

2021 Year in Review

Administrative/Finance

- Purchased a new Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$3700.
- Our total interest income in 2021 was \$7,255.29. This includes interest generated from the endowment fund, Golden Passbook Savings as well as interest generated from restricted funds.
- A new Site Manager and Assistant Naturalist was hired, bringing us to fully staffed for the first time since the fall of 2020.
- A Strategic Planning Process was started in 2021 with a Strategic Planning Workshop with hopes to complete the process in 2022.
- The Building & Grounds use policy was updated.
- An online donation button was created for our website allowing people to easily donate via credit or debit card. The ability to make a donation to our endowment was also added.
- Kaukauna Utilities continued their support of our annual tree seedling sale to raise funds for education projects. They also sponsored a new bird seed sale. These two sponsorships helped to raise over \$6500 including more than \$600 in donations
- A new work station was purchased for the Administrative Assistant through the CARES Act

Education

- Three new aquariums and steel stands were purchased and installed to replace the old aquariums that were scratched and the old stands that were deteriorating.
- Two new interactive panels were designed, built and installed in the Fox River room by Eagle Scout candidate, Cole Sathoff.
- 1000 Islands staff began coordinating a Fox Valley area Bald Eagle Nest Watch program with the Madison Audubon. 20 bald eagle nests were monitored and had a 100% success rate for fledging young eagles.
- The occurrence of 4 eaglets and 3 adults in the bald eagle nest within the Conservancy Zone generated a lot of national interest.
- Two honey bee hives located on the property and maintained by Kaukauna resident, Brian Jacobs, produced 60 pounds of honey. 30 pounds of honey was jarred and given to 1000 Islands to sell in the gift shop.
- Goats browsed on the property for two 12-day sessions in 2021. The project continues to be great for education and community involvement, but the impact on the invasive plants seems to be lessening. The project will continue into 2022 with new browsing areas.

Building & Grounds

- The Neslon Overlook project was fully completed in August. This project included a three-sided kiosk with information on the Nelson family, bald eagles, and a property map.
- The fishing pier located near the nature center and boardwalk approach was refurbished by Eagle Scout candidate Brody Riehl. The costs for this project came from Brody's fundraising.
- Several updates were made to the Sugar Shack and maple syrup process including a new reverse osmosis unit to remove excess water from the sap, new LED lights, and a large capacity sap holding tank.
- Volunteer, Ross Schuh, donated funds to purchase and install native plants around the nature center and buckthorn removal.
- A "Legacy Wall" display was installed to acknowledge donations to the 1000 Islands Endowment Fund.
- Light fixtures in the front entryway and live animal area were upgraded to LED fixtures for better efficiency.
- Four new memorial benches were installed in the Nelson Overlook area. Five more benches have been purchased and are awaiting installation in the spring.
- New tables and chairs were purchased for the North American room through the City's Capital Improvement Plan.
- Trail markers have been installed in the Upper Woods to help visitors navigate the trails. The markers have been placed to create new trail connections that do not go onto the Girl Scout property.
- New door mechanisms were installed on the east end of the building to prevent the doors from being left unlocked.
- The old air handler was dismantled and hauled away. This piece of equipment was not in operational order and was determined to not be necessary for the building.
- Two new low-e window panes were installed to replace ones that were less efficient and had a broken seal.
- Old drinking fountains near the restrooms were determined to be leaking. These were removed and replaced with a water bottle filling station.