

1000 Islands Environmental Center

May 2026 Naturalist Report

Brad Garrity – Naturalist, 1000 Islands

Admin/Finance

- Jabber's birdcage was donated to J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue.
- The City of Kaukauna has once again earned Bird City Wisconsin High Flyer Status, an honor given to communities who go above and beyond for birds and create a healthier environment for both wildlife and people.
- Friends of 1000 Islands held the Nature's Images Art Fair on Sunday, May 17. Despite a very rainy and stormy day, the community showed up. Many vendors had moderate success with their sales, and the basket raffle was a success. The music by Forte and the Pianissimos was moved inside the Center. Things wrapped up a little earlier than usual due to the heavier afternoon rains and storms.
- Payton Chevalier started as our Summer intern on May 26th.

Education / Programming

- Kaukauna Public Library hosted their Survival Skills program on May 2, with the Scouts leading a lesson on water filtration for 6 participants.
- We had 20 field trips this month from a variety of schools. Most included a Crayfish and Critter hunt.
- Our World Migratory Bird Day program for 2026 was an Oriole feeder building workshop held on Sat. May 9. Participants made an orange feeder from a kit, the design of which was adapted by our volunteer Bill Lettau, who also prepared the kits. He and his wife, Heddy, also helped out at the program.
- Naturalist Garrity attended the Park Community Charter School Spring Showcase event held at KPL on the evening of May 5, which highlights the programs of the community partners who work with Park students. Along with some animal mounts and touch table items like furs, skulls, and shells, 1000 Islands provided a few make and take crafts and string bracelets for students.
- Our final Jr. Naturalist club meeting of the 2025-26 school year was held. Due to high fire danger, we could not have our campfire but made the evening special with a hike and treats.

Building and Grounds

- The annual Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance Cleanup occurred on Sat May 2. 27 volunteers cleaned up trash around the Conservancy Zone, collecting 25 bags of trash, 15 bags of recycling for a total of 45.5 lbs. of debris removed.
- The water service line into the Nature Center sprung a leak, causing flooding in the entry area near the flagpole. Scott Lamers Construction was hired to install a new service line from the main to the animal care closet. The city public works department came after the installation to reset the retaining wall stones for the landscaped area. A small section of drywall that was affected will be replaced.
- Red Maples, Spruce, and Tamaracks, about 30-50 of each species, were planted in the areas around the boardwalk trail. The goal is to establish a maple stand behind the Sugar Shack for future syrup production, and to also increase the tree diversity of the wooded area which does not currently have many conifer trees. We are trying out the use of tree tubes to protect the saplings from deer and help them establish.
- Staff and volunteers worked on cleaning up the goat browsing areas which were extensively flooded in April and had a lot of debris washed in and pushed up against the fencing. Repairs to the fence and gates were also made in anticipation of the goats' arrival in June.