

Naturalist Report

April 2022

Admin/Finance

- A CD in the amount of \$28,763.46 was renewed with East Wisconsin Savings Bank for 6 months at a rate of 0.70%.

Education

- The seedling sale pick-up went well. Thank you to all of those who volunteered with bundling, packing orders and the order pick-ups.
- The Bald Eagle Nest Watch program has hit a rough patch with many nests throughout Wisconsin failing. The nest failure rate is much higher than previously seen. In the Fox Valley program, which includes 27 nests, we are currently at 12 failed nests and another 3 suspected failures. Although the cause of these failures has not been determined, there is a theory that it is connected to the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) It is suspected that the eaglets may be dying after being fed meat from diseased ducks and other waterbirds.

Building & Grounds

- City Engineer Neumeier has submitted two grant applications on our behalf for consideration for funds through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Carbon Reduction Program to cover our boardwalk replacement project. The program aims to complete projects that have the capacity to reduce carbon emissions through transportation and is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021. 80% of project costs are covered with federal funds and 20% local share. If the application is granted, it would remove the funding proposal from the American Rescue Plan Act, making more funds available for other proposed ARPA projects. Neumeier also submitted a second application on our behalf for the installation of a Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charger. The announcement of selected projects is expected in June/July 2022.
- Lots of prep work has been done for the upcoming Rock the Block event held May 12-14. Projects that will be completed include repairing all of the picnic tables, installing fencing for new goat browsing enclosures, leveling out sections of boardwalk, and wood chipping trails in the Upper Woods.
- Through a generous donation from one of our volunteers, Stone Silo Prairie Gardens has been working on planting native plants around the Nelson Overlook. I met with Justin Kroening, owner of Stone Silo to go over areas that need planting and discuss ideal species. These plants will help to prevent erosion, add to the aesthetics of the Nelson Overlook and support native species including birds and pollinators. This project is being completed at no cost to 1000 Islands.