

Naturalist Report

April 2023

Admin/Finance

- I met with Michelle Lippart Hardwick, Director of Gift Planning from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region regarding their agency endowment fund program. She would be excited to work with us on this and shared a lot of great information. Specifics from the meeting will be shared with the Administrative/Finance Sub-Committee at the next meeting in June.

Education

- I completed an online class through Cornell University's Civic Ecology Lab on Environmental Education and Community Engagement. The course focused on working with or creating communities to utilize knowledge, skills, and motivation to instill change based on the needs of the community. Community engagement is a useful tool to move beyond individual actions to change on a larger scale, including policy change, that benefits the community as a whole and beyond.
- Seedling Sale pickup went smoothly this year. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with bundling, putting together orders, and pickup. Total proceeds from the 2023 sale are \$7352.64 and we received \$245 in donations with the seedling order as well.

Building & Grounds

- Our volunteer, Ross Schuh, has been busy ordering and planting additional native plants in areas that have been cleared of buckthorn over the winter months. He continues to contribute numerous hours and funds towards improving the diversity and health of the Conservancy Zone.
- We have had an increase in corporate volunteer interest. Frito Lay recently spent an afternoon volunteering on the property. We have Ahlstrom-Munksjö scheduled to volunteer and are working with VF Corporation for a potential volunteer date.