

Naturalist Report

February 2023

Admin/Finance

- I recently met with the Mayor and several other department heads on how 1000 Islands can better utilize resources from these other departments to meet our needs. Several ideas were discussed, but no changes have been implemented at this time.
- After discovering that that title change from Naturalist to Director/Naturalist was never approved at the Council level, it was approved through the Finance and Personnel Committee on February 22.

Education

- Staff had concerns about Jabber's health after repeated instances of him falling from his perch. He was seen at the Animal Medical Center and had a physical exam, x-rays and blood work. He has many signs of old age including cataracts in both eyes and suspected arthritis in at least one leg. More concerning is that he was diagnosed with a heart murmur and heart disease. In order to improve his overall health and prevent suspected fainting episodes, the veterinarian prescribed daily medication. Staff has begun making adjustments to his cage and diet including daily doses of medicine. The veterinarian will re-check blood work after 1-2 months to evaluate the medicine's effectiveness. If this treatment plan is effective, we may need to look at outside funding sources to support the cost of the medicine, which runs around \$90 per month.
- The Bald Eagle Nest Watch season is officially underway. The official count for the Fox Valley area includes 36 nests being monitored by 90 volunteers. As of the end of February, there are 19 nests that are already showing signs of incubation.
- Our summer public program schedule has been set. Most programming options are similar to previous years including collaborating with the Kaukauna Public Library on several programs and offering 3 different day camps. A new offering this summer is a volunteer program series. Created by Site Manager Garrity, one Saturday per month will be offered as a work day on the property and includes a small reward or incentive for participating.

Building & Grounds

- The flooring installation is complete. Although the floor prep took more time than anticipated, the installation went smoothly, allowing the Nature Center to open back up as scheduled and was on budget. A big Thank You goes out to the Committee Members, volunteers and Street Department workers that were able to help us move furniture. We have received lots of positive feedback from visitors on the new look.
- Site Manager Garrity and volunteer Ross Schuh have continued working on invasive species management through the winter months. Target species include buckthorn and phragmites.