

1000 Islands Environmental Center

August 2025 Naturalist Report

Brad Garrity – Naturalist, 1000 Islands

Terri Vosters – Director, Community Enrichment

1000 Islands Update

Admin/Finance

- Maddie's last day as our Naturalist Intern was August 29th. She is attending FVTC this fall for Law Enforcement training to help her reach her goal to be a Conservation Warden.
- Our Youth Volunteers Scarlett and Josephine wrapped up their summer with us as they headed back to school. We appreciate their contributions to the center and provided them with letters of recommendation.
- City budget season got underway with Brad and Terri working on the CIP and Operating budget proposal which was reviewed and advised upon by the Admin/Finance committee, and in turn the 1000 Islands Committee.
- The ordinance changes for the 1000 Island Committee were approved to move on to Council for recommendation of their approval.
- August Communications team meeting featured a presentation from Outagamie County on Public Information Officer training on best practices for social media use and working with news media for interviews and disseminating public information. Brad and Maddie attended.

Education / Programming

- Our two final summer public Crayfish and Critter Hunts were wildly successful with approx. 150 participants per session.
- We ordered 20 new standard crayfishing D-nets and 10 short-handled nets in response to the increase in school, daycare, summer camp and public groups using our nets. We now have approximately 60 standard nets and 10 smaller nets for those under age 5. or with special needs.
- We hosted an Outdoor Art Maker badge clinic for local Daisy troops. Despite stormy weather, participants observed colors and sounds in nature and then made individual canvas paintings of their visual observations. They also made buzzy bee

noisemakers, and concluded by taking pictures of their creations to share with others.

- Our “Natures Wind Chimes” program was very well attended by families and individuals alike. Participants went on a hike to collect natural items to craft into a decorative “windchime.”
- Our Summer Birdfeeder clinic was well attended, with 26 attendees creating 19 feeders that they built from premade kits and painted. Special thanks to volunteer Bill Lettau and his wife Hettie for cutting and packaging half of our kits and also helping at the event.
- Brad and Kat attended the day long the bi-annual NEWNA meeting at Maywood Nature Center (owned and operated by the City of Sheboygan) along with other Nature Centers to network and discuss various topics. Particular attention was on summer camp groups, and we also enjoyed a presentation from Custom Products out of Chilton who manufacture and sell boardwalk and bridge kits, including the swamp pans that were used for our project. Also presenting were staff at Maywood as well as UWGB who talked about continuing education, lifelong learning, and other services that they provide to nonprofit and government agencies. We also learned about biochar production and use from Lake Michigan Bird Observatory who is running a pilot program to study its use and effectiveness for increasing tree and in turn bird populations.
- We wrapped up our Summer daycare and camps field trip programming on a high note and are enjoying a brief but well deserved and needed few weeks of peace and quiet before the school year trips begin! 😊

Building and Grounds

- Brad met with Eagle Graphics to design signage for the building as a final part of the siding project. Two logo signs will be installed, a large sign by the flagpole door to replace the old lettering that was there, and a smaller version of the same sign by the main entrance. They also discussed preliminary plans for trail signage updates and potential for display signage later in the future.
- Thanks to Eric for helping cut and package half of our bird feeder kits for the feeder clinic.
- Volunteer Ross Schuh kept up with planting and tending to new native plants and also helped clear overgrowth in the areas around the pollinator gardens as well as by the riverfront and fishing pier.

