

Naturalist Report

March 2022

Admin/Finance

- As part of the annual audit, I have met with one of the City's auditors regarding the balances of the endowment CDs at the end of 2021. All documentation has been provided to satisfy the auditor's requests.
- A job offer has been made and accepted for our Naturalist Intern. Liliana Balthazor is a Kaukauna High School graduate and currently attending the University of WI – Stevens Point in the College of Natural Resources. She will be starting on June 6th.
- A CD in the amount of \$3,700.00 was renewed with the Bank of Kaukauna for 6 months at a rate of 0.70%. \$8,086.94 was added to the CD balance.

Education

- The seedling sale is sold out. Funds raised to date total \$6,325.00. We are looking for volunteers to help bundle seedlings on April 28th, pack orders on April 29th, and help with order pickup on April 30th.
- The Kiwanis Pancake & Porkie Breakfast went well this year. Approximately 175 people took part in the breakfast and about 40 people took part in the educational tour. The Kaukauna Kiwanis donated the proceeds from the event in the amount of \$1000.
- The bald eagle nest on the property continues to do well. Signs that eggs have begun hatching has been observed and recently at least 2 eaglets were viewed in the nest.
- We have been asked to serve as a site for a Motus Receiver as part of a grant project for with the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory. A motus receiver is a wildlife tracking system, used to gain more information about wildlife populations and movement. If the grant is approved, the receiver will likely be placed on the building and will be operated and maintained at no cost to us other than the cost of the electricity to run the receiver. This cost should be minimal. Educational materials will be provided in order to incorporate this technology into programming. More information on these systems can be found at <https://motus.org>

Building & Grounds

- Bidding is open for the stairs into the Upper Woods. Sealed bid will be opened at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 13. I will have an update on the bids at the April 21st committee meeting.
- The majority of the ash trees in the picnic area have now been removed. The city crews received help from Kaukauna Utilities and their lift trucks when the city lift truck was out of operation.
- Preparation has continued for the Habitat for Humanity Rock the Block event coming up May 12-14. Several projects have been lined up for these days including some boardwalk repair, moving goat fencing, and wood chipping trails.

- After on-going issues with our cleaning service, we have started getting quotes with other companies. These quotes are coming in higher than our current cleaning expenses. In the next few weeks we will be evaluating if our current company can improve service as requested or if it is worth increasing our expenditures for a different company.
- \$200,000 has been requested from the City's allotment of the American Rescue Plan Act funds for the replacement and upgrade of the boardwalk section of trails. This cost is to cover materials only. Any additional labor expenses will be submitted as a capital improvement project.