

Naturalist Report

February 2022

Admin/Finance

- Two applications have been received for the Naturalist Intern position. The posting closes on March 11 and interviews will be scheduled shortly after that.

Education

- Our tree seedling sale is going well. We have sold 292 bundles of seedlings and have 168 bundles remaining. We have almost two months left for people to send in orders, so we are confident that most tree species will sell out. Funds raised to date total \$4,250.00
- With schools back to more normal schedules and routines, field trips are back in high demand. Our calendar for Spring and Summer field trips is now full and we are no longer taking additional field trip reservations through the end of August.
- Sugar Bush programming is returning this year. We have 7 groups scheduled to take part over the next few weeks. This includes some Kaukauna schools, homeschool groups, as well as adult and family based organizations. Due to a number of reasons, including fewer volunteers and food licensing requirements, we will no longer be serving pancakes for our maple syrup field trips.
- Kiwanis Pancake & Porkie Breakfast will return this year. It will take place on March 19 from 9:00 AM until noon. Students from the Fox Valley Technical college will help teach participants about the process of making maple syrup.
- Through our bald eagle nest monitoring, we have confirmed that we once again have 3 adult eagles tending to the nest and incubation has begun. We will be watching for brooding as a sign that the eggs have hatched around the end of March.

Building & Grounds

- The Kaukauna Board of Public Works and Common Council have given authorization to seek bids for the replacement of the steps into the Upper Woods. The first advertisement for bids will be posted and bid specifications will be available in mid-March.
- Progress has been made on selling the old tables and chairs from the North American Room. Most of the plastic chairs are now gone and several wooden tables and chairs have been sold as well. I am also working with a number of schools in the district on an art fundraiser where art students will paint or otherwise decorate some of the old wooden chairs which will then be used as silent auction items at the Art Fair in May with proceeds benefiting 1000 Islands. St Ignatius, Riverview Middle School and Electa Quinney teachers have expressed an interest in taking part.
- Prep work for the new goat browsing enclosures has begun with the goal of having new browsing areas ready for fencing by mid-April.