

# THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

---

# NEWSLETTER

*Fall 2022 Issue*



*Escanaba Bay, the Narrows, and the west side of Wellesley Island photographed by Andrew Kane*

As I sit in my cottage during a heavy rainstorm, I can't keep my mind from thinking that fall is coming and so is a change of weather. Cool, crisp, sunny days mixed with rainy fall days are soon to be upon us. And as Minna's article within explains, the bird migration will be in full swing very soon. Minna's article is very interesting especially if you think about the time period that she wrote the article... the 1930s. As with all of Minna's writings, I learned something new about bird migration. Please take time to read her article in this newsletter.

The Friends and the staff of the Nature Center had a busy summer season with programs being held on a daily basis, special events weekly, and of course our Don Peck FaceBook Auction and our largest fundraiser, Night For Nature. The board members and staff worked very hard in making these fundraisers successful. Special thanks goes to our former board member, Erin Lettiere, who chaired the Night For Nature this July. It was our

most successful event in the history of the Friends. The amount of time and work that goes into the event is more than you can imagine, and I want to express my thanks to the park staff, board members, volunteers, sponsors, and attendees. Everyone involved deserves a thank you!

I leave you with encouragement to find the time to enjoy the fall foliage along our 9+ miles of hiking trails which are open from dawn to dusk. Then stop in the Nature Center to warm up and check out the interactive displays. Don't forget to visit the Nature Center store! Also, please mark your calendars for the Autumn Festival, which will be held on Saturday, October 8th!

Andy Kane  
*Board President*  
*Friends of the Nature Center*

---

**The Minna Anthony Common Series**

---

# Bird Migration, Nature's Great Mystery

by Minna Anthony Common

*The following is an excerpt from a column written by Minna Anthony Common about 1930. Reprinted with permission from the Watertown Daily Times.*

Why do some birds go traveling and others stay on? Why do some, which winter in the same spot in South America, travel north by widely different routes only to meet in May in the same nesting territory in the north? Why do some species... follow the route south in the fall and return in the spring by a quite different one? There are many questions, and none are yet answered in full, nor may ever be.

More facts of the subject of migration have been learned in the past 20 years than in all the time before that because of the bird-banding operations carried on extensively by people far and wide in all walks of life...

A notation from Audubon's diary fathered the idea. He saw a phoebe nest in the same cave for several years and wondered if it could be the same bird. He tied a red string on one of its legs. It returned for three years after that. A century later the naturalists decided to try the plan in a general way. The results surprised even them...

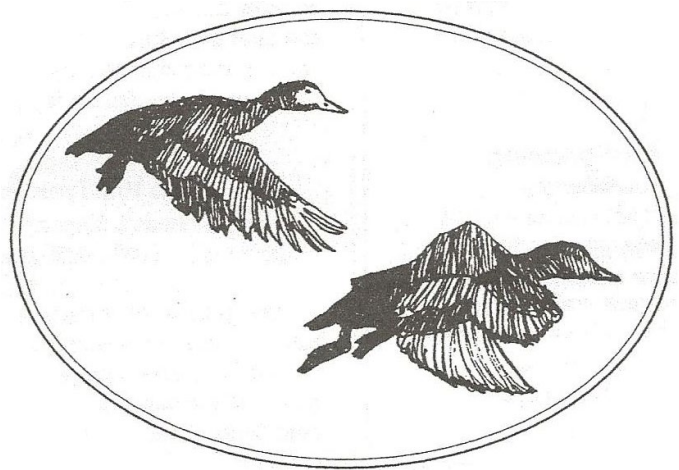
(Birds) are caught in feeding traps, banded on one leg with a minute metal ring, which bears a number. The name, number, and date are listed, and then the bird is released. Sometimes the same

bird is caught again the same year or in subsequent years. This has happened often enough so that now the travel-rates and usual routes of many birds are definitely known...

For instance, it was learned that not all migration is north and south, in the mountains it is up and down; also banders have produced some remarkable data of east-west bird flight. A duck hawk banded in New Jersey was shot in Nebraska a few weeks later. A cedar waxwing proved its wandering habits by being banded in California and shot in Alabama...

Other questions come to mind; as, is it the same male, the same female, or the same pair of robins which return? Also, where did the young they raised last year go? Each spring finds the window ledge with just the one nest. In time the banding records will answer such questions...

Some things as we learn more about them become simple and clear, but the more we learn about migration the more marvelous and mystifying it seems. ■



*Minna Anthony Common's drawing included with her 1930 Watertown Daily Times article*

---

## From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

What a fruitful summer it has been! We were able to operate near full capacity and offered over one hundred public programs this summer – including our signature Voyageur Canoe paddling program! We haven't been able to offer these excursions for over two years due to the pandemic, and we know many families were very happy to see the 16-passenger, 36-foot canoe back in the water.

We were very fortunate to have such a great seasonal team this year helping with all aspects of Nature Center daily operations: Dana Higgins, Gary Phillips, Emma Lynch, Colin Withers, Alex Hansson, Maverick Charlebois, Student Conservation Association (SCA) members Katriana Maslin and Mirella Yanez, and Kenneth Deedy Environmental Steward Sara Lantier. Our seasonal staff has done a tremendous job keeping the Nature Center brimming with creativity and new programming. Last but not least, a special thank you to our year-round staff Kim Cullen and Darlene Sourwine for their vast knowledge and years of experience. Thank you everyone for all your hard work!



*Stunning St. Lawrence sunset photographed by SCA intern Mirella Yanez*

As the summer season winds down let's attune to the slower pace of autumnal nature. Seasonal transitions are observable and centering. Two of my favorites: hiking to vistas of vibrant foliage or fall migration birdwatching. Our trails offer these activities as well as inspiration for honing many other naturalist skills of your choice. Please see pages 7–8 for our fall events or visit our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for our full listing. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Autumn Festival is one highlight, and we invite you to join us for this lively day! As a reminder, the Nature Center transitions to our off-season schedule, closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, after October 8<sup>th</sup>. As always, our trails remain open 7 days a week.

Happy trails!

Gabriela Padewska  
*Nature Center Director*

---

## For Your Consideration

### Endangered: The Spruce Grouse

If you missed DEC conservation biologist Angelena Ross's talk at the Nature Center this summer, you can read about her work with the spruce grouse in this short article she co-wrote: [Sprucing Up the Adirondacks: Managing the spruce grouse, one of New York's rarest resident birds.](#)



## SCA Member Introduction and Update



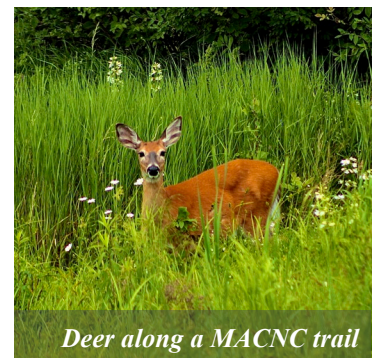
*Mirella holding an eastern screech owl after the ADK Raptors show at the Nature Center*

Hello! My name is Mirella, and I am the SCA Social Media Intern for the Nature Center this season! I have spent the summer designing event flyers and photographing programs as well as other special events. I am from Texas and spent the last 5 years living in Austin. I studied at the University of Texas and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Radio-TV-Film in May of 2021. Since then, I have interned at a television production company and a nonprofit organic farm before finding my way here! I have a 10-year-old chihuahua named Milk who is currently staying with my parents. While in Austin, we did just about everything together – including Uber! I enjoy finding and listening to new music, going to concerts, hanging out with friends, watching tv and movies, exploring the city, kayaking, and occasionally riding my bike. I also enjoy photography/videography and hope to make that my future career! Until then, you can probably spot me driving around the 1000 Islands, taking pictures of the moon, and hanging around the Nature Center. Hope to see you around!

Mirella Yañez  
SCA Member



student  
conservation  
association



*Deer along a MACNC trail*



*Goldenrod crab spider found along North Field Loop*



*SCA interns Kat and Mirella (right) watch a cargo ship cruise through the American Narrows from Alexandria Bay*

**THANK YOU to the following 48 *Friends* for joining or renewing their commitment recently**

Don & Sheila Smith	Wellesley Island, NY	Robin Smith	Spencerport, NY
Andy & Susanne Duclon	Wellesley Island, NY	Dennis & Sarah Baldwin	Clayton, NY
Steve Baker	Fairfield, CT	Nick Yost & Sandra Rennie	La Jolla, CA
Rozalia Berlin	Queens Village, NY	Tyler Saville	Clayton, NY
Kathleen Morris	Alexandria Bay, NY	Ken & Meredith Nims	Clayton, NY
Jim & Kathy Fenn	Wellesley Island, NY	Rob & Alyssa Meyers	Clayton, NY
Bonnie Gray	Alexandria Bay, NY	Garth & Jessica Lofberg	Clayton, NY
Leon & Dawn Rusho	Clayton, NY	Jim & Melissa Kelley	Warners, NY
Darrel & Judy Rippeteau	Washington D.C.	Vick & Tashua Natali	Clayton, NY
Allan Newell	Hammond, NY	Pat & Brittany Chirico	Watertown, NY
Steve & Nancy Martin	Syracuse, NY	Chris & Leigh Dillenback	Clayton, NY
Todd Atkinson	Clayton, NY	Anthony & Amber Augliano	Clayton, NY
Sarah & Greg Clements	Wayne, PA	Brian Allen Family	Fairport, NY
Stewart Dutfield	Delmar, NY	Mark Allen Family	Pittsford, NY
Julie Dziesisz	T.I. Park, NY	Harry & Janice Amey	Glenn Mills, PA
Larry & Jo Ann Golden	Wellesley Island, NY	Arras Family	Chicago, IL
Sue Lipman	Wellesley Island, NY	Lori Thistle	Hammond, NY
Wilburt Elliott	Granger, IN	Paul & Sandy Garrett	Wellesley Island, NY
Thomas French	Potsdam, NY	Robin & Jason Poplaski	Watertown, NY
Jim & Martha O'Donnell	Lakewood Ranch, FL	Jeremy Smith	Wellesley Island, NY
Kerry Roberge	Watertown, NY	Judith Whipple	Heuvelton, NY
Don & Linda Blauvelt	T.I. Park, NY	Greg & Cindy McLean	Clinton, NY
Frank Martino & Victoria Bracco	Brooklyn, NY		
Roberta Calhoun-Eagan	Canandaigua, NY		
Tracy Agnello	Tonawanda, NY		



Highlights from the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual *Night for Nature*



*Buoy Rockers' David Knapp talks to crowd during set*



*Left to Right: Alta Vietze, Margaret Hummel, Rachel Gianfagna, and Mary Langan*



*Board member Kerry Roberge converses with attendees*



*Board member Rick Gefell with TILT's Terra Bach and Kate Breheny (right)*



*David Belding (left) and Dani Baker (right) enjoy hors d'oeuvres with David Ciechanowski and Rowena Miller*



*Board member Lori Arnot (right) and husband John (center) with Will Ramseier (left)*



Highlights from the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual *Night for Nature*



Harold Johnson (L) and Marty Yenawine



The Weldons (front) and Greenbaums enjoy food and refreshments



*thank you  
to our Sponsors!*



WALKER FAMILY FOUNDATION, NNY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION,  
A T MATTHEWS & DIER, WHITE'S LUMBER, FEATHER IN FLIGHT,  
WD BACH EXCAVATING & MARINE CONSTRUCTION,  
WIDRICK AUTO SALES, BOATHOUSE MARINE, PIE ZANO'S OF  
WATERTOWN/THERESA, UNCLE SAM BOAT TOURS,  
WELDON & WELDON FINANCIAL COACHING, GRIFFITH ENERGY,  
BRADLEY'S MILITARY ENTERPRISES, HOMESTEAD QUALITY HOMES





# Fall Events

Program preregistration recommended.  
Please call **(315) 482-2479** to register.  
*Face covering encouraged when indoors.*

## OCTOBER

### LEARN TO FISH

**Saturday, October 1 // 10:00 a.m.**

Have you ever wanted to learn how to bait a hook, cast a rod, and reel in a fish? Join us for a chance to have a “reel” good time and learn some new fishing skills! Supplies are limited so please bring your own rod, reel and tackle. Participants over 16 need a NYS fishing license.

### WOODLAND CRITTER CRAFT

**Sunday, October 2 // 1:00 p.m.**

Creatures, critters, and the great outdoors, oh my! Join us for a short hike to see what kind of critters call the trails home; then we'll create our very own woodland critters out of natural materials. This craft is open to all ages and is a great way to enjoy a fall craft with your family!

### SEARCHING FOR FALL

**Saturday, October 15 // 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

Fall is an exciting time of year! So much to see and explore. Stop in at the front desk to pick up a fall scavenger hunt. When returning from your adventure, stop in for a prize!

### INVASIVE SPECIES HIKE

**Sunday, October 16 // 10:00 a.m.**

Do you want to be an invasive species detective? Join us for a river rake toss and guided hike on beautiful Eel Bay. Learn about aquatic and terrestrial invasive species and how to limit the spread of these hitchhikers! Long pants and hiking boots encouraged.

### BAT WALK, BAT TALK

**Saturday, October 22 // 6:00 p.m.**

Come join us for a nighttime hike as we look – and listen! – for bats! Hear different bat calls and figure out what bats make them, then learn what's up with bats!

### BOO AT THE ZOO

**Sunday, October 23 // 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at Zoo New York**

Come celebrate Halloween at Zoo New York at Thompson Park! Candy, games, activities, prizes, music, and many different organizations set up at the zoo including the Nature Center! For more info, call Zoo New York at 315-782-6180.



## **SOUND MAPPING**

**Saturday, October 29 // 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

Sketch the sounds of the woods! Take a hike on our trails to see how many birds you can hear. This is a great time to get outside and enjoy your art skills as well.

## **SPOOOOOKY SPIDERS!**

**Sunday, October 30 // 1:00 p.m.**

Learn about spiders and their role in the environment by hunting for different types of spiders and spider webs around the Nature Center, then craft your own spider out of natural materials!

# **NOVEMBER**

## **TIN CAN LANTERNS**

**Saturday, November 5 // 10:00 a.m.**

Make a great fall decoration by upcycling a tin can! Workshop is for all ages. Preregistration is required. Please bring a hammer and an old towel.

## **FROSTY FRESH AIR HIKE**

**Saturday, November 12 // 10:00 a.m.**

Frosty leaves, crunchy ground, and fall sounds. This is a great time of year to get outside and enjoy some crispy fresh air. Please dress for the weather and a 2-mile hike.

## **BIG BEAR HUG**

**Saturday, November 19 // 1:00 p.m.**

Listen to a funny children's story about a bear who loves trees. After the story, we'll take a hike in the woods for our own adventure. This is an indoor and outdoor activity.

## **CSI (CRITTER SCENE INVESTIGATION)**

**Saturday, November 26 // 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

The Nature Center has set up crime scenes to work your nature detective skills. Take a look at a clue and try to figure out who ate who! Then take a hike to put those detective skills to work.

# **DECEMBER**

## **WINTER WONDERLAND WALK**

**Saturday, December 3 // 10:00 a.m.**

Let's kick off the holiday season with a winter hike and hot cocoa to warm up afterward!

## **HOLIDAY BONANZA**

**Saturday, December 10 // 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Come enjoy some holiday cheer at our Holiday Bonanza! There will be live music, craft vendors, food, and crafts. Enjoy chatting with family and friends at this fun, community event.

## **FIRST DAY OF WINTER**

**Saturday, December 17 // 1:00 p.m.**

Come listen to a children's story and then feed birds at our very own bird feeder station.

## **WINTER DISCOVERIES**

**Saturday, December 24 // 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

Stop in for a Winter Discoveries activity sheet and explore the outdoors with the entire family.

MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER  
43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

# Autumn Festival

OCT 8TH *Decorative flourish* 10AM - 4PM

Games • Food • Vendors • Music  
Pumpkin Patch • Apple Cider Press  
Scarecrow Building Contest and More!

**Admission:**  
\$1 - Children 12 & under or free  
with nonperishable food donation!  
\$2 - Military & Seniors • \$3 - Adults

**\*\*CASH ONLY EVENT\*\***

 New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation 

**FOR MORE INFO**  
315-482-2479





### MISSION STATEMENT

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

Andrew Kane, *President*  
Jeffrey Hanna, *Vice President*  
Jonathan White, *Treasurer*  
Karen Allen, *Secretary*  
Lori Arnot  
Jane Arras  
Robin Colello-Poplaski  
Richard Gefell  
Alysa Huizenga  
Sue Johnson  
Joseph Leskoske  
Gifford Lewis  
Kerry Roberge  
Meredith Sullivan  
Jeffry Weldon

### WELLESLEY ISLAND STATE PARK

Steven Cline, *Park Manager*  
Paula Torino, *Assistant Park Manager*

### MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

Gabriela Padewska, *Director*  
Kimbrie Cullen, *Education Coordinator*  
Darlene Sourwine, *Outreach Coordinator*  
Mary Jean Jones, *Bookkeeper*

**Second Annual Benefit Auction – Thank You!**

In June, the Friends of The Nature Center, hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Facebook Live benefit auction. This auction could not have happened without the generosity of Auctioneer Don Peck and April Patton. Don is a BIG supporter of nonprofits, and we are grateful for his time and talent donated for this fundraiser!

The Town of Alexandria Bay gave us full use of the Recreation Center which allowed us to have a mainland donation location. And once again, they kindly allowed us to host the auction from this perfect location! The very generous Hunter Horton, of T.I. Landscaping, again donated a trailer for the Wellesley Island State Park drops-offs, giving people on Wellesley Island a closer donation location.

Once again, public support and generosity were overwhelming! This year we were fortunate to receive a 1979 Penn Yann tunnel drive boat with a tandem trailer, generously donated by Bruce Williams. And the support continued! Wellesley Island residents were amazing, cleaning house and donating beautiful items, all in support of the Friends, who in turn support the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center. The Friends and I would like to thank everyone again: the Alexandria Bay Town Board, Don Peck Auctioneer, Hunter Horton, T.I. Landscaping, Bruce Williams, and we especially want to thank all the volunteers and other donors from Wellesley Island and all throughout the area, who generously donated in support of the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center. Thank you!

Darlene Sourwine  
*Outreach Coordinator*



New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation

**Minna Anthony Common Nature Center**

Wellesley Island State Park  
44927 Cross Island Road  
Fineview, NY 13640  
(315) 482-2479

**HOURS OF OPERATION:****October—May (Off Season)**

Wednesday—Sunday

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

*Trails Open Sunrise to Sunset Daily*



Scan to download  
the electronic version  
of this newsletter



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