

## **Naturalist Report August 2022**

### **Admin/Finance**

- I attended the annual budget meeting with Outagamie County. I recapped our accomplishments over the past year and mentioned some of the projects in the works. Meeting attendees were impressed with what we are able to accomplish with a small budget. The proposed budget support from the County is expected to be \$10,000.
- City Council recently approved an updated employee handbook. The employee handbook is part of our policy binder which means updates are needed. Please bring your policy binder in to the Nature Center at your earliest convenience and we will update it for you.

### **Education**

- The Fall's Focus on the Fox event planning is well underway. We are looking for some volunteer for a number of different areas including facilitating some of our activities as well as participating in our River Cleanup. If anyone is interested in helping on September 24, please let me know.
- The annual Fairy Walk program done with the Kaukauna Public Library was back to pre-pandemic attendance levels with a near record 800 attendees this year.
- A new documentary focusing on the Fox River titled "The Power of the River" premiered in both DePere and Menasha. 1000 Islands as well as an interview that I gave is featured in a small portion of the video. The documentary is available to download on Vimeo and we were given a copy on DVD. We will be featuring the video at our Focus on the Fox event.

### **Building & Grounds**

- Berken Heating & Cooling was on-site to replace our failing furnace and air conditioning unit, install an air return and insulate ductwork as well as install the new furnace and air conditioning unit. Electrical work to power the new equipment still needs to be completed. Berken will return to test and finish the project once the electrical work is done.
- We have been working with Concrete Cutters and the City Street Department to schedule the foundation repairs. The concrete cutting is tentatively scheduled for October 6. We will likely close the building on the day of the concrete cutting. If possible, we will keep a portion of the building open to the public before and after the concrete cutting to limit the impact to visitors.
- The City is hosting a League of Municipalities Leadership Training day for all City department heads on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The training will be held at 1000 Islands as all other meeting facilities in the City were unavailable. We will need to close the building to the public in order to successfully hold the training session.
- A good majority of the ash tree stumps have been ground out and the rest should be taken care of soon. The project has proven to be difficult with the large number of rocks in the ground causing damage to the grinder equipment. After the grinding is complete, we will be working on planting 4 new trees in the picnic area.