

1000 Islands Environmental Center

Naturalist Report – March 2025

Brad Garrity, Naturalist – 1000 Islands Environmental Center

Terri Vosters – Director - Community Enrichment

Community Enrichment Department

Community Enrichment Summer Program Guide was released the second week in March.

Electric City River Jam Music Festival is set for June 18-21. Looking for volunteers for the beer tent, tickets sales, and food tents.

Grignon Mansion will open for guided tours June 14 and run each 2/4 weekend of the month from 11:00am-3:00pm.

Live! At Hydro Park Music Series will begin June 11 and run for 10 weeks every Wednesday evening from 5:30-8:30PM.

Farmers Market will begin June 4 and run each Wednesday from 4:30-8:00PM.

Aquatic Center will have its first full season, opening June 9. Splash Pad will open Memorial Day weekend.

Admin Finance

We received the year end statement from the Endowment.

Cassie has been working with city Marketing and Communications Manager Andrea Fencil on learning how to update the city calendar and the functionality of the City's new website. We are hoping to migrate the 1000 Islands page/URL to the city's website and continue to weigh the benefits of what that would offer to our customers.

Eric and Kat completed the City's ALICE training.

Education

Bald Eagle Ecology Presentation to 30 participants at the "Women in Nature" retreat in Marion, WI on Sat, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The club made a \$150 donation to 1000 Islands.

Bald Eagle Ecology Presentation at Primrose Retirement community in Appleton.

Wisconsin Talented and Gifted used our facility for their annual meeting. Brad spent the day with the students doing some of the survival skills challenges and the Sugar Bush program.

We had many school groups come through the center this year for the Sugar Bush program and interest continues to grow. We will hope to work with Friends to establish some additional scheduled cooking times to invite the community out to see the process and perhaps draw interest from new volunteers.

Green Bay YMCA brought 2 groups of students to the Center for Spring Break enrichment programming.

The Goat Team had their kickoff meeting to begin planning for the Spring season. The goats will be on site June 9<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Terri has been working to get the resolution passed to allow the goats on site, and Eric worked with a corporate group from Excellerate to install fencing for the first browsing area.

We had the March XYZ meet-up at the Nature Center. Approximately 30 seniors attended a pizza party and presentation by Naturalist Garrity. Thanks to Ali Engels and Director Vosters for their work coordinating the lunch and inviting us to be involved.

River Valley Outdoorsmen hosted the Spring DNR Hunter Safety course over 2 weeks in March. They had approximately 15 participants.

### Building and Grounds

The boardwalk rebuild has been completed! There is some final finishing work that will happen as the ground settles to adjust posts and sections of the boardwalk where the swamp pans have started to settle. Benches will begin to be installed in late May/early June, and we are in the process of determining signage needs and the pricing.

It has been decided that we will snowblow as much of the boardwalk as possible in the winter when we get over 2" of snow or multiple days of snow that add up. This is for accessibility and safety. This will be monitored in the future for continued need and feasibility.

Our siding project has wrapped up. Special thanks to the Kaukauna Street Department for their time and effort installing the siding, to Drexel for the timely and quality building materials, to staff for managing to work with 3 weeks of constant hammering on the building, and to the citizens of Kaukauna for the investment into the Nature Center. We have gotten many compliments on the updated look and the color that was selected. We will look into getting a new 1000 Islands sign for the building as the old wooden lettering was not in condition to be reused.

Springtime means more usage and inevitably some graffiti. We have had some graffiti at the Nelson Overlook and Eric/DPW continue to work on removal. We will paint the cement footings at the overlook in a natural color to aid in quickly covering any future graffiti.

We got materials quotes and have been working with Pete Nelson to rebuild the bridge by the culvert at Hwy Z/Old Hwy Z. We will be getting supplies from Drexel and using trail funds from our restricted account to pay for the bridge. Street Department will provide the labor.

Eric presented the safety minute at the last Safety Committee meeting on the topic of the importance of sleep.

B&G meeting has been postponed to be rescheduled for late April. We will discuss the Comprehensive Plan and upcoming projects to help the committee advise on our CIP requests.

#### Other

Friends of 1000 Island hosted the annual Pancake and Porkie Breakfast with the support of staff and many volunteers. Staff helped find and coordinate volunteers, including students from KHS National Honor Society, Fox Valley Tech Environmental Ed classes. We served over 400 people again this year, and the day was a success. New equipment that was donated by Friends and lessons learned from the past few years since taking over the breakfast from Kiwanis proved very helpful in making the event run smoothly.