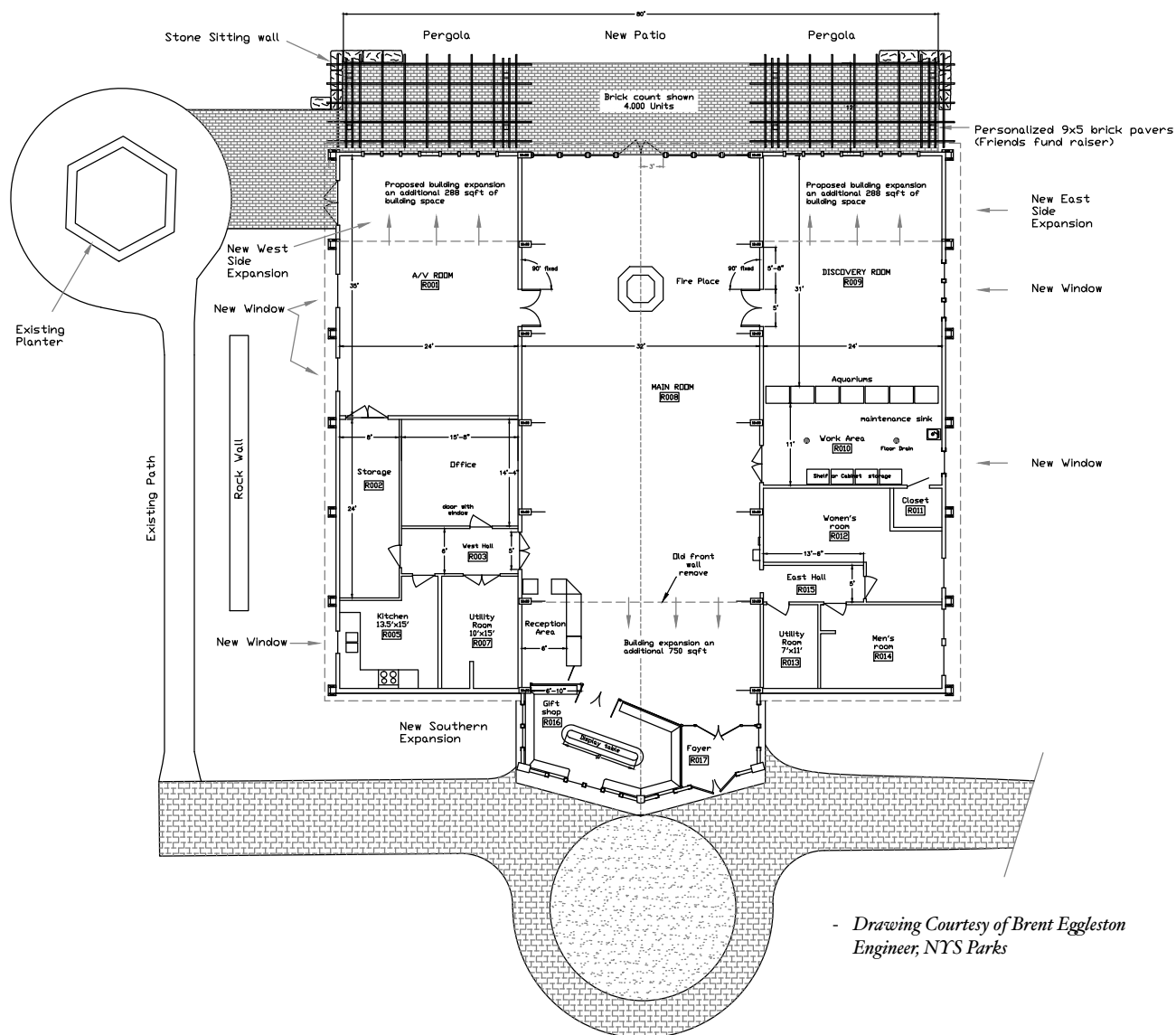


NEWSLETTER

Spring Issue

MARCH 19, 2016



BLUEPRINT AND GREEN SPRING

It is our goal to make plans and other accomplishments available to our members in an open and timely manner. Recently, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation finalized the blueprints for the new and improved Minna Anthony Common Nature Center.

Along with an efficient heating system and over 1300 sq. ft. of additions, the improved center boasts a

dedicated gift shop, a beautiful outdoor deck with personalized bricks from our naming campaign, and dueling pergolas facing the river.

The Friends of the Nature Center, in close partnership with the State, now has the task of designing new fun and interactive educational exhibits for all ages. The new Nature Center will be a must-see destination for seasonal and year-round visitors alike.

We are truly excited about what's to come!

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON SERIES - ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED JANUARY 10, 1948

Woodpeckers Do not Hurt Trees - They Chisel Out Injurious Grubs

Articles and Drawings
By Mrs. James A. Common

All woodpeckers are exceedingly useful birds because their food is made up of the worst insect foes of orchards and woodlands. Among the best of the tribe are the friendly little downy, the size of a sparrow, and his larger cousin, the hairy, the size of a robin. The difference between the two, except for size, is trifling.

Both are black, white and grey. Both are black on the top of their heads with black through the eye and a white mark above and below it.

Both have black and white spotted wings, snowy backs which show like a white stripe down the back, black center tail feathers and white outside ones. In the downy, however, these have black tips. The males of both have a bright red band on the back of their heads. In the hairy, the red is divided in the center by a black line.

These two, downy and hairy, are the only woodpeckers that live regularly in this section all winter. When someone asserts he has seen a red-headed woodpecker, it is only that he has seen a male, either a downy or a hairy.

A red-headed woodpecker is a very different bird which comes north only in the summer and then very rarely. In fact, the red-head is one of the birds fast becoming extinct. Fifty years ago it was probably the best known of the woodpeckers, and as late as 1911 it was listed as "fairly common" in many localities in this state.

The red-head is a very conspicuous bird, fiery red on third of its length and not at all shy. It

prefers telegraph poles to nest in, and attacks apple trees with forces, being especially fond of apple tree borers. The digging was thought to be damaging to the poles and trees and so the bird was persecuted.

When someone finally made a real study of its food and found it to be a beneficial species, it was too late. This gay woodpecker is so rare now that a bare half dozen were reported in New York State last year. No, a woodpecker is not a "red-headed woodpecker" because it has a patch of red on its head.

The downy, smallest and most familiar of our two winter woodpeckers, is a confiding bird, not easily scared. He comes close to the window to feed at a suet chunk with great regularity and pays no heed to a spectator.

It is just the same in the woods. The bird just continues to whack away in its never-ending search for food, no matter how many persons are walking and talking near. It is inclined to be on the other side of the limb, however, and just peers around now and then in a matter-of-fact way.

The downy alights low on a tree trunk, then proceeds upward in a series of jerky hoppings. It never runs around the tree nor stands head downward. Any bird seen doing such things is either a chickadee or a nuthatch.

If a downy wishes to go down the trunk it either flies off and alights lower, or lifts its tail and drops backward most awkwardly. Always it props itself against the tree by its tail, which is specifically made to help in this.

The middle feathers, the black ones, end in stiff quills which stick into the bark crevices and the rest of the feathers are edged with sharp barbs, so that the whole tail pushes against the bark as a small wire brush broom might. In order to get



food from the tree trunk, the downy must brace against the tree and whack hard. Its tail helps hold it up as a bracket does a shelf, and its feet too, are made specially for clinging and bracing.

Most birds have toes arranged to the front one to the back, but the woodpecker's toes are arranged two to the front to cling and two in the back to brace. The bird really needs a good firm hold because the grub is after is often embedded deeply.

The bill is wedge-shaped and the neck muscles powerful. How the chips do fly when it chisels out its nest. Sometimes it hits staccato style with short fast pecks. That is when it is drilling for a grub.

A borer grub is a soft whitish worm, often an inch long, which lives under the bark of a tree. It was hatched from an egg laid in a bark crevice by some flying insect, usually a beetle. As it grew it ate its way along inside the tree, thus making a tunnel into the wood and ruining the lumber.

The tunnel may be eight or more inches long and the grub may become quite plump and large. As it gnaws its slow way its jaws make a slight rasping sound which can be heard within the tree.

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

(Cont'd)

To locate this sound, the downy lays its head against the trunk to listen. Now if a person were to dig the grub out with a drill and knife, quite a cavity would result. The bird makes only a tiny round hole. Its tongue is specially constructed to do the extracting.

The woodpecker's tongue is long and can be extended far beyond the tip of the beak. Its end is hard and horny and armed with sharp backward-turning hooks like a harpoon. The bird makes only a tiny round hole. Its tongue is specially constructed to do the extracting.

Naturalists tell us that the bones of this tongue are like a spring, and that when it is pulled back it lies soft and pliable along the roof of the mouth. But when it is stretched out, it becomes thin and sharp and strong - an efficient tool.

Since borer grubs are in the tree at all seasons, for they take a year or more to reach full size, the woodpeckers that feed on them do not need to migrate. The food of the downy and the hairy is always at hand. It is because the grub is fat that suet appeals to the woodpeckers.

They never take any other offering from the feeding counter, no seeds, no crumbs, just suet.

After a meal from the suet which the birds take three times daily with regularity, they go over to the nearby trees for insect eggs, grubs, and borers, thus paying a good dividend on the suet price.

They do not, no never, make holes in firm strong wood. Where insects have been eating, the wood is already injured. The holes the birds make to extract the borers always heal over. Their nest holes are excavated in half rotten branches. There is no free injury which can be rightfully laid to the bird. Fifty years ago a small boy coming home from school saw a downy in the tree. "There's that woodpecker at our apple tree again," said he. Wham went a stone. Off went the birds head. If the lad had known about the borer and about the woodpecker's wonderful tongue, he would have known better. All winter the downs come in pairs and often with the nuthatches and chickadees. They seem to be very sociable

birds. The male is not at all gallant, though, for he always eats first.

Yet he does wait around until the female is through eating before he leaves, and they fly off together. The flight of both downs and hairs in evenly up and down in a series of waves.

Woodpeckers have no songs and are wise enough not to try to sing. The downy has a rattling short call, which the male often sounds when he comes to the suet. The hairy call is louder and resembles one of the robin's notes. When a woodpecker feels like singing, it drums.

It hunts up a hollow dead tree stub and comes to it morning after morning to roll out its rat-a-tat-tat with rapid whacks of the bill. The female downy has been seen to drum also, but in shorter phrases. This drumming usually continues during the incubating period. After the eggs hatch, the bird is too busy helping to feed a half dozen hungry youngsters.

I have never found a pair of woodpeckers using the same nest hole a second time, though they do often use the same tree. One old beech I know has six holes in its trunk. No other bird is equipped to chisel a hole in wood. The woodpecker has to be the architect for the other hole-nesting birds.

It even excavates a fresh hole for a winter home. On stormy days the bird may peek out, then go back inside. Before big storms the woodpecker seems to eat more and oftener - a living barometer.

In every way the hairy is much the same as the downy, only more so. It is larger so its back shows more white; it eats more suet: takes larger bites; whacks harder; digs bigger nest-holes; has a louder call; drums a longer tattoo on noisier tree drums. However, its bill of fare is in every way beneficial to the trees and therefore to us.

- Reprinted with permission from the Watertown Daily Times.



THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It was a weird winter at the Nature Center with so little snowfall and such warm temperatures. I blame the atypical weather patterns on fact that we purchased new snowshoes this year. Hopefully there will be more opportunities to use them next winter.



Wind churned sediment in Eel Bay
January 2016

The lack of snow and river ice has granted us the luxury of seeing far more bald eagles flying over the Nature Center than is typical, which has been a welcomed surprise. Usually they move to other parts of Wellesley Island shortly after Eel Bay ices over. Now we see ice fisherman out in droves as Eel Bay is solidly covered in ice. I doubt I would be very good at ice fishing, but I enjoy watching fishermen traverse the ice from the windows of the Nature Center.

It seems like such a long time ago, but our Holiday Bonanza was such a huge success I thought it worth mentioning in our winter newsletter. Many of us spent much time this fall gathering supplies for our natural garland project that was part of the Bonanza. We were happy to see how much people of all ages enjoyed drilling holes in hickory shells, wood cookies, and more to string on the piano wire Joe Leskoske provided for the craft. We will definitely make natural garlands as a stand alone workshop in the future, especially now that we have a whole shelf of containers full of different tidbits we collected here and there for the activity!

We have had an increase in our winter school field trips this year due to the success of a new brochure we sent to teachers in the fall. Students from Hammond and Calcium have learned about the trials of being a bird in the winter, how fur helps an animal stay warm, and how to look for tracks in the woods.

They have also learned about the challenges winter presents to all organisms, including themselves! Students from Mary Bowman's Thousand Island High School class (pictured below) learned about eagles and the work done to help them recover from the devastating effects of DDT. We have been very pleased in the increased interest in winter school field trips and we hope it is a trend that will continue into the future.



Mary Bowman's TI High School class
December 2015

With the help of Betsy Ukeritis of the NYS DEC, we were able to offer Project Wet and Project Learning Tree trainings to educators from many disciplines in February. People from TILT, Save the River, the Watertown Zoo, Robert Moses, and NYS Parks, in addition to numerous classroom teachers attended to the training to learn how to use the activities outlined in the Project WET and Project Learning Tree activity guides. Both projects are commonly used environmental education curriculum manuals that can easily be applied to outdoor and indoor education settings. We will be incorporating some of the activities we learned into our spring school field trips. We were excited that so many people were interested in attending these workshops and were happy to host the trainings.

The busy spring and summer season are fast upon us and in preparation we are busy coordinating our program schedule. There will be many new events this year in addition to our reoccurring annual programs. Keep updated on what is happening at the Nature Center by checking our website or Facebook page. We hope you stop by and visit us at the Nature Center soon! The trails are waiting for you and there is always something new to see and experience!

- Molly Farrell, Environmental Educator II

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS JOINED OR RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT RECENTLY:

Patrick and Meredith Sullivan	Clayton, NY
Michael Parkes	Beacon, NY
Jean Gianfagna	Watertown, NY
Paul and Sandra Garrett	Wellesley Island, NY
Sue and Harold Johnson	Watertown, NY
Marty Shannon	Evans Mills, NY
Tom and Mary McNeill	Wellesley Island, NY
Molly Farrell	Clayton, NY
Meg Kerr and Bob Vanderslice	N. Kingston, RI
Leslie Rowland	Clayton, NY
Carolyn Marlowe	Glen Park, NY
Dr. Kenneth and Karen Green	Manlius, NY
Michael and Sandra Geiss	Clayton, NY
Susan Brownell	Cape Vincent, NY
Caroline Batterson	Sackets Harbor, NY
Janice and Michael Douglass	Cortland, NY
Debra Montondo	Redwood, NY
Libby and Tim Cummings	Hingham, MA
William and Tina Graham	Chaumont, NY
Matthew and Sara Elliott	Fayetteville, NY
Valerie Price Cole	Clifford Township, PA
Amy Schwerzmann	Watertown, NY
Matthew and Mary Ann Karp	Newark Valley, NY

Thank you for your critical support!



Cecelia Madore

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology put together a terrific resource for learning about different birds, including the Pileated Woodpecker. Click on the link below for identification keys, bird sounds, history, videos, and more!

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Pileated_Woodpecker/id

Remember to like us on Facebook for realtime updates and the calendar of events. Look for "Minna Anthony Common Nature Center - Friends."



Tree Planting at the Pond Loop dam

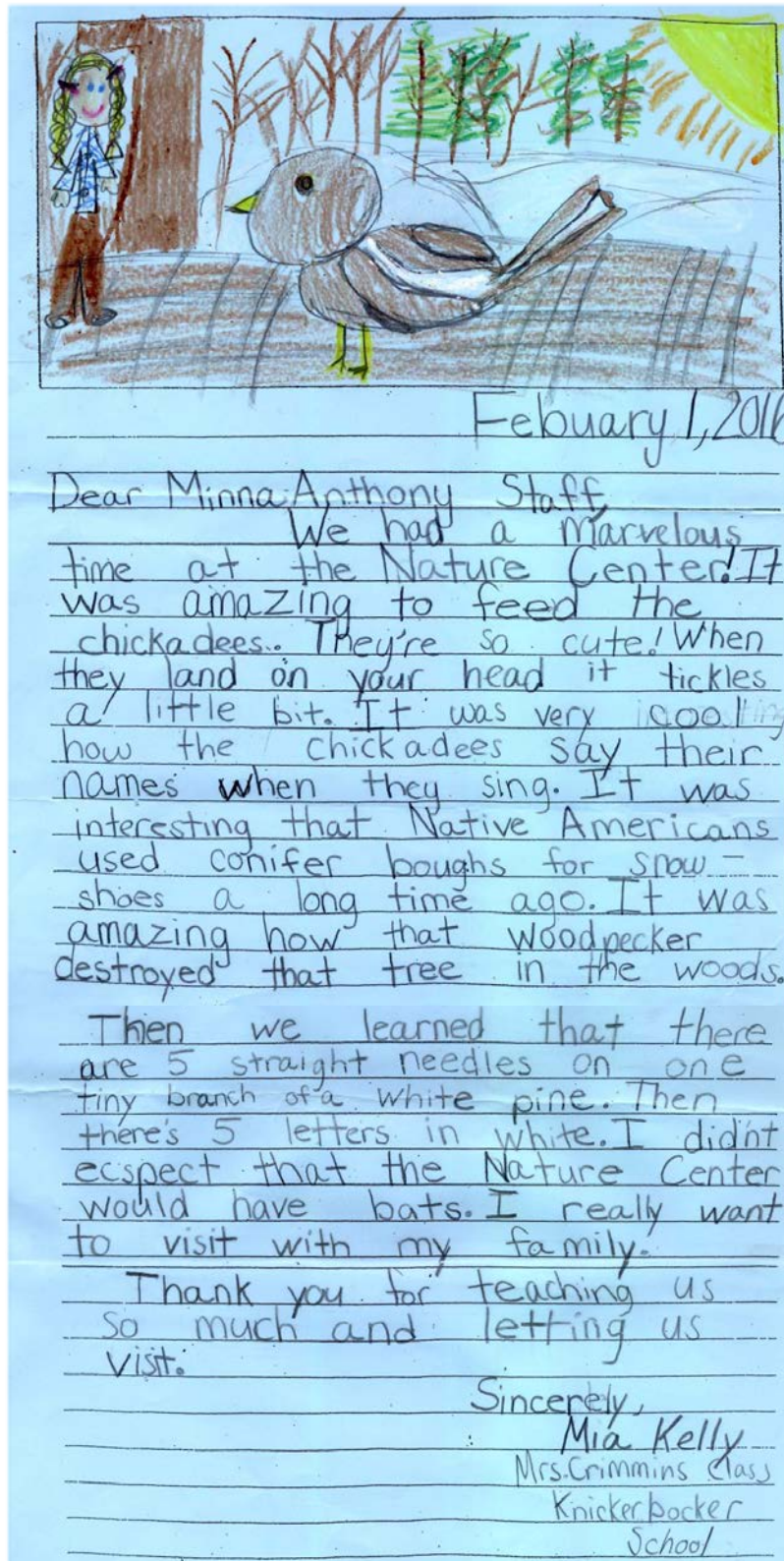
Tentatively scheduled for May 11, 12, & 14

We are planting trees this year around the earthen dam on Pond Loop in anticipation of the eventual removal of the compromised earthen dam. By planting tree species utilized by beavers, we will improve beaver habitat around the pond, thus encouraging the beavers to move back down the wetland complex to the pond. The goal is to create suitable habitat for beavers in advance of removing the dam so the beavers will construct a new dam in place of the compromised earthen dam after we remove it.

Please call Molly at the Nature Center if you are interested in helping with this exciting project

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

RELAUNCHING THE EDUCATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE



Letters like these make winter days brighter! We appreciate all the letters we receive from students, but this one seemed truly marvelous! It is our mission to help great teachers, inspire great students and make the next generation passionate about the natural world. As terrific letters like Mia's demonstrate, the teachers and Nature Center educators have been doing something right at the Nature Center for years!

The new Education Outreach Committee includes some board members and Nature Center staff. This committee aims to continue this great work and help better support educational programming with more resources and volunteers.

In its first act, the Education Outreach Committee hosted a "Meet & Greet" on January 21st with guest of honor, Peyton Taylor. Peyton is the new Regional Director of the Thousand Islands Region of the Parks. Representatives from TILT, Save the River, The Antique Boat Museum, Clayton Island Tours, and the Thousand Island Arts Council participated in this event.

Each organization shared their partnership role with the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center and helped introduce the new Regional Director to the organizations and people who make the wonderful programming happen. This was an informative afternoon for all involved.

After such a successful event, the committee wished to find new ways to support the Nature Center

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THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

(Education Outreach Cont'd)

educators. The committee's next job was to solicit a "wish list" from Nature Center staff for items used regularly on field trips and for programming at the Nature Center.

The list to the right are simple items that are needed for lessons and demonstrations. If you have some of these items or would like to donate to our cause, please call the Nature Center or drop in - whatever works for you!

If you wish to assist the committee or want to donate please contact us.

- Heather White, Board Member, Chair of the Education Outreach Committee

Wish List

9" Non-waxed paper plates
Hot laminate paper (5mm)
3-Ring sheet protectors
Dissecting scopes
Owl pellets
Ink pads (any color)
Plastic shopping bags
Brown paper lunch bags
Large posted notes
8oz wax paper cups
Ziplock sandwich bags
20 small carpet squares (20"x20")
3' folding table
large storage bins



The Wild Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis) blooming in May - a sure sign of spring.

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO OUR GENEROUS HOLIDAY BONANZA SPONSORS!

Financial Sponsors:

Steve Taylor Builders
Lafargeville Agway

Putnam Construction
Garlock Lumber and Supply

Donors in Kind:

Watertown Blue Seal
Kathy Elliott
Bess Carl
Joe Leskoske

Carolyn Childs
Mark Raycroft (KMart)
Spyder Rybaak
Megan Docteur

Food Donations:

Betty Ryan
Mary McNeil

Sue Mahoney
Kathy Leskoske

Over 200 people attended the event this year! We had vendors for the first time and the Wellesley Island Fire Department came to sell baked goods as a fundraiser for the critical new fire station. We were very excited about the success of the Holiday Bonanza and hope it continues to be a well-attended community event for many years to come.

Thank you sponsors, donors and volunteers for making this event possible!

Critter Kid's- Terrific Turtles

Turtles are reptiles!



What are Reptiles?

- ♦ **Cold blooded:** Their body temperature is the same as the outside air. They cannot regulate their body temperature like we can. If we are cold we create goose bumps and shiver. A turtle depends on heat like the sun.
- ♦ Their **backbone** is part of to their shell.
- ♦ **They lay eggs:** When a turtle hatches they look like the adult, just smaller.
- ♦ **Skin** is covered in scales.

Painted turtles sunning themselves to make their bodies warmer.



Photo by: Cecelia Madore



Turtles live in wetlands and shallow areas in big rivers and ponds.



This scene is located at our pond. At the pond visitors often see snapping and painted turtles.



Do you see the snapping turtle camouflaging in the duckweed?

Snapping turtles hide in the weeds to sneak up on their prey. Snapping turtles are carnivores, which means they eat other animals.



Snapping turtles have very long necks and strong jaws

Their large neck and strong jaw helps them catch their prey.

The bottom of a painted turtle shell is larger than a snapping turtle.

Their larger shell bottom protects a painted turtle. They can pull their legs, head, and tail inside their shell. This makes it more difficult for a predator to eat it.

A snapping turtle cannot pull its head into its shell so it uses its strong jaws to protect itself.

Painted turtles are herbivores, which means they only eat plants.



A turtle's heavy shell makes it harder to move on land than in the water. They are much faster swimmers than walkers.

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Why do turtles lay their eggs by the side of the road?

Turtles need loose soil in which to lay eggs. The loose soil on a roadside provides an easy place to lay eggs.

Turtle nest

Roads absorb the warmth from the sun. The pavement keeps the eggs warm.

Painted turtle lays between 2-20 eggs

Many nests are invaded by predators, leaving just a few in the ground.

Did you know...

A turtle shell is very strong! However it is not strong enough to protect it from cars! Turtles are frequently killed by cars.

Raccoons are often the common predator. They often hunt near wetlands and water edges to feed on cray fish, frog and turtle eggs.

Did you know

Blanding's Turtles are endangered in NY state!

What can you do?

Be a turtle protector!

An easy way you can help turtles is to keep eyes on the road from May to September.

When you spot a turtle on the road tell an adult.

Remind parents and friends to **never** relocate turtles. The best thing to do to help turtles is move them across the road in the direction they are headed. Turtles know where to go. Turning them around just makes their trek longer.

Blanding turtles are endangered because of wetland habitat loss, die off from cars, and people taking them as pets.

Never pick up a snapping turtle, particularly by the tail. Snapping turtle jaws are very strong and they can hurt you when they are scared.

Don't forget to name your turtle!

Draw or write a short story about a turtle that your family rescued.

Artist name _____ Artist age _____ Date _____ Parents Name _____
Phone Number _____ Parents Signature _____
(Signature means you give the rights to the nature center to reprint art work.)

The Nature Center would love to share your artwork. Please mail your artwork to the Nature Center and we will post it on our [facebook page!](#)

Written by Kimbrie Cullen

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

SPRING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Canoe Training

*Thursday, June 23 and Friday,
June 24th, 9am*

Our 36 foot canoe requires a lot of paddling power. Before the summer schedule starts our staff needs to practice steering our thousand pound fiberglass canoe and learn how to interpret the program. If you like to paddle or are interested in assisting with our summer canoe trips, this training is for you!

Front Desk Operations Training

Saturday, April 23rd, 10am

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 at our front desk ops training. 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!

School Field Trip Training for Volunteer Naturalists

Wednesday, April 27th or Thursday, April 28th, depending on consensus

We are calling all our seasoned school field trip volunteers and anyone potentially interested in volunteering for school programs to attend this one-day training. Volunteer Naturalists are critical to the success of our school field trips. We will discuss our expectations, outline the flow of field trips, go over commonly used curriculum, and more.

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

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Darlene Sourwine and Cecilia Madore pose by the fireplace... It's not often we catch these two in any one place for long enough to make that happen!

Kodak Moments

Today we bring Cecilia Madore into focus! She and her husband, Michael, are avid hikers. She snaps beautiful wildlife, visitor, and nature landscapes, and then donates her work to the Nature Center. Often we ask Cecilia to attend programs so she can capture special moments during the event. We so appreciate her!

Cecilia has a talent for spotting and photographing that perfect "Kodak moment." She always catches a child connecting in some special way with nature, or an adult relaxing after an adventurous hike that is stroking their panting, but very happy dog. We share many of these awesome pictures on our Facebook page or in the newsletter. If you're interested in purchasing any of her photographs you can find some in the Nature Center gift shop. Otherwise, keep an eye open for more unique nature shots taken by Cecilia.

We here at the Nature Center are grateful for her time and her talent. Keep on "clicking" Cecilia we all love your beautiful PICTURES!

- Darlene Sourwine, Volunteer Coordinator



In this photo, a scarlet tanager (Piranga olivacea) rests briefly before taking flight. The bird is often difficult to spot as it remains high in the forest canopy. Often you will only hear its Chick-Burr call note.

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER



In this photo Cecelia Madore beautifully captures the onset of spring along the river. The flowering black cherry and the laurentian granite elegantly frame the Murray Island Narrows in early May.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Susan Mahoney grew up in Connecticut and raised her family in Massachusetts. She retired as a colonel in the US Army Reserves with ten years active duty and 22 years as a physical therapist. She also has a Masters in Education and worked 20 years for Massachusetts public schools as a physical therapist.

Susan retired in 2010 and relocated to Chaumont, NY. She spends many hours volunteering for local charities, including the Nature Center. She has three children and five grandchildren and enjoys traveling.

Andrew Kane grew up along the Saint Lawrence River calling Thousand Islands Park on Wellesley Island home each summer. He spent countless hours on the water and hiking the Nature Center trails; fostering his love for birding and photography.

Andrew spent years in the banking industry and resides on numerous professional boards. He recently started a new business, Feather in Flight Productions, which uses both handheld and drone photography (you may have seen his video for the MACNC on our website). He enjoys spending free time with his family.



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

Kerry Roberge
President

Barbara Butts
Vice President

Jonathan White
Treasurer

Jane Arras
Secretary

Nancy Boynton

Sue Johnson

Chase Miller

Lynn Morgan

Joseph Leskoske

Heather White

Matthew Elliott

Barb Eldridge

Andrew Kane

Sue Mahoney

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Molly Farrell

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Kimberly Cullen

Program Coordinator

Friends Employees

Darlene Sourwine

Volunteer Coordinator

Patty Davis

Bookkeeper

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

SPRING PROGRAMS 2015

315-482-2479

Guided Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

Saturday, March 26th, 7pm

Explore our winter woods by the light of the full moon! Look and listen for signs of wildlife as we walk, along our trails guided by moonlight. If weather permits, this program will be offered on snowshoes. Preregistration is required. If you would feel more comfortable, you may bring a flashlight, but we encourage you to try walking by moonlight alone.

Snowshoes rented from the Nature Center for \$3.

Pinecone Wreath Class

Saturday, April 9, 10am

Come and make a unique pinecone wreath using pinecones we collected from within the Park and surrounding area. We will have coffee and cookies for your enjoyment while you make your wreath. The program fee covers the costs of the supplies. Preregistration is required for the class.

\$10 non-members, \$8 members

North Country Earth Day at the Thompson Park Zoo

Saturday, April 23rd, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Come join the Earth Day celebrations at the Thompson Park Zoo! Learn about the natural world around you and the importance of protecting our natural resources. Discover new places and ways to enjoy the outdoors. There will be numerous family friendly activities and many different organizations will be at the event, including the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center. For additional information, call the Thompson Park Zoo at 315-782-6180.

TILT's 3rd Annual "For the Trees" Arbor Day Community Event

Saturday, April 30th, 9:30am

Every year TILT celebrates Arbor Day by planting trees at Zenda Farms. And they do a whole lot more, with exhibits and activities from our friends and neighbors in the community, including the Nature Center! If you like to get your hands dirty, and help out at the same time, sign up and join us for a spring day of planting trees! Bring the whole family. The Hawn Memorial Library (in Clayton) will show a kid-friendly movie, *Epic*, after the fun at Zenda. Lunch is provided by Subway of Clayton. Please call TILT at (315)-686-5345 for additional information.

20th annual Ready Set Fun Bookfest at the Bruce M. Write Memorial Conference Center in Watertown.

Saturday, May 7th 10-1

A literacy-based event which uses a series of interactive activity booths provide by many organization, like the Nature Center, to connect literacy to a variety of real-world situations which a child may build experience.

Memorial Day Weekend Plant Sale

May 28th -30th, 9:30am-3pm

Help the Nature Center raise funds to maintain our gardens at our Annual Memorial Day Weekend Plant Sale. We will have an assortment of native flowering plants and more for sale. Incorporating native plants into your landscaping can help provide valuable food resources and shelter to local bird and wildlife species.

Spider's Fishing Programs

Saturdays, May 28th, June 11th, July 2nd, August 13th, September 3rd, and October 1st
Two programs are offered each day:

Basic Fishing - 11:00am to 1:00pm

Basics of Fly Fishing - 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Join Spider on the Nature Center dock as he shares his knowledge and love of fishing. Spider brings a limited number of fishing poles, hooks, bobbers, and worms. If you can bring your own tackle, it will allow for more participation in the program. This is a free program but donations are appreciated to defray the cost of this and other programs. All of Spider's programs are sponsored by Sampo.



Children's Fishing Derby

Sunday, June 12th, 12:00-3:30pm

Come join in the fun at our fishing derby for children 14 and under! There is a \$2.00 entrance fee that will go towards supporting future programming at the Nature Center. Prizes will be awarded to participants in three categories: the longest, heaviest, and most fish. Fish must be taken with rod and reel; all legal baits will be allowed. Preregistration is required.

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

SPRING PROGRAMS 2015

315-482-2479

Regional “For the Birds” Celebration

Saturday and Sunday, May 28th-29th

In partnership with the Thousand Island Bridge Authority and the Thousand Island Land Trust, we bring you an exciting two day birding event featuring a variety of workshops that families, birders, and birders-in-training can enjoy!

“Birds of Prey” event at Boldt Castle

Saturday, May 28th, 11am:

We will kick-off the weekend with the annual “Birds of Prey event at Boldt Castle featuring Master Falconer, Rick West and his live birds of prey. Rick will educate, engage, and entertain visitors with head spinning excitement as he presents these amazing and beautiful birds. Come and take the opportunity to see live birds of prey up close and personal! Other event activities will include: learning to identify birds by sight and sound, finding out how to attract birds to your backyard, and learning about bird adaptations. This is a birding event not to miss so make plans to get “bird-y” with us!

Celebration to be held at MAC Nature Center, various TILT Preserves, & Indian River Lakes Conservancy

Sunday, May 29, 10am: “For the Birds”

For the second day of this incredible birding weekend, join us at one of the four designated locations for active birding from 7am to 9am followed by a lecture series at Zenda Farms Preserve. Regional birding experts will lead groups on hikes to identify birds by sight and sound. Participants may choose to visit TILT’s Zenda Farms Preserve, TILT’s Otter Creek Preserve & Nature Trail, Indian River Lakes Conservancy’s Grand Lake Reserve or the Minna Anthony Nature Center where they will enjoy birding and record a species list to share. Don’t forget your binoculars!

Following bird watching, join us at Zenda Farms Preserve to share and hear about species spotted at each location, an open discussion on birding in the area, and enjoy a lecture series showcasing bird conservation and habitat restoration in the Thousand Islands and St. Lawrence River Valley region. A question and answer session will follow.

REGISTRATION FORM



Please complete this form and return it to the Nature Center with your registration fee by May 9, 2016. Your \$15 registration fee can be paid by cash or check. Please make your check payable to the Friends of the Nature



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

☐ Female

☐ Male

Email: _____

I, (print your name) _____ Absolve the State of New York, its employees and volunteers, and the Friends of the Nature Center from any liability resulting from participation in this event.

Signature _____ Date _____

☐ Please send me information about other upcoming Nature Center programs

This program is supported by the Friends of the Nature Center and NYS Parks



THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

I Love My Park Day

Saturday, May 7th, 9am-3pm

Show your Nature Center some love! Join with other volunteers to spruce up the Nature Center for spring and get it ready for another busy summer season. This is the day when we get out our mop buckets, sponges, garden trowels, rakes, and clippers and get to work making our Nature Center beautiful. Lunch will be provided. Visit <http://ptny.org/ilovemypark/> for more information and to preregister. You can also preregister by calling the Nature Center. Preregistration for this event is required.



Run Wild

Saturday, May 21st, 10am

Join us for the 4th Annual Run Wild 5K Run/Walk. Race Day Registration begins at 8:00am and the 5K race starts at 10:00am. The \$15 registration fee includes a long-sleeved t-shirt for the first 100 registrants. To preregister for the race, complete the form on the previous page and mail your check to the Nature Center. You can also pick up a form at the Nature Center or consult our website at: www.macnaturecenter.com.

**MY
NATURE
CENTER**

Goal: \$300,000

Raised: \$15,000

The Interior Improvement and Educational Display Campaign is Under Way...

Please Donate Today!

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



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**