

Summer Calendar

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](#).

DAILY PROGRAMS

In July and August we offer daily public programming – join us for on-the-water recreation, naturalist-led hikes, children’s story time with activities, nature play, outdoor studies, guided tours, and more! Additionally, our Pollinator House and Potting Shed are open every day!

VOYAGEUR CANOE *

Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays in July and August // 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Experience paddling our 36-foot, 16-passenger Voyageur Canoe! Must be 5 years old or older to participate. Program may be canceled due to weather conditions or not meeting the minimum of 8 adult (16+) paddlers. \$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 16 years old. Please call to RSVP.

KAYAKING*

Tuesdays in July and August // 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Enjoy a morning out on the water! Learn to kayak with basic strokes and techniques, then go out on the St. Lawrence River for a scenic shoreline paddle! Bring a hat, water, shoes that can get wet, and sunscreen. Must be 16 or older to participate. \$10 per person. Please call to RSVP.

RIVERKEEPER TRAINING + KAYAKING* with Save The River

Thursdays in July and August // 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Come learn about how you can become a Riverkeeper volunteer while brushing up on your kayaking skills! Perfect for those new to kayaking or more experienced paddlers wanting a refresher on proper paddling technique. Save The River will help us learn about the various factors that threaten the health of our river and what you can do to help. Must be 16 or older to participate. Participants will receive a t-shirt and an invasive species guide. \$10 per person.

POLLINATOR HOUSE + POTTING SHED HOURS

Daily in July and August // 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Visit our Pollinator House and/or Potting Shed this summer for self-guided activities on gardening, native plants, and pollinators!



EVENT SERIES *Recurring programs with multiple date options*

KAYAK ECOTOUR OF EEL BAY*

Saturday, July 11 // 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 15 // 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 5 // 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Join us on an ecotour adventure! Learn basic kayak strokes then head into Eel Bay to look for birds and wildlife. Bring binoculars (extras available), a hat, water, shoes that can get wet, and sunscreen. Must be 16+ to participate. Please RSVP by the day prior.

FULL MOON HIKES*

Wednesday, July 29 // 8:40 p.m. *Buck Moon: RSVP by 7/27*

Friday, August 28 // 7:45 p.m. *Sturgeon Moon: RSVP by 8/26*

Saturday, September 26 // 6:30 p.m. *Corn/Harvest Moon: RSVP by 9/24*

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.



ADIRONDACK RAPTORS *with master falconer Mark Manske*

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

Sunday, August 16 // 1:00 p.m.

Join Mark Manske of Adirondack Raptors and his captivating, educational birds for an exceptional opportunity to get up close and personal with live birds of prey! Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center.

HISTORY HIKE SERIES

TRIPPING THROUGH TIME **Sunday, July 5 // 1:00 p.m.**

LEGENDS OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS **Sunday, August 2 // 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for this two-part series. Please see individual descriptions under dated pages.

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

THE HIDDEN WORLD OF LOCAL GEOLOGY *with geologist and writer Ed Ponto*

Friday, July 3 // 1:00 p.m.

Geology rocks at the Nature Center! Join local geologist Ed Ponto to learn about our famous Wellesley Island glacial potholes, geological makeup of the Thousand Islands, and more!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA: FIELD GAMES

Saturday, July 4 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (drop-in)

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 BBQ and fireworks! Suitable for all ages. Dress for outdoor fun! Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center.

HISTORY HIKE: TRIPPING THROUGH TIME

Sunday, July 5 // 1:00 p.m.

Join us for this two-part program. Wellesley Island history part one (part two 8/2)! Our first lesson delves into ancient natural history. Learn about the story laid out beneath our feet! No prior knowledge needed. We will trek outside, weather permitting, so bring hiking shoes.



NIGHT FOR NATURE *hosted by the Friends of the Nature Center*

Thursday, July 9 // 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Join the Friends of the Nature Center for the 11th annual Night for Nature gala! Live music, good company, all for a good cause! Complimentary beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres are included. Your generous support benefits the mission to continue Minna's legacy of education, conservation, and preservation. Prepaid tickets are \$90 online (www.macnaturecenter.com/night-for-nature) After 7/5, walk-up tickets will be available at the door for \$100.

MUSHROOM HIKE *with Jean Fahey*

Friday, July 10 // 1:00 p.m.

Join Jean Fahey, President of the Central NY Mycological Society, to learn about the native mushrooms growing on Wellesley Island! We'll learn how mushrooms grow, then hike to look for wild mushrooms on our trails.

KAYAK ECOTOUR OF EEL BAY*

Saturday, July 11 // 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

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

BUG OUT! POND STUDY

Sunday, July 12 // 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Get your hands dirty with a macroinvertebrate study! Learn about what creatures live in our water and why they are important. Recommended for kids of all ages. Tools will be provided but be prepared to handle mud and bugs!



WAR OF 1812: BATTLE OF CRANBERRY CREEK

Saturday, July 18 // 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary by reliving Jefferson County's second-largest battle of the War of 1812! Experience Alexandria Bay's Battle of Cranberry Creek with reenactments by Forsyth Rifles Inc. Hear presentations by three historians: Paul Beers, author of *Pork Barrel Fort, Battle of Cranberry Creek, War of 1812* complete with relics from the battleground; and archeologists Ken Knapp and Ross Holbrook. The Gen. Jacob Brown Chapter of the National Society of United States Daughters of 1812 will be on hand to honor and present their research on the Battle's veterans. Various historic organizations of the War of 1812 will also be on hand. Music, crafts, and a food truck will be on premises. You won't want to miss this historic event! Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center.



ADIRONDACK RAPTORS *with master falconer Mark Manske*

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

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

BOUQUET MAKING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, July 21 // 1:00 p.m.

Come learn how to fashion a bouquet made entirely from locally grown ornamentals and native wildflowers!

HOW TO HIVE YOUR HONEYBEES *with local beekeeper Hans Junga*

Friday, July 24 // 1:00 p.m.

Whether you have honeybees or just love their honey, join beekeeper Hans Junga to learn about beehives, beekeeping, and what to BEE aware of when harvesting honey. There will BEE an opportunity to see hives up close with Hans' new observation hive and other beekeeping items. This is a favorite! You will certainly want to BEE at this program!

MOTH NIGHT

Saturday, July 25 // 9:00 p.m.

National Moth Week (NMW) is held during the last full week in July. Take this opportunity to become a “moth-er” and celebrate the beauty, life cycle, and habitats of moths!

SUMMERTIME CRAFT CAFÉ

Sunday, July 26 // 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Join us as we enjoy a lazy summer day of crafting. If you have a craft 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 macrame project or a crochet project for newbies. RSVP required by July 23. Recommended for ages 5+.

FULL MOON HIKE*

Wednesday, July 29 // 8:40 p.m. *Buck Moon: RSVP by 7/27*

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

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS *with cultivator Dustin Truesdell*

Friday, July 31 // 1:00 p.m.

Join cultivator Dustin Truesdell for an introduction to the fascinating world of plants that eat insects! Learn about different types of carnivorous plants, how they trap prey, and the environmental conditions they need to thrive. Plant collection display, including a live feeding demonstration.

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

MINNA REMIX: STUDY OF WRENS

Saturday, August 1 // 9:00 a.m.

Every season we reprise Minna Anthony Common's field observations in the present day! This summer, inspired by Minna's 1932 article entitled “Study of Wrens Is Interesting,” join us on the trail to look and listen for wrens. Beginner birdwatchers welcome; binoculars available. Articles reprinted with permission of the *Watertown Daily Times*.

HISTORY HIKE: LEGENDS OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS

Sunday, August 2 // 1:00 p.m.

Part two of our exploration of local Wellesley Island history. Join us even if you missed part one (7/5)! Our focus this time will be human history. We'll also go on a short hike, weather permitting, so bring hiking shoes!

NATIVE PLANT ID HIKE

Tuesday, August 4 // 1:00 p.m.

Get out on the trails with our resident native plant gardener to learn how to identify our local natural heritage!

EXPERIENCE THE BEARPAW BOOK SERIES *with author Michael W. LaDue*

Friday, August 7 // 1:00 p.m.

Don't miss your chance to meet local author Michael W. LaDue for a reading and signing of his River-inspired children's books. LaDue will be read excerpts from *Bearpaw and the Shoal Troll* and, his newest release, *Bearpaw and the Shadow People*. He'll offer a first-hand look into the inspiration behind the pages and the book's universe. Come for the reading, stay for the live Q&A, and pick up your own autographed copy.

YOUTH FISHING DERBY *sponsored by the Barbara & Daniel Butts Enrichment Fund*

Saturday, August 8 // 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Join the fun at the Nature Center's Annual Fishing Derby for ages 18 yrs. and under. Derby for ages 14 and under begins at 9:00 a.m.– 10:30 a.m.; ages 15-18 at 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Prizes for each age group will be given at end of their scheduled group fishing time. Let's see what you can catch in Eel Bay! Fishing license required for ages 15+. Life vests required on our dock, BYO or one can be provided. Bring your own bait & tackle. Fish must be taken with rod and reel, all legal baits allowed. Thank you to the Barbara & Daniel Butts Enrichment Fund for sponsoring the prizes.



PORCHFEST

Sunday, August 9 // 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Come out to be part of Porchfest – a summer celebration of acoustic music! We'll have live musicians who will be ready to jam for and with you. Bring your guitar, harmonica, horn, harp or voice, and a comfy chair so you can sit in on this session. If your jam is listening or dancing, bring your boogie shoes! Weather permitting, we'll be outside with a campfire, so bring a picnic, a blanket, and/or chairs. It will be an evening of music, dance, sunset and peace. We'll see you out there! Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nature Center.

NIGHT SKY VIEWING *with Tim Abel and John Rusho*

Wednesday, August 12 // 9:00 p.m. at the Wellesley Island State Park Marina Lawn

Join us for a great opportunity to see into the summer night sky! Amateur astronomers Tim Abel and John Rusho will help us to see and identify objects of interest in our dark sky. Please bring a lawn chair and/or a blanket and dress for the weather. Please RSVP by 8/10; event subject to clear skies.

KAYAK ECOTOUR OF EEL BAY*

Saturday, August 15 // 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

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



ART AND THE BEAUTY OF NATURE *with artist Mira Scott and poet Elizabeth Robin*

Saturday, August 15 // 10:00 a.m.

Join artist, author, and educator Mira Scott for an engaging program exploring how storytelling, art, and nature can inspire learning and creativity. Drawing from her experience publishing children's books, Mira will share her philosophy of educating through entertaining stories, discuss her artistic process, and showcase selected paintings and creative projects. Joining her will be published poet Elizabeth Robin, whose nature-inspired poetry explores our connection to the natural world and the perspectives it offers. Together, they will share a creative and inspiring presentation celebrating art, storytelling, poetry, and the beauty of nature. Attendees will also have the opportunity to view and purchase art-inspired products and coloring books.



ADIRONDACK RAPTORS *with master falconer Mark Manske*

Sunday, August 16 // 1:00 p.m.

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

COMPOSTING: ROT AND YOU!

Saturday, August 22 // 10:00 a.m.

You can make a difference by learning about rot! Compost is the process of controlled decomposition, and we can harness this natural cycle to turn everyday waste into "black gold" for our gardens. In this interactive program, come learn the science behind decomposition and how to master the five essential ingredients for a healthy compost pile.

VOYAGEUR CANOE EXCURSION: ISLAND HOPPING FROM WELLESLEY TO GRINDSTONE*

Sunday, August 23 // 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Join us for a special Voyageur Canoe excursion as we paddle to Canoe Point State Park on Grindstone Island. This round-trip 4-mile trek is for experienced paddlers aged 18 and over. In between paddling trips, we'll have an hour on Grindstone for lunch and an optional guided hike to Picnic Point State Park. Bring a lunch and water bottle and prepare for a fun day! Program subject to weather. \$10 per person. Registration required.

FULL MOON HIKE*

Friday, August 28 // 7:45 p.m. *Sturgeon Moon: RSVP by 8/26*

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

MINI PACK BASKET WEAVING WORKSHOP*

Saturday, August 29 // Noon–4:00 p.m.

Come join us for basket weaving! We'll be weaving half-sized mini pack baskets. 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+. Mini pack basket workshops are \$50. Payment is due at event (credit cards accepted at Nature Center). Bring a lunch and water bottle and prepare for a fun day! *Class size is limited, so please RSVP early.*

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Sunday, August 30 // 11:30 a.m.

In recognition of our amazing volunteers, we're hosting a *Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon* to thank our 2026 volunteers for their hard work and dedication! Please RSVP by 8/24.

SEPTEMBER *Also see daily and recurring events listed above*

VOYAGEUR CANOE *

Sundays in September // 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Experience paddling our 36-foot, 16-passenger Voyageur Canoe! Must be 5 years old or older to participate. Program may be canceled due to weather conditions or not meeting the minimum of 8 adult (16+) paddlers. \$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 16 years old. Please call to RSVP.

KAYAK ECOTOUR OF EEL BAY*

Saturday, September 5 // 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

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

TIE-DYE WORKSHOP

Sunday, September 6 // 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Calling all groovy hippies and flower children! Today, we'll be putting our tie-dye skills to work! We supply the dye and other tools... you supply the t-shirt or fabric of your choice. Perfect for families and creative spirits of all skill levels. Space is limited. Please RSVP by 9/4.

VOYAGEUR CANOE EXCURSION: MINNA'S DESTINATIONS

Saturday, September 12 // 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Celebrate Minna Anthony Common's birthday by joining us for a very special Voyageur Canoe excursion to South Bay via Sand Cove. We'll explore our namesake's old stomping grounds and learn about her pioneering work of blazing the Rock Ridges Trail in Thousand Islands Park. Bring a lunch and water bottle and prepare for a special day. \$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 16 years old. Please call to RSVP.

WILDLIFE JEOPARDY!

Saturday, September 19 // 1:00 p.m.

Test your wildlife knowledge with a round of jeopardy! Fun for the whole family. Compete for a small prize and bragging rights!

FULL MOON HIKE*

Saturday, September 26 // 6:30 p.m. *Corn/Harvest Moon: RSVP by 9/24*

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

WORLD RIVERS DAY + END-OF-SEASON VOYAGEUR CANOE PADDLE

Sunday, September 27 // 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Celebrate the world's waterways and the mighty Saint Lawrence River! On this guided paddle, we'll learn about the value of our great River and the stewardship efforts helping to protect it.

\$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 16 years old. Please call to RSVP.



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We'll see you out there