

1000 Islands Environmental Center

September 2025 Naturalist Report

Brad Garrity – Naturalist, 1000 Islands

Terri Vosters – Director, Community Enrichment

1000 Islands Update

Admin/Finance

- KHS Co-Op Student Liliah started this month, coming in daily for an hour to volunteer for various tasks around the Center. She will be with us for 1st and 3rd Trimester of the school year.
- Brad took a vacation!

Education / Programming

- Focus On the Fox
We changed this from a one-day event to a series of programs and activities throughout the month of September – early October to celebrate World Rivers Day (Sept 27th.)
 - Service Saturday – River and Conservancy Zone Cleanup Day
 - Fishing Clinic and Crayfish Hunt (Special thanks to KHS Key Club Students for their volunteer help, and to Greg Feanzen and the KHS fishing team for funding and running the fishing clinic, including a fishing pole and tackle giveaway.)
 - 1000 Little Wonders – Fish
 - KPL Companion Garden and Corn Tasting
 - Honey Extraction and Tasting Event
 - Papermaking Make and Take (Special thanks to KHS Key Club Students for their volunteer help.)
- Survival Saturday: Orienteering w/ KPL and Scouts
- Junior Naturalist started for the 2025-26 School Year w/ 8 participants. We discussed phenology, experienced being a naturalist, and started nature journals.
- New Program: Grounded and Resilient – Becky McMorrow (Qi Gong/Standing Yoga, Meditation and Reflection) 2nd Wed and last Sunday thru January.
- Quiet month for school programming as the new year started, but lots of requests coming in for October programming.

- Education Committee Met
- Building and Grounds Annual Property Walk – Upper Woods. Discussed railings, switchback trail and potential selective cut as well as the challenges of invasives and land use in the UW.
- Heckrodt Wetland Reserve brought their group of WI Master Naturalist candidates to 1000 Islands for a day as part of their training week. Brad gave a presentation on 1000 Islands, and both Brad and Kat led a Fox River Hike as well as crayfishing/biotic index lesson in Konkapot Creek.
- Brad presented a maple syrup program for seniors living at Primrose Retirement Community in Appleton.

Building and Grounds

- Berken Heating and Cooling did their fall furnace inspection and maintenance.
- The Kaukauna Goats from Mulberry Lane Farms arrived Sept 22nd. Huge thank you to Eric G. for his prep work on the browsing sites, and to the Goat Team for their planning and active work managing the goats and the program.
- We supported the Kaukauna Athletic Club by lending our high-top tables for the food tent at the Wisconsin Avenue Block Party (Merle Sanderfoot).
- Our new memorial benches on the and our memorial trees have had the plaques installed.
- NACEL Open Door (Foreign Exchange Program) rented the building for their event.
- Assurance Women's Center rented the building and used the track for their annual remembrance walk and basket raffle.
- The memorial celebration of life for “Snakeman” Steve Keller took place at 1000 Islands. We donated the use of the building to the family in appreciation for the long partnership that Steve had bringing his traveling snake show to the center at no cost.
- James VanDerBurgt rented the pavilion for a private family picnic.
- A homeschool service project club of 27 students and 13 adults donated time and talent to work on invasives (thistle, buckthorn, etc) from the pollinator gardens.
- JF Ahern serviced the center’s fire extinguishers.