

## **Naturalist Report**

### **October 2023**

#### **Admin/Finance**

- Outagamie County held their preliminary budget meetings in October. I met virtually with the finance committee and answered a few questions they had regarding 1000 Islands and our financials. It is anticipated that the \$10,000 support from the County will continue for 2024.
- Two certificate of deposits have been renewed recently. One CD in the amount of \$28,763.46 was renewed with East Wisconsin Savings Bank for 12 months at a rate of 5.3%. Another CD in the amount of \$11,786.94 was renewed with the Bank of Kaukauna for 12 months at a rate of 5%. These are the last two CDs maturing in 2023. In 2024, mature CDs should be available to transfer to the Designated Endowment with the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region pending Common Council approval at the November 21, 2023 Common Council meeting.

#### **Education**

- A Motus receiver has been installed on the nature center as part of a collaborative program with the Lake Michigan Bird Observatory (formerly Great Lakes Bat and Bird Observatory) This series of antennas will be able to track any birds migrating through the area that have been tagged with radio telemetry devices. Similar antennas have been installed at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and Woodland Dunes Nature Center. The device and installation came at no cost to us and there is ample educational material available to include in our programming. I would like to include a presentation on the Motus project as part of our World Migratory Bird Day events.
- I was approached by a 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher from River View for a possible program. The class studies the water cycle and the concept of runoff during the year. I was able to create a program on runoff where we used an EnviroScope to demonstrate how runoff occurs and affects local waterways. The students were also able to go outside to do some water testing, including a chloride test. The three classes will return in the spring to continue studying the water quality in the river and Konkapot Creek. Timing for the program worked well as there was enough time in the class period to walk to 1000 Islands, spend an hour on program activities and walk back to school. I hope this will be an example for other teachers on possibilities for no cost programming.
- Library Director Thiem-Menning registered for a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Leadership Training and invited other department heads to take part as well. It was a very informative and eye-opening training session with multiple speakers explaining the importance of implementing DEIB principles to attract and retain quality employees.
- I am already preparing for the 2024 Bald Eagle Nest Watch season. In an effort to reduce my time spent on the project, I have recruited a staff member from Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve to take on coordination efforts for Brown and Oconto Counties. I have also been working with Winnebago Audubon on getting their assistance with gathering information on nests in Winnebago and Fond du Lac Counties.

## **Building & Grounds**

- Site Manager Garrity has been working with the Streets Foreman on getting trails in the Upper Woods woodchipped. Foreman Nelson will use the wood chipping project to keep crews busy as time allows between leaf collection and snowplowing.
- Management of buckthorn has continued to progress. The area between the current goat browsing enclosures and the parking lot has now been cleared and treated. Work will continue further into the woods. We have also had service groups digging out buckthorn in the previous goat enclosure to clear the area for a future education space.
- In preparation for winter and to address safety issues several sections of split rail have been repaired.