

## **April 2024 Naturalist's Report**

### **Admin/Finance**

- Jabber now has his own revenue and expense account. This will better allow us to see what is being spent on his medical expenses and plan fundraising opportunities for any shortfalls.
- We are in the process of creating a donation “menu”. While our first priority would be to send donations to the endowment, many donors wish to contribute something tangible for the center, and having a limited set of options will let us find what best works for both the donors and the center.

### **Building/Grounds**

- Brad Garrity has been working on getting quotes from Drexel Building Supply, Wisconsin Building Supply, and Menards for siding materials for the nature center. Once these quotes are completed, they will be sent to John Neumeier, and we'll work together on deciding what we will go with moving forward.
- Invasive species removal work is in full swing already. Brad Garrity has been removing buckthorn and phragmites around the Conservancy.
- A new fishing location at the mouth of Konkapot Creek has been cleared of invasive species with the goal of using it in future fishing programs.
- Volunteers have been hard at work in and around the center. Richard Langel has catalogued the center's library, and Ross Schuh has been clearing invasives from the hillside along the highway and is planning with Brad Garrity on what native plantings might go in there.

### **Education**

- The Solar Eclipse program was popular, with around 200 participants coming out to learn about the eclipse, create an eclipse viewer, and talk about safely viewing the eclipse.
- I was invited to Sunrise Elementary School for a career day. I presented about being a naturalist to four classes of kindergarten students. The students were very excited to learn, and even more excited to come out to the nature center in the coming years.
- I have established a partnership with the Lower Fox River Watershed Monitoring Program through UW- Green Bay. Through this program we will be monitoring the water quality at 2 sites along Konkapot Creek three times a year, and the data will be sent to the university to analyze how tributary streams of the Fox River contribute to its water quality. As the program gets established, I'm hoping to make it more of a formal event for schools and/or the public to be involved.