by excellent weather, an abundance of programming, and the joy of sharing it with all of you! Our team delivered over a hundred public programs and welcomed over 10,000 visitors to the Nature Center in July and August. Thank you to the Parks staff, our Friends board, and our *amazing* volunteer team for your enthusiasm and hard work this summer. Our dedicated volunteers proved invaluable: Gary Burdell, Tami & Brian DiFranco, John B. Johnson Jr., Nancy Kuhl, Joe & Kathy Leskoske, Maggie Lort, Sallie Russell, Mary Lou Scheffield, Shari Scott, and Deb Thompson.

Additionally, a special thank you to our volunteer presenters: artist Mira Scott, poet Elizabeth Robin, archeologists Ken Knapp and Ross Holbrook, historians Paul Beers and Dennis & Kathi McCarthy, historical reenactors Mark Bailey (Canada) and Forsyth Rifles Inc., bushcrafter Jack Downing, the General Brown Chapter of the National Society of United States Daughters of 1812, the Masonic War Veterans Post 60 Battle of Cranberry Creek, beekeeper Hans Junga, geologist Ed Ponto, mycologist Jean Fahey, falconer Mark Manske, amateur astronomers John Rusho and Tim Abel, naturalists and moth enthusiasts Vici and Steve Diehl, birders Jim Eagan and Roberta Calhoun-Eagan, carnivorous plant cultivator Dustin Truesdell, and Porchfest musicians Win Price, Dave Knapp, Jeremy Taylor, and Brand Gould. We are incredibly grateful to the Barbara & Daniel Butts Enrichment Fund for sponsoring the 12th Annual Youth Fishing Derby, as well as ongoing support from our wonderful Friends of the Nature Center. A warm welcome to new board members Makena Boneham, Jen Coon, and Bradley Kranz! Thank you all!



*Striking snapshot of a familiar flyer.
Photo by Roberta Calhoun-Eagan.*

Looking ahead to autumn we gain inspiration from Minna's article "Visit to Quiet Woods Related." Her writing eases us into savoring the "plumes of departing summer" and slowing down. Her words this quarter echo the poetic, transcendental quality of Thoreau's *Walden*. Join us for our Minna Remix program on October 17 to reprise her "soul-satisfying" hike. However, prior to settling in for the fall, we invite you to attend the 47th Annual Autumn Festival on October 10. I recently did a deep dive into our archives and I was fascinated to discover the 1979 origins of Autumn Festival. How fortunate we are to continue this River tradition! See our full calendar of events on pages 7–10. We'll see you out there!

Gabriela Padewska

Minna Anthony Common Nature Center

For Your Consideration

"Skip the lead, save a bird instead" ❤️ Consider switching to lead-free tackle

At our recent Youth Fishing Derby, our partner Save The River (STR) handed out complementary lead-free tackle kits. Lead poisoning is the leading cause of death for loons and other water birds. *Fish Lead Free* – together we can help protect our River wildlife while enjoying the great pastime of fishing! STR serves as our local ambassador for The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation's lead-free initiative. Learn more at adkloon.org/lead-free.



1979

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER

2026

47TH ANNUAL

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 10**

**10:00AM
-4:00PM**

**MUSIC, FOOD,
GAMES**

MAC Nature Center,
Wellesley Island
State Park

(315) 482-2479
macnaturecenter.com

FREE Admission!
Cash-preferred event.

Join us at the Nature Center for the 47th Annual **Autumn Festival**—a full day of “all things autumn” fun for the whole family! Celebrate the season with local vendors, craft demonstrators, delicious food, entertaining games, pumpkin patch, apple cider press, petting farm, live music by singer-songwriter Doriana Spurell, and storytelling by Regi Carpenter. Don’t miss the scarecrow-building contest, prize raffles, and the amateur talent show! We will also have a harvest swap and a drop-off point for local food pantry donations. This is a cash-preferred event. Come enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of fall—you won’t want to miss it!



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation



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

Summer Highlights: History, Art, and Birds!

The summer season is such an exciting time at the Nature Center! We held special events with wonderful collaborators, enjoyed all the shared wildlife sightings with our community, and wrapped up the season surrounded by a wealth of gratitude. Enjoy the diverse sights and sounds of summer! (Top to bottom: War of 1812 Day: Battle of Cranberry Creek; Art and the Beauty of Nature with artist Mira Scott and poet Elizabeth Robin; and bird sightings by photographer Roberta Calhoun-Eagan.)



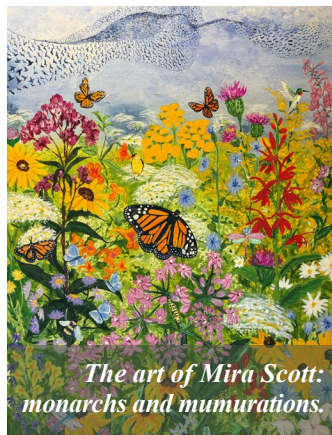
Logan proudly holds his commemorative America250 flag!



Out with a bang! Historical demo by Forsyth Rifles.



Historians, archeologists and reenactors! (L-R): Tim Abel, Mark Bailey, Darlene Sourwine, Ken Knapp, and Paul Beers.



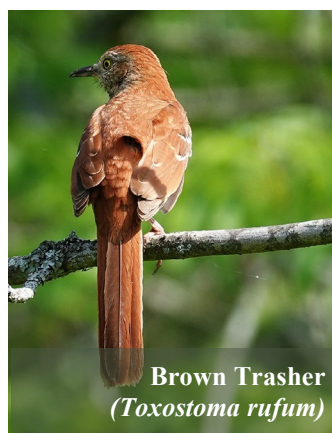
The art of Mira Scott: monarchs and mumurations.



Mira with her children's book "Myrtle the Loggerhead Turtle."



(L-R): Friends' secretary Kris Kraztert, artist Mira Scott, and poet Elizabeth Robin.



Brown Trasher
(*Toxostoma rufum*)



Black-and-white Warbler
(*Mniotilta varia*)



Common Yellowthroat
(*Geothlypis trichas*)

Highlights from the 11th Annual *Night for Nature*



Great conversation backdropped by another magical Eel Bay sunset



The River is calling! Thousand Islands ambiance enhanced by wooden boat bar, The Sipper



Linda and Ken Adams enjoy listening to live music by The Buoy Rockers



Giff Lewis, Friends' Vice President, samples olive oil-flavored popcorn courtesy of The 1000 Islands Cruet

Night for Nature cont.

Night for Nature

Thank You to Our 2026 Sponsors

Anonymous
 Watertown Savings Bank
 Watertown Daily Times
 Marguerite & Robert Cleary
 Silver Line Party Rental
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 Michael Simpson
 Michel Hazelwood
 Colleen Murphy, Capital Wealth Advisors
 Northern New York Community Foundation
 McKinney Inc. Bradleys Military Supply





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](#).

Scan to see the calendar of events on our website.

EVENT SERIES *Recurring programs with multiple date options*

FULL MOON HIKES*

Sunday, October 25 // 5:30 p.m. *Hunter's Moon: RSVP by 10/23*

Wednesday, November 25 // 5:10 p.m. *Beaver Moon: RSVP by 11/23*

Wednesday, December 23 // 3:50 p.m. *Cold Moon: RSVP by 12/21*

Join us on the trails for our monthly full-moon hikes! Please wear sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing for warmth, and bring your own headlamp and/or flashlight. We'll leave the Nature Center promptly to catch a view of the moonrise. Following the hike, we'll host a campfire! Program subject to weather. Limited space, please RSVP no later than 2 days prior to event.

OCTOBER *Also see daily and recurring events listed above.*

INDIGENOUS DUCK DECOY WORKSHOP* *with primitive bushcrafter Jack Downing*

Saturday, October 3 // 1:00 p.m.

Join Jack to learn how to make your own traditional Native American duck decoy. Made with cattails that have been washed and dried, this unique decoy style was once used for duck hunting. Reservations required. Workshop recommended for ages 12+. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center.

AUTUMN FESTIVAL *in partnership with the Friends of the Nature Center*

Saturday, October 10 // 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Join us at the Nature Center for the 47th Annual Autumn Festival—a full day of “all things autumn” fun for the whole family! Celebrate the season with local vendors, craft demonstrators, delicious food, entertaining games, pumpkin patch, apple cider press, petting farm, live music by singer-songwriter Doriana Spurell, and storytelling by Regi Carpenter. Don't miss the scarecrow-building contest, prize raffles, and the amateur talent show! We will also have a harvest swap and a drop-off point for local food pantry donations. This is a cash-preferred event. Come enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of fall—you won't want to miss it!



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MINNA REMIX: QUIET WOODS**Saturday, October 17 // 1:00 p.m.**

Every season we reprise Minna Anthony Common's field observations in the present day. This fall, inspired by Minna's 1932 article entitled "Visit to Quiet Woods Related," join us on the trail to explore the flora and fauna of fall and tap into the "peaceful solitude of this wild place." Articles reprinted with permission of the *Watertown Daily Times*.

PRIMITIVE SKILLS: BOW & ARROW MAKING *with primitive bushcrafter Jack Downing***Saturday, October 24 // 10:30 a.m.**

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

FULL MOON HIKE***Sunday, October 25 // 5:30 p.m.** *Hunter's Moon: RSVP by 10/23*

This is a recurring monthly event. Please see the description on the first page.

BAT FEST**Saturday, October 31 // 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**

Did you know some bats can eat 1,200 mosquitoes in one night? Learn even more fun facts about our favorite flying mammals at Bat Fest! Come join us for some batty crafts and games. Some of the activities will be outside, so make sure to dress for the weather.

NOVEMBER *Also see daily and recurring events listed above.***NATURAL GARLAND WORKSHOP*** *hosted by the Friends of the Nature Center***Sunday, November 1 // 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for a crafty morning making beautiful garlands from natural materials. This simple but beautiful craft will be sure to make your holiday home festive! Registration is limited; material fee of \$10. RSVP by 10/25. Please bring a cordless drill with a 1/8" bit if possible.

**WOOL FELTING: MITTENS*** *with primitive bushcrafter Jack Downing***Saturday, November 7 // 10:00 a.m. (approx. workshop duration: 5 hours)**

Prepare for winter weather! Join bushcrafter Jack Downing to learn a skill called "felting," and make your own pair of mittens! Felting is the blending of animal hairs to make fabric and has been around since 6500 B.C. Since then, it has expanded to make so many items of importance to people, not just for warmth but also for fashion. One of the most famous uses, mittens, have kept hands warm for thousands of years! As with our other heritage crafts, please bring a lunch or snack and plan to settle in with us to learn this wonderful craft. For ages 10+. Space is limited to 15 crafters, please call the Nature Center to RSVP. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center.

FULL-SIZE PACK BASKET WORKSHOP***Sunday, November 8 // 9:00 a.m. (approx. workshop duration: 7 hours)**

Come learn how to set up and weave a traditional pack basket out of reed! This heritage craft of the Thousand Islands and Adirondack regions can be learned in a day – we provide the materials and instruction for the class. Recommended for ages 10+. Full-size basket workshops are \$100. Payment is due at event. Bring a lunch and water bottle and prepare for a fun day! Class size is limited, so please RSVP early.

**PINECONE WREATH WORKSHOP*** *hosted by the Friends of the Nature Center***Saturday, November 14 // 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for a crafty morning making beautiful holiday wreathes from pinecones. This simple but beautiful craft will be sure to make your holiday home festive! Registration is limited; material fee of \$10. RSVP by 11/10. Recommended for ages 8+.

RIVER WATERFOWL HIKE**Saturday, November 21 // 10:00 a.m.**

Late-fall migration means large numbers of dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and geese moving through the St. Lawrence flyway! We'll search for waterfowl rafts in Eel Bay; a protected bay favored by a diversity of species. Beginner birdwatchers welcome; binoculars available. Please dress for cold, windy weather.

FULL MOON HIKE***Wednesday, November 25 // 5:10 p.m.** *Beaver Moon: RSVP by 11/23*

This is a recurring monthly event. Please see the description on the first page.

BLACK FRIDAY HIKE**Friday, November 27 // 10:00 a.m.**

Don't go shopping... come hiking! You know you want to! We'll be taking on a more demanding 2.5-to-3-mile hike via East Trail, South Bay to the Narrows and returning on Middle Trail to the Nature Center for some cocoa and a fire! Wear sturdy boots, dress for weather, and don't forget your water bottle – and your list for holiday shopping in our gift shop following the hike! RSVP appreciated by 11/25.

ORNAMENT MAKING WORKSHOP**Saturday, November 28 // 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (drop-in)**

In this holiday workshop, create three different handcrafted ornaments. Your holiday tree will sparkle with the beauty of nature! Come one, come all, and get your merry going! \$5 material fee. RSVP by 11/20. Recommended for ages 8+.

WONDERFULLY WILD JEOPARDY**Sunday, November 29 // 2:00 p.m.**

Join us to test your local wildlife knowledge! The Nature Center is hosting its own wildlife-themed jeopardy game. All are welcome to compete for a small prize. We will be awarding a locally crafted pack basket to the winner!

DECEMBER *Also see daily and recurring events listed above.***BALD EAGLE HIKE****Saturday, December 5 // 10:00 a.m.**

The bald eagles are here! Wellesley Island is one of the best places in New York State to eagle-watch. We'll search for these cold-weather visitors along our St. Lawrence River nature trails. Beginner birdwatchers welcome; binoculars available. Please dress for cold, windy weather.

**HOLIDAY BONANZA** *in partnership with the Friends of the Nature Center***Saturday, December 12 // 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**

Join us for some holiday cheer at the 13th Annual Holiday Bonanza! Come enjoy live music, local craft vendors, raffles, food, hot beverages, holiday craft-making for both children and adults, and more! Bring your family and friends and have fun at this festive community event. It's a great way to have some holiday fun!

ANIMAL TRACKS: WILDLIFE HUNT**Saturday, December 19 // 2:00 p.m.**

Join us to learn how to identify animal tracks! We will start with a classroom presentation before heading outside to try and track local wildlife. All ages welcome, dress warm and be ready to "hunt" on our trails.

**WINTER SOLSTICE LUMINARY HIKE****Sunday, December 20 // 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.**

Follow the lighted path to celebrate the coming season of light! Come experience half-mile North Field Loop lit with trailside luminaries on this festive, self-guided, night hike. Then hike back to the Nature Center to enjoy a fire and celebrate with fun and music! Please dress for the weather and bring a flashlight/headlamp. Snowshoes will be provided if warranted by the weather. RSVP by 12/18. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center.

FULL MOON HIKE***Wednesday, December 23 // 3:50 p.m. Cold Moon: RSVP by 12/21**

This is a recurring monthly event. Please see the description on the first page.

GUIDED SNOWSHOE HIKE**Saturday, December 26 // 1:00 p.m.**

We're dreaming of a white day-after-Christmas... and if it snows, the snowshoes are on us! We'll venture out on Middle Trail to Ridge Trail and back to the Nature Center via Northfield Loop. It's about 1.25 miles in total. If we don't have the snow, we'll enjoy a hike. Please dress for the weather, bring a water bottle, and wear sturdy shoes. RSVP appreciated by 12/23.

CROCHET CRAFT CAFÉ**Sunday, December 27****10:00 a.m. (Beginner instruction) // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (drop-in for social crafting)**

Join us as we dive into crochet! If you have a project in process, please bring it. If you want to learn a new skill or start a new project, or if you would like to share a skill with others, please come out. We'll offer a beginner crochet snowflake project for newbies. Optional beginner craft kit (crochet hook, yarn) material fee \$10. RSVP required by 12/23. Recommended for ages 8+.



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

We'll see you out there

THANK YOU to the following 53 *Friends* for joining or renewing their commitment recently

Eileen George	T.I. Park, NY	Michael Parkes	T.I. Park, NY
Matt & Sarah Elliott	Fayetteville, NY	Ken & Meredith Nims	Clayton, NY
Giff & Sue Lewis	Webster, NY	John & Marlene Beyer	Wellesley Island, NY
Bonnie Gray & Agnes Chrietberg	Alexandria Bay, NY	Susie Stauffer	Ocean City, NJ
Peter Adler & Elizabeth Wilmot	Wellesley Island, NY	Jonathan & Heather White	T.I. Park, NY
Tom & Irene Carman	Wellesley Island, NY	Gary Burdell	Wellesley Island, NY
Robert & Lynn Pyke	Wellesley Island, NY	David & Ann Hertzog	Yardley, PA
Sandra Geiss	Clayton, NY	Audrey Tripp	Mexico, NY
Macar's Interiors	Watertown, NY	Dan & Wendi Ward	Cape Vincent, NY
Al & Jane Arras	Fayetteville, NY	Ron & Ann Casciano	Syracuse, NY
Chris & Jana Lambert	New Hartford, NY	Joy Rhinebeck	Clayton, NY
Ken & Tina VanHatten	Alexandria Bay, NY	Tom & Carrie French	Potsdam, NY
Michael & Lynn Bradley	Loveland, CO	Norm & Laurie Itjen	Elba, NY
Audie & Laura Cerow	Clayton, NY	Joseph Olivieri	Pennington, NJ
Deborah Caddick	Clayton, NY	Julia Cencebaugh	New York, NY
Tom & Karen Allen	Fairport, NY	Cary & Jacqueline Derrigo	Watertown, NY



As mentioned in the last issue of the Newsletter, the Friends awarded their first annual scholarships for studies in Natural Sciences. Pictured L-R are: Board Treasurer Richard Gefell, Nature Center Director Gabriela Padewska, Board Member Susan Johnson, recipient Connor Young from Huevelton Central, recipient Sophia Cohen from TI Central, Board President Emma Dundon, Board Member Joseph Leskoske.

New Members of the Friends of the Nature Center Board

**Makena Boneham**

Makena grew up in Southern California but spent many childhood summers in the Thousand Islands. Wellesley Island State Park and the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center trails became favorite places to wander through the woods and scramble up rock faces to look out over the river. Those early experiences deepened an attentiveness to the natural world that has stayed with her ever since: the infinite shades of green, the changing light through the leaves, and the symmetry and intricacy of natural forms. Today, Makena and Alex are raising their two young daughters here and introducing them to many of the same places Makena loved as a child. Serving on the Nature Center board offers Makena a new way to contribute to a place that helped shape her own sense of wonder, and to help more children and families develop meaningful connections to the natural world.

**Jennifer Coon**

Wellesley Island and our family's history in this place mean a tremendous amount to me, especially now that I have a family of my own. I would be honored to serve on the board to help to protect and preserve the Nature Center in any way that I can.

I also hope that my personal connection to the Nature Center may be of some use to the board. My grandfather, Robert G. Common was Minna's son. He was a great storyteller, and a bit of an archivist as well. His favorite place on earth was Wellesley Island, a sentiment I share. My connection to Minna and to this place was through my grandfather. I would be honored to serve on a board dedicated to preserving this place named after his mother for the benefit of the community.

**Bradley Kranz**

I have been a lifelong "river rat," spending summers at our family cottage in Clayton as a child and growing up with a deep appreciation for the St. Lawrence River and the 1000 Islands region. I recognize what a special place we are fortunate to call home, and I believe strongly in the importance of protecting and preserving its natural environment while creating opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about, appreciate, and respect this unique region.

Our family has enjoyed hiking at the Nature Center and participating in its activities for many years. The Autumn Festival has always been a favorite tradition, and this winter, we attended the Holiday Bonanza for the first time. Experiencing the Nature Center beneath a fresh blanket of snow was truly memorable and reinforced my appreciation for the important role it plays in our community.

Minna Anthony Common Nature Center + Friends

Holiday Bonanza

December 12 // 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Join us for some holiday cheer at the **13th Annual Holiday Bonanza!** Come enjoy live music, local craft vendors, raffles, food, hot beverages, holiday craft-making for both children and adults, and more! Bring your family and friends and have fun at this festive community event. It's a great way to have some holiday fun! Sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center.



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation



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



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



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

THE FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER, INC.

BOARD MEMBERS

Emma Dundon, *President*
Gifford Lewis, *Vice President*
Richard Gefell, *Treasurer*
Kristen Kratzert, *Secretary*
Peter Adler
Lori Arnot
Makena Boneham
Robin Colello-Poplaski
Jennifer Coon
Karen Cross
Sue Johnson
Bradley Kranz
Joseph Leskoske
Maggie Lort
Eileen Price

WELLESLEY ISLAND STATE PARK

William Farrand, *Park Manager*
Paula Torino, *Assistant Park Manager*

MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

Gabriela Padewska, *Director*
Bridget Foley, *Environmental Educator*
Ian McTavish, *Environmental Educator*
Dana Higgins, *Visitor Services Coordinator*
Darlene Sourwine, *Community Outreach Coor.*

Mark Your Calendars!**FULL MOON HIKES****Sunday, October 25 // 5:30 p.m.****Wednesday, November 25 // 5:10 p.m.****Wednesday, December 23 // 3:30 p.m.**

As you can see from the photo on the cover of this newsletter, the full moon can be spectacular!

Join us on the trails for our monthly full-moon hikes! Please wear sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing for warmth, and bring your own headlamp and/or flashlight. We'll leave the Nature Center promptly to catch a view of the moonrise. Following the hike, we'll host a campfire!

Program subject to weather.

Please RSVP no later than 2 days prior to event.

WINTER SOLSTICE LUMINARY HIKE**Sunday, December 20****5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.**

Follow the lighted path to celebrate the coming season of light! Come experience half-mile North Field Loop lit with trailside luminaries on this festive, self-guided, night hike. Then hike back to the Nature Center to enjoy a fire and celebrate with fun and music! Please dress for the weather and bring a flashlight/headlamp. Snowshoes will be provided if warranted by the weather. RSVP by 12/18.



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

**Friends of the Nature Center**

P.O. Box 111

Wellesley Island, NY 13640

Minna Anthony Common Nature Center

44927 Cross Island Road

Wellesley Island, NY 13640

(315) 482-2479

NATURE CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION***Memorial Day–Labor Day (Peak Season):**

Nature Center open daily, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Labor Day–Memorial Day (Off-Season)

Open Wed–Sun, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays*

**Trails Open Sunrise to Sunset Daily, Year-round*



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