

NEWSLETTER

Fall Issue

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015



Cecelia Madore

THE LINK BETWEEN NATURE AND NOW

From the shores of Eel Bay, across grassy meadows, through wetlands and forests, and along the rocky outcrops leading to the cliffs above the Narrows, our nine miles of hiking trails offer something for everyone. With great pride, we announce our new campaign to bring this outdoor beauty inside the Nature Center - that is, to redesign the current ecological displays in a modern, engaging, and enjoyable way while maintaining the Center's unique charm.

Thousands of students, parents, grandparents, campers, hikers, and more travel to the Nature Center to connect with the physical world and the environment. In order to remain relevant and inspire the next generation's respect for the Earth, we must change and improve. It is our mission to bring ecological information and enlightenment to

the public just as Minna Anthony Common's articles did in her time.

This month's article from the late Mrs. Common shows how open communication and education can influence laws and the general public in a positive way. As you will read, the Northern Turkey, once a North American mainstay, faced certain extinction due to loss of habitat and over harvesting. Minna Anthony Common's clear historical description and call for common sense action no doubt helped influence awareness.

Turkey populations are now tracked annually and maintained in accordance with science-based conservation and best management practices based on the successful restoration work that started in the 1960s. The turkey's story typifies ongoing efforts to improve the current environment and rehabilitate our native species.



THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON SERIES - ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 30, 1931

WILD TURKEY IS NEARLY EXTINCT

BIRDS DISCOVERED BY
PILGRIMS IN 17TH CENTURY

DOMESTICATED BY INDIANS

Nests Are Made in Ground and
Young Can Walk as Soon as
Hatched - - Protective Laws
Would Prevent Disappearances

By MRS. JAMES A. COMMON



Early in the sixteenth century the Spaniards discovered the continent of South America and incidentally several minor things like indigo, maize, and turkeys. These birds, it is thought, had been more or less domesticated by the southern Indians. They evidently satisfied the Spanish palate and became so popular with European epicures that within ten years they were thoroughly naturalized on the continent.

The Pilgrims a hundred years later found a similar bird awaiting them in Massachusetts's forests. The most noticeable difference was that the tail of the northern species was tipped with red-brown while the tail of the Spaniard's South American bird was tipped with a band of white. These two are the only species of turkeys, all others have been produced by breeders. The northern one could never be tamed and is still a wild turkey, found only in the eastern mountain ranges far from the haunts of man. Wild Turkeys eat beetles, grasshoppers, and nuts of many kinds, especially pecans.

The nest is made on the ground in a secluded spot, and contains a dozen or more eggs. The

young can walk almost as soon as hatched. Like another American bird the ruby-throated hummingbird, the male deserts the female as soon as the nest is made.

The mother is a most devoted parent, teaching the young to scratch for food, to crack nutshells for the meats, to dust themselves carefully, and to roost in high trees. She calls her family to her with a peculiar "Turk-turk-turk" sound that may account for their name so long ago as to be lost in the obscurity of antiquity. There is no connection between the bird Turkey and the country, Turkey.

About 25 years ago Pennsylvania passed stringent protective laws and it now has enough birds to allow some hunting. If New York could have the young raised and released, as are the Chinese pheasants, it would add another interest to the hunting days of autumn. It really would be a shame to let such a commanding and noble bird disappear before the march of civilization.

- Reprinted with permission from the Watertown Daily Times.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

The first link describes the most comprehensive study of wild turkey population dynamics since the 1970s when turkeys were first actively managed in New York. The second link updates readers on the new Fall Turkey hunting rules based on current population studies.

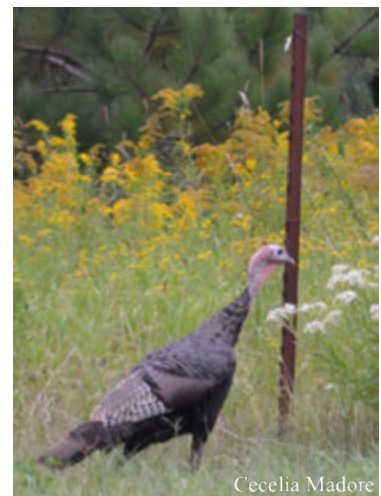
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48808.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8366.html>

Please share your Nature Center stories and photos with us at:
macnaturecenter@gmail.com.

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

Find us on 



Cecelia Madore

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Kim Cullen

We have had a very successful summer season at the Nature Center! Over 20,000 people have passed through our doors between May 1st and September 1st, traveling from 29 states, including Hawaii, and five countries! With

the help of our seasonal staff, volunteers, and outside educators we were able to offer an array of new programs and revive some old favorites.

For example, Barb Elbridge introduced morning yoga classes on the lawn and our Seasonal Naturalists Robert Tyler and Jonathan White Jr. led people on orienteering adventures and small cave explorations. Children enjoyed listening to Heather White read *Haas the Heron* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* as they learned about the ecology of herons and butterflies.



Kim Cullen

We appreciate the time and efforts of those who bring their programs to the Nature Center to share with our patrons as they allow us to offer more educational experiences to the public throughout the year than would otherwise be feasible. We also value the extra help and talents of our outstanding seasonal staff who make the busy summer season possible.

In June, I was lucky enough to attend an American Canoe Association Level I instructor training course at Gilbert Lake State Park. As a result of that experience, I could offer an ACA Quick Start Kayaking class to participants in our Saturday Evening Kayak

Tours. We wove instructions on kayak paddling techniques into our interpretive program about riparian ecology. It was enjoyed by many throughout the summer and is quickly becoming a popular summer event. We will be offering one last kayak tour on Saturday, September 26th from 1-3 pm. Please call to register if you are interested in joining in the fun!



Cecelia Madore

Now that leaves are just starting to turn and the end of the summer is upon us, we shift our focus to preparations for our 37th Annual Autumn Festival. We have a number of new vendors this year, dog sled demonstrations, and new games. Come see all the pumpkins we grew for the pumpkin painting station! It is sure to be a fun day for all and we hope to see you there! In addition to Autumn Fest, there will be a number of new fall events this year. For more information, check out the coming events section of the newsletter!

- Molly Farrell, Environmental Educator II



THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

NATURE THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN!

More than a hundred people attended the Friends of MAC Nature Center's "Nature Through the Eyes of Children" event on the evening of Thursday, July 16th. The intention of the event was to pay tribute to former Board Treasurer, C. Michael Elliott and raise funds to rehabilitate the Nature Center's butterfly house, a popular attraction for summer visitors.

The evening would not have been possible without significant help from the local community. For example, four schools representing 143 participants took part in our K-4th grade art competition. Entries were judged by the Thousand Islands Arts Center and the winning pieces were used in various printed materials and decorations for the event. In addition, the local restaurants listed below donated food to the event and Kring's Nursery and DeLuke Landscapes Inc. donated plants for our gardens. We greatly appreciate the support of these local businesses.

Committee Chair and Board member Matt Elliott also introduced a new capital campaign that will fund improvements to the educational displays and the interior of the Nature Center. The goal is to bring the trails and nature inside, in a modern, interesting, and fun way. We lay at an exciting crossroads in the history of the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center and are eager to see the positive changes the capital campaign will allow us to undertake.

- Heather White, Board Member and Volunteer

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS RIVER RESTAURANTS

When planning the July Fundraiser, we could not have imagined that so many river community restaurants would turn out in support of the Nature Center. We appreciate and recognize their efforts, preparations, and time. The food was exquisite. They truly held nothing back and we ask that our members return such strong support with their patronage.



Attilio's
Bella's
Bonnie Castle Resort
Cavallario's Bayside Pizza
Cavallario's Steak & Seafood
Channelside
Clipper Inn
Foxy's Restaurant
Lil River Fudge Co

Lyric Coffee House
Nut'n Fanci
Riley's by the River
Riveredge Resort
Ronson's Gold Star Liquors
Thousand Island Club
Two Friends on the River
Wellesley Hotel



Art contest entry by Lucy Eisenbooth, a second grade student from Sherman Elementary

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AND VISITORS



A lucky visitor feeds an eagle owl baby, during Rick West's "Birds of Prey" program at the Nature Center this August.



Matthew Granger, Age 5, from Spider's Fishing Class in May



Ro Woodard, NYS Parks (Albany), displaying the "Wear It" Campaign



Renee Waterbury and Stacey Burns, teachers from Sherman School in Watertown, get an update on the butterfly house improvements scheduled for next spring. They have joined the "In Our Schools" program through Save the River, which gives many students their first boat ride on the River or hike in the woods.



Mary O'Neill - Heaviest Fish Winner in the June Derby



37th Annual Autumn Festival

**Saturday, October
10th 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, delicious food, 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



Critter Kids- **Mighty Monarchs & Marvelous Milkweed**



A **monarch's** markings include bright orange wings covered with black veins that are rimmed with a black border and white dots.

A **monarch's** bright coloring tells predators:

**"Don't eat me!
I'm poisonous!"**

The toxins (poison) come from a plant called **milkweed**.



Did you know? **Milkweed** is the only source of food for **monarch** caterpillars.

An animal will not die due to eating a monarch but will feel sick enough to avoid **monarchs** in the future.



Milkweed also have a pink flower, that produce sweet nectar that **all** butterflies enjoy drinking.



Life Cycle of a Monarch Butterfly

A **monarch** attaches their eggs to **milkweed** leaves with a special glue.

Egg



The egg hatches and out comes a very tiny caterpillar. The **monarch** caterpillar feeds on **milkweed**, until it grows to almost 3 inches long.

Actual size of a full sized caterpillar



Adult Monarch Butterfly



Once out of the pupa (chrysalis), the wet butterfly inflates its wings with blood stored in its **abdomen**.

It must wait for its wings to dry before it flies away.



A fully grown caterpillar attaches itself to a sturdy twig or leaf before **shedding their outer layer of skin**. Underneath is a hard skin known as a chrysalis.

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER



Why do Monarchs Migrate?

As fall approaches the days become shorter and colder. **Monarchs** take nature's clues that winter is coming and begin their migration south.

Monarchs migrate because their food supply is dying off for the winter. They migrate to Mexico to rest on a special tree.

After several months they make the first part of their journey back to the U.S. and Canada.



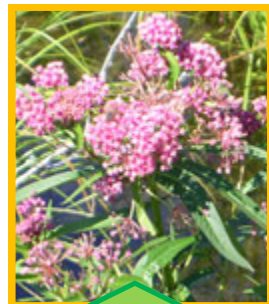
When they reach Texas, adult monarch lay eggs and die. Then the amazing cycle begins again.



Creating a Milkweed Garden!

Monarch butterfly populations are in trouble!

Every year there are less of these beautiful butterflies! There are many reasons why there are fewer **monarchs** in the world.



Great News!
You can help!

I am hungry!
More Milkweed please!

One reason is less available food (**milkweed**) for the very hungry caterpillars.

The best way you can help **Monarchs**, is to plant your own **milkweed** Garden!

To start your own garden, collect the seeds and spread them in a sunny, open spot. In the spring **milkweed** will start to grow! Or you can also buy seeds. Check out this wonderful website!



In the fall **milkweed** forms **seedpods**. These pods hold approximately 200 seeds!

Each seed has a small grouping of silky hair. This creates an easy way for the seeds to travel in the wind!

www.saveourmonarch.org

When your **milkweed** starts to grow tall in the spring keep a close eye out for **monarchs** coming to visit your garden!

Written by:
Kimbrie Cullen

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

Volunteer Opportunities

Fall Clean Up Day
Saturday, October 24th,
9:30am-1pm

Come help us clean up our grounds and prepare for winter. We'll rake leaves, pick up the branches our friendly porcupine cut from the oak tree, look for trail damage, and more. If you are planning on staying for the duration, please bring your own lunch. Pre-registration is appreciated.



Help Wanted!
Luminary Creation
Any Time, Thursday,
October 29th

We will be making luminaries for our October 30th program all day. Please come and help if you can. Please call to let us know if you plan on coming to volunteer.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Taylin Fulmer, a senior from TI High School has become an integral part of our team this summer.



Aleigha Ely, painting the parking lot kiosk in front of a crowd of admiring children.

Student Volunteers Bring Energy and Fun!

I'm happy to be back at the N.C. although I am not quite back up to full speed yet after being out with surgery. Hopefully time will be on my side and I'll get back in sync with work at the Nature Center soon. I am thrilled to say though that we have some new volunteers!! Taylin Fulmer, a senior from Thousand Island High School completed a 30 hour internship required for graduation at the Nature Center this summer and plans to continue volunteering through the fall. She helped our seasonal employees with multiple programs, painted Autumn Festival sandwich boards, rearranged the store, helped set out new inventory, and made some awesome new t-shirt signs.

Fortunately, she is a local, year-round volunteer, so we are very happy to have her join our team and are grateful for all her shared time and talents. Through Taylin, we also gained her friend and fellow classmate Aleigha Ely, a talented young artist who is painting a mural on one our parking lot kiosks.

Another new volunteer we welcomed this summer is Bessie Lockland, a college student from Georgia, who fortunately for us, spends summers with her grandparents at their cottage almost directly across Eel Bay from the Nature Center. There were quite a few times we needed Bessie to come and help with the canoe program at the last minute. Her reply was always "I'll be right there," and within five to ten minutes, she was!! Her best position here, however, was behind the reception desk. She was a quick study with the register and a natural people person; two necessary talents needed to be successful in that role. We are so grateful to have had her for the summer season and can't wait for her return.

Our volunteers are a big reason for our success and we appreciate each and every one. Thank you Taylin, Bessie, and Aleigha for joining us here at the Nature Center. We are grateful for all you do!

- Darlene Sourwine, Volunteer Coordinator

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

FALL PROGRAMS 2015

315-482-2479

Exploring Fall

Saturday, September 19th, 1pm

Join us on a hike to search for signs of fall along our trails. We may even gather nuts for Scrappers, our chipmunk, to eat this winter and supplies for natural garland we are planning to make at our annual Holiday Bonanza.

Fall Kayak Tour

Saturday, September 26th, 1pm-3pm

\$4 per person

Participate in an American Canoe Association (ACA) Smartstart Kayaking class, look for signs of wildlife, and learn about River ecology as we paddle along the shorelines of Wellesley Island State Park. The ACA's Smartstart paddler orientation is perfect for anyone new to kayaking and will reiterate proper paddling technique for more experienced paddlers. Feel free to bring your own kayak, but if you need to rent a kayak please call the Nature Center (315-482-2479). Kayaks can be rented for \$25 for a half day from Boomerang Kayak. We will arrange to have your rented kayaks delivered to the Park. We will meet by the parking lot kiosk for this program. Please call 315-482-2479 for additional information. Preregistration is required. If you need to rent a kayak, please register before the day of the program.

Spider's Fishing Programs

Saturday, October 3rd

Two programs are offered:

Basic Fishing from 11:00am to 1:00pm and

Basics of Fly Fishing from 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 participants in the program. This is a free program, but donations to the Friends of the Nature Center are welcomed to defray the cost of this and other programs.

Luminaries on North Field Loop

Friday, October 30th, 6-8pm

Take a guided evening stroll along North Field Loop following the light of handmade luminaries. Experience the magic of the fall woods in the early evening and then come back to the Nature Center to enjoy coffee, cider and light snacks. Please preregister.

Hike for Hunger

Saturday, November 14th, 10am-2pm

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 10am and 1pm but you are welcome to hike on your own throughout the day. The Nature Center will be teaming up with Ponderosa of Watertown for this event. More information will be coming soon. Preregistration is appreciation but not required.

November Pack Basket Class

Saturday, November 21st, 9am

Learn to weave a traditional pack basket from start to finish. The cost of the programs includes all materials.

Each participant will leave with a completed basket.

Participants are encouraged to bring a bag lunch.

Preregistration is required by calling the Nature Center at 315-482-2479. We request that you pay for the workshop at the time of registration to reserve your spot. We accept payment via check, card, or cash.

\$65 for members, \$75 for non-members

Pine Bow Wreath Workshop

Saturday, December 5th, 10am

Bring holiday cheer to your front door with a handmade evergreen wreath. The smell of the fresh bows will welcome in the holiday spirit! Bring a wire hanger and a pair of wire cutters and join us to make a natural wreath for the holidays. Preregistration is required.

3rd Annual Holiday Bonanza

Saturday, December 12th, 10am-1:30

Suggested Admissions for the Entire Event: \$8 per person. The details for this annual event are still in the planning phase but we will have live music, a natural garland workshop, raffle items, and more! Stay tuned for more details, but plan to come and spend the day.

Birthday Parties at the Nature Center

Make this a birthday special for your child with a Natural Birthday Party at the Nature Center.

Children ages 5 to 12 can choose from seasonally appropriate themes such as Turtles, Exploring Ponds, Trees, Beavers and more. Call the Nature Center for more information or to schedule a party.

Members \$45; Nonmembers \$60.

Find us on 

Please like our Facebook page "Minna Anthony Common Nature Center - Friends" for realtime events, programs, and updates.

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

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

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Jonathan White

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Barb Eldridge

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Marvin Mattingly

Assist. Park Manager

Molly Farrell

Nature Center Director

Kimbrie Cullen

Program Coordinator

Friends of the Nature Center Employees

Darlene Sourwine

Volunteer Coordinator

Patty Davis

Bookkeeper

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS JOINED OR RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT RECENTLY:

Joseph and Kathleen Leskoske, Wellesley Island, NY

Maryann Delaney, Clayton, NY

Kerry Roberge, Wellesley Island, NY

Diane and Erich Leonard, Clayton, NY

Al and Jane Arras, Manlius, NY

Joan and Flory Basile, West Monroe, NY

Peggy DeYoung, Wellesley Island, NY

Susan Elliott Ambrose, Brownville, NY

Betsy Elliott Campbell, Watertown, NY

Jean Fahey, Syracuse, NY

Jim and Kathy Fenn, Wellesley Island, NY

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James and Ellen MacFarland, Watertown, NY

Carolyn and Lloyd Martin, Jamesville, NY

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Chase and Sarah Miller, New York, NY

William and Christine Montgomery, Adams, NY

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Jack Stopper, Clayton, NY

Carol and John Tinsley, Watertown, NY

Ken VanHatten, Theresa, NY

Renee & Mark Waterbury, Watertown, NY

Angela Storer, Danville, PA

Linda and Marty Yenowine, Wellesley Island, NY

Kevin Kieff, Alexandria Bay, NY

Michael Kimber and Family, Corinth, VT

Sarah McKinley, Ballston Spa, NY

Chuck and Libby Spaulding, Cortland, NY

Richy and Katy Glassberg, Wellesley Island, NY

Libby Benson and Tim Cummings, Hingham, MA

John Tucker, Cape Vincent, NY

Rene Davis, Fairport, NY

Josh Marra and Family, Watertown, NY

Madeline Bennett, Watertown, NY

Stan and Barb Eldridge, Watertown, NY

Susan Favreau, Watertown, NY

James and Christina Kotula, Camillus, NY

Tom Gamage, Watertown, NY

Donald Steinaker, Saratoga Springs, NY

Thank you!



Cecelia Madore

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Members of the Friends of the Nature Center provide the critical means and resources necessary to support the cherished education and preservation found here. Most of our members rejoin annually and for that we are continually grateful. Please remember, as a sign of our appreciation, we have increased the benefits for members this year!

Birch - \$25 Quarterly newsletter, 10% discount at our gift shop, discounts on some program fees, and a Minna Anthony Common T-Shirt (redeemable at the Nature Center).

Maple - \$75 Quarterly newsletter, 10% discount at our gift shop, discounts on some program fees, and a Minna Anthony Common T-Shirt (redeemable at the Nature Center).

Oak - \$150 Maple level benefits and an *Empire State Pass* that grants unlimited day-use vehicle entry to ANY New York State Park until March 2016.

Hickory - \$250 Maple level benefits and an *Empire State Pass* that grants unlimited day-use vehicle entry to ANY New York State Park until March 2016.

Please call or visit our website for more details - <http://macnaturecenter.webs.com/>

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.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Thank you supporting the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center by becoming a member of our Friends organization or by making a donation. We hope to see you soon!

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____

Zip/Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ I would prefer to receive our newsletter via email.

☐ I would be interested in volunteering at the Nature Center.

Alternate mailing address? _____

Yes, I want to help.....

This is a:

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

☐ Donation

General Donation amount: _____

Membership Level:

☐ Birch (\$25) ☐ Maple (\$75)

☐ Oak (\$150) ☐ Hickory (\$250)

Please make checks payable to "Friends of the Nature Center". We cannot accept credit cards at this time.

***IF YOU MADE A DONATION THIS YEAR AND HAVE NOT SEEN YOUR NAME ON THE MEMBER LIST, PLEASE CONTACT US

THE MINNA ANTHONY COMMON NATURE CENTER



37th Annual Autumn Festival



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

**Saturday, October 10
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



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**