

Fall Calendar

OCT + NOV + DEC 2026

Registration required for some events.

Please call **(315) 482-2479** to RSVP.

*Denotes registration requirements.



Scan to see the calendar of events on our website.

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

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!



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation



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

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