

# 1000 Islands Environmental Center

## May 2025 Naturalist Report

Brad Garrity – Naturalist

Terri Vosters – Director, Community Enrichment

### Admin/Finance

- Maddie West returned as our Naturalist Intern! We are happy to have her back and look forward to giving her a well-rounded, educational and fun internship experience this summer.
- Cassie and Brad have been meeting with Andrea and working together to discuss migration of the 1000 Islands website to the City of Kaukauna platform. We reviewed the pages and content on the existing site to decide what would migrate to the new site, as well as to update information, broken links, redundancies, and to enhance the overall usefulness of the information and the user experience for site visitors.
- Thank you to Kathy B. and Terri for staffing our building on May 17<sup>th</sup> to allow staff to attend events that all happened to fall on that date. We appreciate all of our volunteers and team members stepping in to volunteer when it is needed!

### Education / Programming

- LOTS of Field Trips! We are in the thick of it now, serving many districts from around the area. We have filled almost every day with school groups, off-site programs, public programs, and more. We have flexed programs for various requests and needs and really maximized our service to the school programs.
- Crayfish and Critter Hunt, Bug Hunt, Colorful Confusion are very popular programs this month. We are pulling districts from further away Green Bay, Hilbert, Coleman, Oshkosh, Appleton, Howard-Suamico, and more!
- We celebrated our Bird City High-Flyer Designation as part of World Migratory Bird Day with a proclamation from Mayor Penterman as well as by hosting a bird house building clinic in the pavilion. Participants made Robin nesting houses and painted them as well.
- Wild Ones rented our building for David Langer's Wild Edibles program which he presented twice over Memorial Weekend. We may look at more 3<sup>rd</sup> party programs and presentations in the future to supplement our calendar.

- Friends of 1000 Islands held their 41<sup>st</sup> annual Natures Images Art Fair. Staff supported the Friends with preparations and the day of the event, with special thanks to Cassie for all of her work to help the Friends with marketing, planning/coordination, administration, and more.

## Building and Grounds

- Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance hosted their annual watershed cleanup day, and 1000 Islands was again one of the volunteer sites. This is a wonderful program and we are grateful for FWWA and the volunteers who do a fantastic job of cleaning up a good portion of the Conservancy Zone property.
- Eric and Maddie worked on the goat nighttime enclosure, browsing area fencing, and more to support the goat program in June.
- Despite the cool, wet weather, lots of spring/early summer work is happening including plantings, outside repairs, trail work, cleaning, etc. We are doing well with managing the invasives calendar and making headway on clearing areas of thistle and other invasive plants.
- Many spring plants are coming up around the grounds, and the landscape is rapidly changing from week to week. With the strong southerly winds at times during the month, we have experienced a healthy bird migration and a wide variety of species on and near the property.