

NEWSLETTER

Fall Issue

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018



Rock Island Lighthouse

The 40th Autumn Festival will be held on Saturday, October 6th in Wellesley Island State Park from 10:00am until 4:00pm. It will take place in Heron (H) Area Camp Loop, the large camping area just before the Nature Center. This area works well for our Festival, since everything can be seen from any vantage point.

The ever-popular scarecrow gallery will have all the materials to create your own scarecrow, which can be made individually or as a family. You are encouraged to bring your own accessories to make yours unique, since there will be 3 monetary prizes for the most interesting ones. What a fun splash of color in the field!

With the newly renovated Nature Center now open, there will be wagon rides available from the Festival grounds to the Nature Center building. You will be able to browse the many interactive exhibits and then return to the Festival.

The Fort Drum Brass Ensemble and Brand Gould will provide musical entertainment throughout the day. Rick West's Birds of Prey and the Stark's dog sled team will again offer an opportunity to see the birds and dogs up close and hear their stories. Delicious food will be available from the Big M Market and the Redwood Rescue Squad. Many vendors and non-profits will have booths set up for you to purchase items and to become more familiar with their organizations. A cider press will allow you to see how cider is made and even press the apples yourself. Burrville cider and donuts will be available, too. Games, crafts, and face painting will appeal to the younger set.

This fun family event offers activities for everyone to enjoy. See page 8 for more information about this event. Come and enjoy the beauties of fall on Wellesley Island. See you there!

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON SERIES – TALES OF THE 1000 ISLANDS

THE HAUNTED HOUSE

It takes very little in the line of ghosts and haunts to inflame the youthful imagination.

Long years ago just at sunset my uncle and I were returning from a day's fishing. Glancing up at the gloomy, empty, many-windowed house which then topped the last high bluff, he said in a hollow voice, "See the ghost lights in the windows of the haunted house."

I shuddered. Even had some kindly soul been near to explain the light away as "merely the reflected glory of the setting sun", still I would have shuddered, and as long as that house stood, whenever passing that way I gave it the widest possible berth.

Finally one winter it burned, but the haunts did not burn with it. They only bided their time.

A new house took its place, a white cottage with wide porches and friendly shutters. For a few years a happy family group occupied it summers. Then they came no more. The windows were barred; "No Trespassing" signs appeared about the shores. After years of neglect the windmill blew over in a tangle, the boathouse was battered and the boats were stolen, shutters became loosened, a storm door fell off its rusted hinges and the haunts came back. Faint lights were again seen in the windows, especially on stormy, windy nights.

Sometimes on a sunny day groups of boys would "poo-poo" the ghost idea and stalk the place to impress the more timid girls. In spite of chalked skull and cross-bones on the porch and of warnings, "Do not enter here—danger" on the doors, signed, "The Ghost," the boys might even venture to go inside through the loosened shutters. The table littered with food remnants, not yet musty, the smoked lamp chimneys and the general disorder spelled only ghosts to the youngsters. They boldly defied all such until they tried to go single file up the totally dark stairway when some noise or creak would send them scuttling helter-skelter back to their boats.

Once, it is said, two boys taking a dare slept there one night. They tried to take turns watching, but sleep got the better of them and morning broke to the smell of frying bacon. Two rough, fearsome looking men were in the next room. They offered the boys some breakfast which they were too scared to eat. Then they told them not to "squeal" on their being in the house

or they would not live the day out. Those boys lost all interest in the haunted house from then on.

Two austere and self-assured maiden ladies decided to look the house over with the idea of purchase. They were not the type to be afraid of ghostly rumors, or even of the ghosts themselves. They, too, entered through the broken shutter. They examined the rooms on the first floor. They ascended they stairs. They heard shuffling noises, and wondered, but continued their determined advance. They looked into one room, into another; in the third sitting on the edge of a bed was a man, groggy with sleep and too much drink.

"What are you doing here?" demanded one of the ladies sternly. She did not appear even startled.

"Fishin", he replied, "but I've dropped my pole," and he groped on the floor for it.

"Haunts, indeed!" exclaimed she as they left.

Later a real purchaser came. The house was overhauled, painted and repaired, but it had kept one last "shiver" to offer to its new owner—a secret room.

Measuring the wall outside and measuring it inside, he found that one wall was definitely out of size. As he tapped on the outside boards the wall suddenly slipped aside and there it was—a windowless room containing only a chair and a table on which was a book and a candle.

This mystery revolved about the last owner who was a zealous believer in a definitive date for the end of the world. He had fitted up this place for prayer and meditation. So sure was he of his calculations that he had left his property to decay and gone to Zion.

But about as soon as the room was found and its secrets laid bare, the house burned mysteriously.

"The haunts were disturbed," said the wise ones.

A new house stands there now, its windows glowing softly at night and its flower beds painting the rocks with gay colors by day. Yet whatever its name or whoever its occupants it is always The Haunted House to all who know, and the belief is firm that should it be deserted a year or so the haunts would surely return.

-Minna Anthony Common
August 13, 1937

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It was wonderful to be back in the Nature Center this summer. It was gratifying to hear so much positive feedback from the 17,284 visitors who passed through our doors from July 1st until September 2nd. Their comments made all the hard work that went into moving, setting up our temporary Nature Center, and creating our new exhibits worthwhile. Returning to the building was like a homecoming for some of our patrons who have been coming to the Nature Center every year for generations.

Our eight-week summer season is fast and furious, but it is a season of stories and family memories. People come to Wellesley Island State Park from all over the United States and beyond, and it is our job to make them feel welcomed and help them establish connections to this beautiful park. In July and August, we offered 255 programs to park patrons that were attended by 5,375 people. We held old favorites like the Dinosaur Egg Hunt, Rick West's Birds of Prey, and Friendship Bracelets, but we also created new programs that were quite popular, like Turtle Time and the Pokémon Hunt. People loved seeing our turtles up close as they explored outside safely in a small enclosure. We held edible plant hikes, poisonous plant hikes, and "useful plants to know" hikes. We took people on birding walks and taught them how to fish. And of course, we took many trips around the shoreline of Wellesley Island in our iconic voyageur canoe.

Now, we are beginning the transition into fall, my favorite season of the year. The



A group of passengers on our voyageur canoe

pumpkins that Darlene Sourwine, Harold Pray, and Russ Ruttan tenderly cared for all summer are beginning to ripen in the butterfly house field. In the coming weeks, we will pick them and on Saturday, October 6th, they will be painted by hundreds of children at our 40th Annual Autumn Festival. We have built more scarecrow posts to support the eclectic creations that decorate the Scarecrow Gallery. Andrew Fuellner (SCA) and Chelsea Broughton (seasonal) have been tirelessly working to build some new life size games for the Festival. It is guaranteed to be a fun time for the entire family.

This fall we are also busy cutting the hundreds of luminarias that will line North Field Loop during our Luminaria Hike on Saturday, October 27th. I love to follow the glowing, beautiful bags as they light the surprisingly sinuous path that North Field Loop takes through the woods. Come in costume for the chance to win our Best Costume Prize!

Fall is a beautiful, peaceful time of year at the Nature Center. I truly hope you are able take some time to enjoy the delicious smells of autumn, perhaps while crunching through the leaves that gently come to rest upon our trails. I hope to see you in the woods!

- Molly Farrell, Environmental Educator II



SCA member Andrew Fuellner educating campers about the life cycle of a butterfly by relating it to the evolution family of the Pokémon Caterpie

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

SCENES FROM AROUND THE CENTER



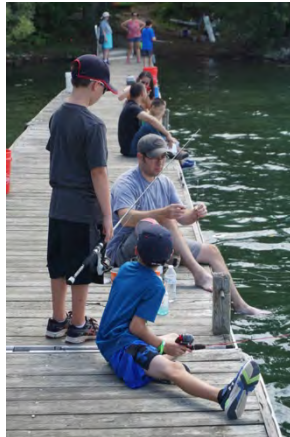
Sunset viewed from our dock



Bee resting on marigolds in our front garden



Siblings Ruby and Evan Abeysekera observing a butterfly



Fishing derby participants



Fishing derby winners: MJ Cuadrado, Maya Cuadrado, Derek Eells, and William Thayer

CHILDRENS' FISHING DERBY

This year's Childrens' Fishing Derby, held July 14th on the dock of the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center, Wellesley Island State Park, was a huge success. The weather smiled on the tournament, gracing us with ideal conditions—sun and little wind. Loads of yellow perch, punctuated with a lot of round gobies, and a smattering of smallmouth bass, were dragged to the weigh station by the 20 or so competitors ranging from 5 to 12 years old.

The three prizes consisted of bags loaded with fishing tackle by Ande, Bass Pro Shops, Berkley, Bullet Weights, Cotton Cordell, Cortland Line Co., Custom Jigs and Spoons, Eagle Claw, Fred Arbogast, Real Tree, Sabile, SAMPO, Spider Wire and Storm, and hats by Realtree.

"The river is undergoing changes," noted Spider Rybaak, organizer of the event. "I've seen more smallmouth bass caught today than in the entire 12 years I've been teaching kids fishing classes at the Nature Center, and the five years or so that we've held the derby."

Roughly 30 kids showed up to vie for three prizes valued at about \$150.00 each. MJ Cuadrado won the prize for most fish by catching 16, Derek Eells won the prize for heaviest fish at 11 ounces, and Maya Cuadrado won the prize for longest fish at 9.5 inches. William Thayer received an impromptu "environmentalist" prize for being concerned about removing litter from the water, and Derek was kind enough to share his prize by giving William the new fishing pole from his bag.

The event is held annually at the Nature Center. "I plan on conducting another one next year," promised Spider.

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

THE FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER

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 following members joined or renewed their commitment recently:

Kathy Allan	Watertown, NY
Liz Baroody-Solomon	Pittsford, NY
Helen Brennan	Clayton, NY
Donald & Linda Blauvelt	Thousand Island Park, NY
Jan & Curt Byington	Clayton, NY
Stewart Dutfeld	Delmar, NY
Eleanor & Henry Goldacher	Thousand Island Park, NY
Andy Greene & Stephanie Weiss	Clayton, NY
Marie & Mark Greenbaum	Wilmington, DE
Jeff Hanna	Fayetteville, NY
Ann & David Hertzog	Yardley, PA
Kathleen Hummel	Clayton, NY
Joan Trimble Jordan	Clayton, NY
Christy MacLetchie	Charlestown, PA
Barbara Mead	Huntington Station, NY
Jaclyn Moll	Rochester, NY
William Montgomery	The Villages, FL
Diana & Joseph Recuperero	Alexandria Bay, NY
Taylor Robbins	LaFargeville, NY
Maggie & Roger Reid	Fayetteville, NY
Deanne Scanlon	Chaumont NY
Angela Storer	Danville, PA

Thank you!

Last spring, the Friends of the Nature Center applied for a grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for small snowshoes. Many families had requested snowshoes for children too small for our existing kids' snowshoes. We have received 10 pairs of Atlas sprout snowshoes and 2 pairs of Tubbs snowflake shoes. Thank you to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for expanding our snowshoe program to younger children!



Like us on Facebook for real-time updates and the calendar of events!
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center – Friends
<https://www.facebook.com/MACNatureCenter/>



Follow us on Instagram for entertaining photos!
@friendsofmacnaturecenter and @scrappers_the_chipmunk

The Board of Directors for The Friends of the Nature Center, Inc.

Matthew Elliott

President

Barbara Eldridge

Vice President

Andrew Kane

Treasurer

Joseph Leskoske

Secretary

Jeffrey Hanna

Hunter Horton

Sue Johnson

Stefanie Kring

Chase Miller

JR Miller

Susan Mowers

Taylor Robbins

Jeffry Weldon

Heather White

Jonathan White

Park Employees

Steve Cline

Park Manager

Molly Farrell

Nature Center Director

Kimberly Cullen

Program Coordinator

Friends of the Nature Center Employees

Darlene Sourwine

Volunteer Coordinator

Mary Jean Jones

Bookkeeper

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



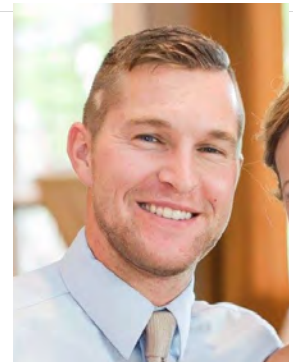
Susan Mowers has been a seasonal resident of Westminster Park on Wellesley Island since she was born and has lived full-time on Tennis Island since 2001. She and her husband enjoy the outdoors and love to spend their time walking, fishing, and boating. She works part-time for the 1000 Islands International Tourism Council as a database and website manager and helps many other non-profit organizations in the region, including the Antique Boat Museum, the Thousand Islands Arts Center, Save the River, and the Clayton Opera House. She currently works in a full-time as an IT specialist with the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority and Boldt Castle.

JR Miller has spent every summer of his life at the river, and has lived in the area year-round for the past 45 years. He retired as the Dean of Students for the Thousand Islands Central School District. He had previously worked as an Immigration Officer at the Wellesley Island Port of Entry, a Board of Education Member for the Alexandria Central School District, an Officer in the Wellesley Island Fire and Ambulance Department, and an Officer and Coach of many youth sports in Clayton and Alexandria Bay. He is the administrator of the Facebook page "1000 Islands River Rats Now and Then", which has over 8000 members who are like-minded in their love of the river and the islands.



Jeff Hanna is a Product Assurance Engineer at Bitzer Scroll in Syracuse, New York. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan and Syracuse University, respectively. Jeff has a deep love for nature and enjoys all outdoor activities, especially camping, fishing, hunting, and nature photography. He lives in Fayetteville, New York but grew up spending summers with his family on Murray Isle. He now spends summers on Grenell Island with his wife Elle and their son Tenney.

Taylor Robbins grew up in LaFargeville, NY with his two younger brothers. He attended St. Lawrence University and graduated in 2011 with a Bachelors in Economics and Mathematics. Taylor is currently the Assistant Vice President at Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent where he specializes in mortgage organization and information security. Taylor and his wife, Alyssa, reside in Clayton, NY and are expecting their first child this May. Coming from a family of outdoorsmen, Taylor has always appreciated what this area has to offer. In his free time, he loves being on the river with family and friends, golfing, and fishing. With today's growing dependence on technology, he believes it's important for people of all ages to unplug and enjoy the world around them.



Jeffry J. Weldon, J.D., CLTC, is a lifelong resident of both Watertown and Wellesley Island. He is a senior associate at Strategies for Wealth with 31 years of experience. He has offices in Watertown, Westchester County, and New York City. A graduate of the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University, Jeffry was an Associate Editor for The Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy and is also a certified Long-Term Care advisor. Jeffry is active in his community, having served on numerous boards including the Finance Council at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown, the CREDO Foundation, Hospice of Jefferson County, and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Jeffry also makes time for tennis 3-4 times per week but prefers playing somewhere that requires a boat ride. He and his wife Carolyn have been married for 33 years and have two grown daughters, Meghan and Kathleen, and as a family consider the river and its people essential to their well-being.

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

NIGHT FOR NATURE

July's *Night for Nature* was a great success! We held the event here at the Nature Center for the second time, and it was wonderful to have our community experience the exhibits firsthand and enjoy the newly reopened building. Everyone had fun being silly at the photo booth, where the drumstick prop and "mother nature" costume tied for fan favorite. Out on the

patio were tasty treats from the Clipper Inn and the Buoy Rockers played river tunes until the end of the evening.

Overall, we welcomed just under two hundred people at the event. Our new education space held the annual silent auction—thank you to everyone who participated! The new gift shop, featuring local authors and artists, was also a hit.

We are ever grateful to our sponsors, as well as our family of members, donors, volunteers, and staff that make the Nature Center the successful place that it is. We look forward to seeing you all for *Night for Nature* next year!

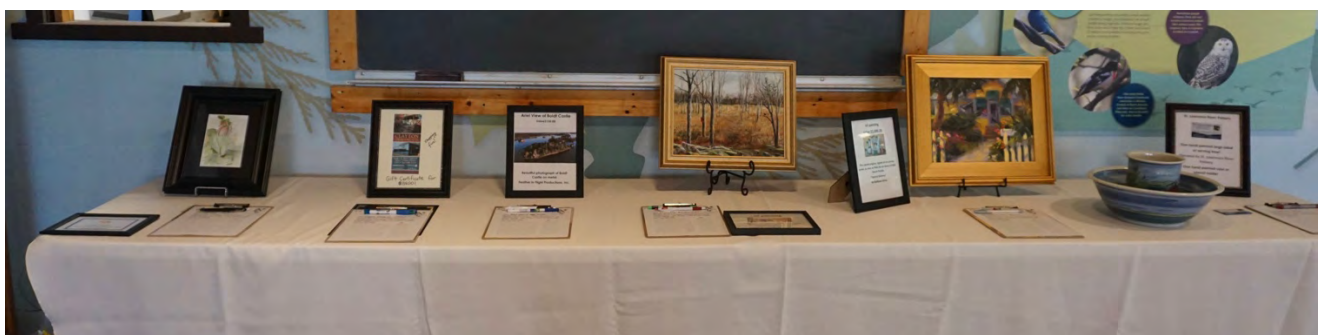


Flower decorations



SNAPSHOTSNY.COM

Employees Lauren Eggleston and Kim Cullen having fun using the photo booth



Raffles set up for Night for Nature



40th Annual Autumn Festival



At the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center,
44927 Cross Island Rd., Fineview, N.Y. 13640

Saturday, October 6th

10:00 am—4:00 pm



Admission:

Children 12 & under \$1 or free with
non-perishable donation for local food pantry
Adults \$3; Military & Seniors \$2



Alpacas to Visit,
Children's games, Face Painting, & Crafts
Thousand Islands Land Trust, Save the River,
Indian River Lakes Conservancy, Wellesley Island
Wildlife Rehabilitation,
Jefferson Master Gardeners,
Raffles, and Other Hands-on Activities!

Handmade Craft Show & Sale

Alpaca Products, Baked Goods, Baskets, Custom
Made Lamps, Fishing Lure Jewelry, Locally Roasted
Coffee, Wine, & Soda, Hand Spun wool and knit items,
Honey & James, Gourmet Fudge, Jewelry, Dessert
Mixes, Organic Cheese Curds, Maple Products, Fudge,
Candles, Pottery, Small Tables & Stands, and more!



Entertainment & Music!

Brand Gould
Fort Drum Band
Westy's Birds of Prey
Dog Sled
Demonstrations

**Thank You to
Our
Sponsors and
Donors!**

DAK Design & Constructing,
Target, Price Chopper,
Clipper Inn, Great American,
Impossible Dream,
North Country Seed and Feed,
Shurfine (Clayton),
Kohls Cares Program



Apple Cider Press Demonstrations &
Burrville Apple Cider &
Cider Donuts

**Located 4 miles off of exit
51 Route 81. 30 miles
north of Watertown.**

For more information please
call (315) 482-2479



Scarecrow Making Contest

Judged by
Local Artist provided by the
TI Arts Center
Grand Prize = \$50

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

FALL PROGRAMS 2018

315-482-2479



40th Annual Autumn Festival

Saturday, October 8th

10:00am-4:00pm

Join us at the Nature Center for this family friendly fall day. Come enjoy craft and food vendors, live music, farm animals, arts and crafts, a scarecrow contest, birds of prey demonstration, dog sled demonstrations, and more.

Admission: Children 12 & under \$1 or free with non-perishable donation for local food pantry, Adults \$3; Military & Seniors \$2



Clarkson Lecture Series Dr. Susan Powers – “Climate Change in New York State”

Saturday, October 13th

5:30pm-7:30pm

Join Dr. Susan Powers for a discussion on the impact of climate change in New York State. Prior to Dr. Powers talk, Clarkson students will be at the Nature Center for our annual “Clarkson Cleanup Day”. This talk will cap off our inaugural series seminar series.

Luminarias on North Field Loop

Saturday, October 27th

6:30pm-9:00pm

Take a guided evening stroll along North Field Loop following the light of handmade luminarias. Experience the magic of the fall woods in the early evening and then come back to the Nature Center to enjoy light snacks. Come in costume and be eligible to win a prize for best costume! Preregistration is appreciated.



Hike for Hunger

Saturday, November 3rd

12:30pm-3:00pm

Help stock our local food pantries by joining us for a hike for hunger on Saturday, November 14th. Bring a non-perishable food donation to participate. Guided hikes will leave the Nature Center at 1pm and 2pm but you are welcome to hike on your own throughout the day. Preregistration is appreciated but not required.

Holiday Bonanza

Saturday, December 8th

10:00am-3:30pm

Come enjoy some holiday cheer at our Holiday Bonanza! There will be live music, craft vendors, food, and crafts for both children and adults. The Wellesley Island Fire Department will be here selling delicious baked goods. Enjoy time chatting with family and friends at this fun, community event.

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

KENNETH DEEDY



We are sad to announce the passing of Thousand Islands Land Trust founder Kenneth Deedy on August 8th, 2018.

In honor of Ken, TILT, along with Save the River and the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center, have established the Kenneth Deedy Environmental Internship Fund. As a true endowment, the fund will be used to hire a high school or college student for a summer long internship. Each year, the selected student will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work for all three organizations, immersing them into the fields of land conservation and stewardship, environmental education, and environmental advocacy.

Before his passing, Ken made the initial gift to establish The Environmental Internship Fund, continuing to build upon his legacy as a life-long environmentalist, who passionately supported the conservation of natural resources and the education of our next generation of stewards.

Memorial gifts made to the Thousand Island Land Trust in Ken's honor will be dedicated to the Kenneth Deedy Environmental Internship Fund, which will be held at the Northern New York Community Foundation.

Ken will forever be remembered as he enriched the lives of so many.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Volunteers at Autumn Fest 2017

day of the event. If you would like to help us out, we would greatly appreciate it.

You can choose to be stationed at a location for either a half day or a full day, and you could be doing things such as selling tickets, running games, helping with pumpkin painting, selling cider and

donuts, or anything else that goes on during the Festival. Volunteering for this event includes a voucher for a free lunch.

If you would like to volunteer for Autumn Festival, you can give us a call to let us know, or even show up on the day of the event and tell us then that you'd like to help out. Thank you!



Working in the volunteer check-in tent

Volunteer Opportunities

Front Desk Operations

Ongoing Trainings

If you enjoy talking to people and witnessing nature in action (you never know what will walk in the front door!) then come learn about the ins and outs of our front desk. You are bound to learn more about the Nature Center, be shown plenty of trailside pictures, and learn the answer to the question "what's the best loop to hike?" if you become one of our volunteer front desk attendees. This is a much needed and appreciated volunteer position! Please let Darlene know if you are interested in working the front desk and we will set up a time for you to come be trained.

Please pre-register by calling the Nature Center at 315-482-2479

Fall senses

Smells like

Feels like

Sounds like











Looks like

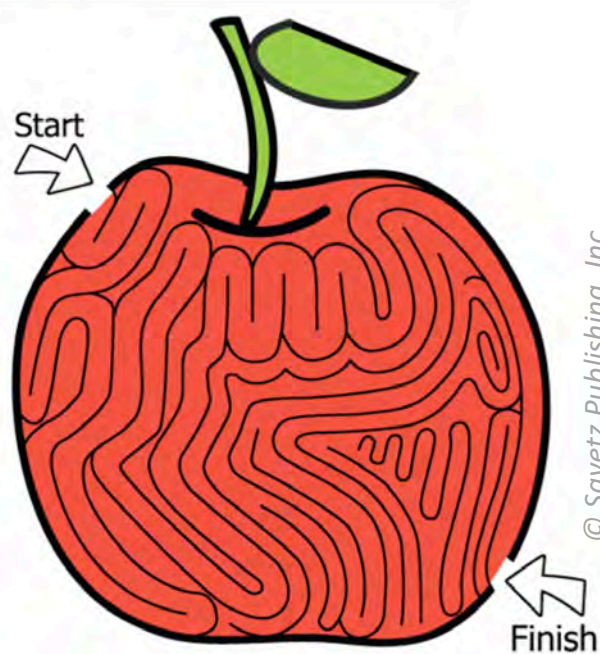
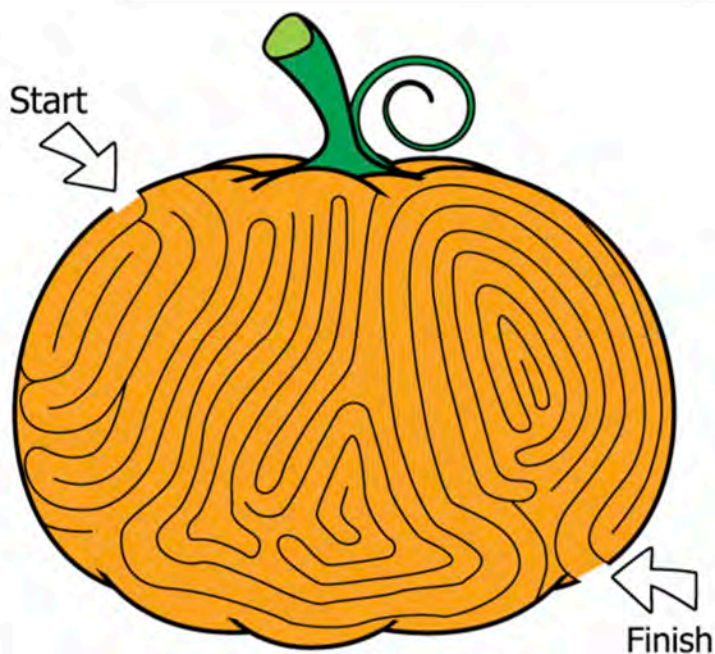
Tastes like

Fall Words - Fill in the Vowels

Look at each fall picture and fill in the missing vowels for each word.

 r _ k _	 _ c _ r n
 l _ _ f	 s q _ _ r r _ l
 p _ m p k _ n	 _ p p l _
 c _ r n	 w _ n d y

© AllKidsNetwork.com



© Savetz Publishing, Inc.

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

BUY A BRICK

Support the Nature Center by donating at least \$150 and become a part of our building with a brick in our patio! They make great gifts for special occasions. Your support will help with our new interactive displays and exhibits which teach, provide entertainment, and offer a link between the Nature Center and its trails.



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

☐ Check enclosed. Please make checks payable to: **Friends of the Nature Center, Inc.**

☐ Please charge my credit card: ☐ Amex ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

☐ My company's matching gift form is enclosed.

\$

ENGRAVED PAVING BRICK ORDER FORM

4 X 8

14 CHARACTERS PER LINE 3 LINES PER PAVER

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM TO: P.O. BOX 6523 WATERTOWN, NY 13601-6523

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

CLARKSON LECTURE SERIES

Join us on October 13th at 5:30pm for the final lecture of our inaugural Clarkson Lecture Series. Dr. Susan Powers, a professor at Clarkson University, will be visiting to give a talk about Climate Change in New York State. Prior to her talk, Clarkson students will come to the Nature Center for their “Clarkson Cleanup Day” and help us remove litter from our trails. Light refreshments will be served before the lecture.

Climate Change in New York State

Climate change is real, and it is already affecting New York State. For example, average winter temperatures in the Thousand Islands region are currently increasing at an average rate of one degree Celsius per decade. These changes in winter temperatures impact everything, from the types of apples we can grow to the life cycle and abundance of disease transmitting ticks. After a brief background on the science of climate change, Dr. Powers will share projections of how our region is predicted to change over the course of the 21st century, highlighting examples from agriculture, snow fall, winter sports, ecosystems, and public health to illustrate how our communities will need to adapt to a changing climate.



Dr. Susan Powers

Friends of the Nature Center, Inc.
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center
Wellesley Island State Park
44927 Cross Island Road
Fineview, NY 13640

Hours of Operation:
Museum 8am-4pm
Trails open sunrise to sunset

