



# Cat-Tails



Newsletter of the Friends of 1000 Islands

Winter 2012

## Naturalist Notes

Deb Nowak

Another year has drawn to a close, and a new one has begun. There has been a lot of activity at here in this past year; it is hard to remember everything! We have been very fortunate to see the community continue to support 1000 Islands.

The biggest visual changes of 2011 include the landscaping project behind the Center. This is our new Memorial Garden. We have cleaned out the area, created new walking paths and planted some new trees and



shrubs. Money donated to the garden in memory of a loved one will go towards additional plantings in the garden. It has been a wonderful improvement already and I am anxious to watch it grow!

Another easily noticed change is the addition of an open-air pavilion. The pavilion construction began this fall and will be ready for use by spring. This addition will come in great use for the Art Fair held in May, as well as other programming opportunities. Visitors interested in renting the pavilion for family picnics or other group events can make reservations with the City of Kaukauna Recreation Department.

1000 Islands has also seen its share of firsts in the past year. These firsts have been the direct result of great community partnerships.

September saw our first, of what will hopefully become annual, 1000 Islands Food Fest. It was an "all you can eat" sampling of foods from restaurants all

over the area. The event, initiated by Jean and Mark of Landreman's Family Restaurant, was a fantastic evening filled with great food, friends and fundraising.

Through a wonderful partnership with Kaukauna Utilities, we were able to offer our first ever tree seedling sale. Over 3,000 trees were purchased and planted through this program. Not only does this help fund projects at 1000 Islands, but also helps the environment and your pocketbook directly.

Over a 50-year lifetime, a tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion. (USDA Forest Service Pamphlet #R1-92-100) Seedlings have been ordered for another sale in 2012. Watch for flyers and more information on our website to submit your orders.

One of my favorite partnerships that has formed in the past year is our collaboration with the Park Community Charter School. PCCS is a new place-based charter, housed in the existing Park Elementary School building. Students in grades 1-4 visit 1000 Islands four times a year for field studies where they can learn their lessons in a hands-on real world application.

This has been a fun endeavor for me planning and creating new programs with some great teachers. It has also been really rewarding getting to know some of the students throughout their visits instead of the thousands of faces that I see only once.

With all the great things going on at 1000 Islands, I am grateful to work for an organization that is doing such great things and to be involved with so many dedicated people. I hope to see many of you passing through in 2012. Make sure you keep an eye out for more exciting things that are yet to come!

## 2011: A Year in Review

In 2011:

A new copy machine was purchased

We were awarded a \$250 grant from the National Association for Interpretation.

We were awarded a \$4648 grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board for the 2011-2012 Passport to Nature programs.

A new 1000 Islands brochure was designed and printed.

We received a \$10,000 donation made for property maintenance.

Trees were marked for a winter 2012-2013 harvest in the upper woods.

Repairs were made to the Sugar Shack after fire damage. New fire grates and a vent fan also installed.

Buckthorn, the invasive and harmful tree species that infests much of Wisconsin, was removed on Island #3 to allow access to the Chinquapin Oaks on



**A new brochure was designed and printed in 2011.**

the island.

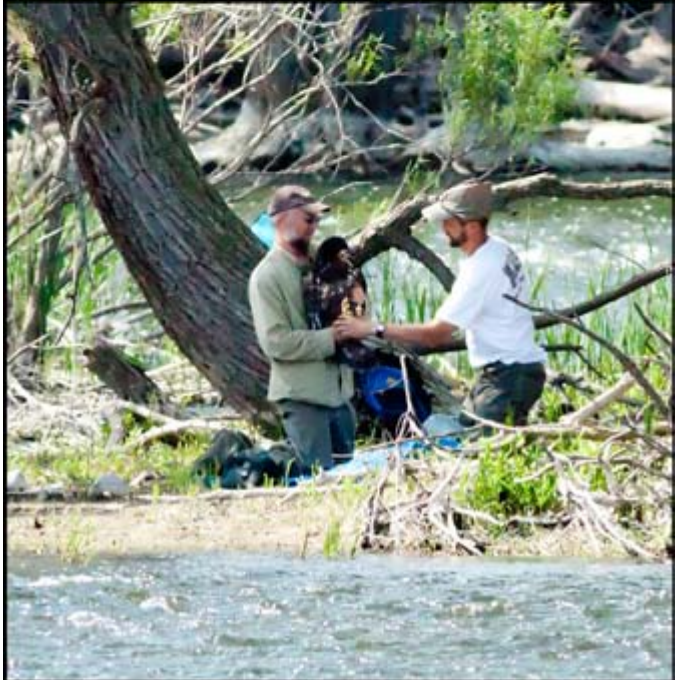
One-third of the railroad tie steps leading into the upper woods have been replaced.

Approximately 50% of the split rail fencing on the property has been replaced.

Broken sewer pipes just outside of the building were replaced and cleaned out.

In June, the volunteers of Young Neighbors in Action put in over 400 hours of labor around the

**Our resident eaglet was banded, and blood testing was done, in the Spring of 2011. After the banding, the eaglet was returned unharmed to the nest.**



property.

A Tree Survey of the Upper Woods completed by a group of ecology students from UW-Fox Valley

A replacement work truck has been negotiated through the City and Bergstrom Automotive.

A new pavilion has been built adjacent to the concrete patio.

The Garden of Hope has been cleaned up and expanded for the first phase of our Memorial Garden.

We hosted our first annual tree seedling sale, with the sponsorship of Kaukauna Utilities. Proceeds totaled \$3,646

We formed a partnership with the Park Community Charter School, bringing each grade 1-4 in for programming four times per year. New programs have been developed to go with the Park Community Charter School partnership including: Changes in the River over time, Living vs Nonliving, and a vertebrate/invertebrate study.

The spring field trip season maxxed out on groups. We turned six groups away because we were unable to fit them into the schedule.

The spider and insect displays were reorganized, and new components have been added.

A new-born resident eaglet was banded and blood testing was done for the first time in many years.

A floor plan has been designed, and first steps have been made toward changing the African Room into the Fox River Room. The permanent loan of the African and Asian animals to the International Wildlife Center has been approved.

Paper Express has been brought back for area third-grade students

New Kindergarten insect program developed for Kaukauna students.

The first annual Food Fest was held with the local chapter of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association.

Several radio ad sponsorships through The Avenue 91.1 helped promote the Center and its programming.

Our Facebook page has grown as several hundred people visited us each week.



**The spider and insect displays were expanded and improved in 2011.**

**Our Facebook page has become a very popular site for Kaukauna residents.**

**Visit us at  
<http://www.1000islandsenvironmentalcenter.com>  
 then click the "Facebook" button!**

**facebook**

# 2012 WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS

January 26, Thursday • 6-7 pm

## 1000 Islands Bald Eagles

Learn about the history of the Bald Eagles and their current status in the Fox Valley Area.



February 11, Saturday • 6-7:30 pm.

## Moonlit Snowshoe Hike

Enjoy the full moon while hiking the trails. Snowshoes will be provided. \*Please arrive ½ hour early if you will need assistance putting on snowshoes or for a quick lesson.



March 17, Saturday • 9 am – 1 pm.

## Pancake and Porkie Breakfast

Join the Kaukauna Kiwanis for pancakes and porkies with 1000 Islands homemade maple syrup and learn more about the history of the sugar bush and how maple syrup is made. A ticket is required for the breakfast and can be purchased at the door.



April 9, Monday • 6-7 pm.

## Citizen Science Monitoring: Bats

Join Jodi Sedlock, Associate Professor of Biology at Lawrence University, to learn more about Wisconsin's bats, white nose fungus, and the threat that it poses to bats and our ecosystems. Learn how to become involved in the Fox Valley area Citizen Science Monitoring program to help track the local populations.



April 21, Saturday • 9 am – 12 pm.

## Spring Clean-Up

Celebrate Earth Day by helping to beautify the 1000 Islands Conservancy Zone. Clean up litter, mark trails or help battle the invasive species. Bring work gloves if you have them! Lunch will be provided after the clean up.



**Did You Know?**

*Facts about the Emerald ash borer*

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), also known as EAB, is a green beetle native to Asia.

In North America the borer is an invasive species, highly destructive to ash trees in its introduced range.

The potential damage of this insect rivals that of Chestnut blight and Dutch Elm Disease. Since its accidental introduction into the United States and Canada in the 1990s, it has spread to 14 states and adjacent parts of Canada.

It has killed at least 50 to 100 million ash trees so far and threatens to kill most of the 7.5 billion ash trees throughout North America. The emerald ash borer is now one of the most destructive non-native insects in the United States; it and other wood-boring pests cause an estimated \$3.5 billion in annual damages in the U.S.

The adult beetle is dark metallic green, bullet-shaped and about one-third of an inch long. The body is narrow and elongated, and the head is flat with black eyes.

Adults lay eggs in crevasses in the bark. Larvae burrow into the bark after hatching and consume the cambium and phloem, effectively girdling the tree and causing death within two years.

As part of the campaign against the emerald ash borer, American scientists in conjunction with the Chinese Academy of Forestry searched since 2003 for its natural enemies in the wild leading to the discovery of several parasitoid wasps. These have been introduced and released into the United States of America as a possible biological control of the emerald ash borer. Initial results have shown promise



**Researchers use purple trap-boxes to help audit emerald ash borer populations.**



**We're online!**  
<http://www.1000islandsenvironmentalcenter.com>  
**ALSO! Check us out on Facebook!**



**NEW MEMBERS**

Sue Gertz  
 Jon, Carrie, & Phoenix Funk  
 Greg Debrue  
 Cheri, Brad, Shannon & Alysa Brunner  
 Ryan Gronowski  
 Paul & Patricia Hirte  
 Ken Petersen

**LIFETIME MEMBERS**

Ione Garcia  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Natrop  
 Tony Penterman  
 Jodi Smith  
 Chris Behrens

**DONATIONS**

Ken Grode	Money donation
Tim Drazkowski	Mounted duck
Jerome Schmidt	Snowshoes
Dan Biese	Display cases
McDonald's	Orange drink
VFW Post 3319	American flag
River Valley Outdoorsman	Money donation
Miller Masonry & Concrete Inc.	Concrete blocks
Jerry Kozelsky	Landscape loppers
Ron Greunke	Bluegills
Sherwood Elevator	Cobbed corn
Kaukauna Utilities	Tree seedlings
Kaukauna Community Health Associates	Work gloves, safety goggles, soap dispensers
Roloff MFG Corp	Evaporator pan grates
Bob Lust	Mounted loon
Bob & Louise Natrop	Money Donation
Madison & Alex Herdina	Cobbed corn
Gannon & Pierson Vande Hey	Butterfly display
Tom Mennan	Aquarium stone
BelBrands USA	Money donation
Kristine & James Serwe	Money donation
Norb & Dorothy Dietzen	Money donation
Fox Valley Wood Products	Wood
Phyllis Kempen	Christmas decorations

**MEMORIALS**

**GEORGE & LEIGH BEHNKE**

By: Carol Scheidenhelm

**VICTORIA BEYER**

By: Mary Abel

**JAMES GUSTMAN**

By: Gene & Robin Rosin

**WILLIAM RAMMER**

By: Diane Rammer  
Dan & Nancy Angell  
Penny & Alisa Leversen

**ANN DIEDRICH**

By: Elaine Ven Rooy

**HERBERT FRIEDMAN**

By: Gail Freidman

**LEO VAN DE LOO**

By: Donna & Al Borchardt

**MINNIE VEN ROOY**

By: Mary La Rock  
Elaine Ven Rooy

**BEVERLY KNEEPKENS**

By: Sue Gertz

**DEE SMITH**

By: Jeff & Kelly Giordana

**MARGARET BREWSTER**

By: Florence Brewster  
Grace Willey  
Elaine Ven Rooy  
Tom & Mary Ditter  
Joan Hunter  
Glenn & Gail Schilling  
Mernie Roloff  
Mary Eggert  
Henry & Mary Drechsler  
Tom & Judy Verhagen  
Neal Bolinski  
Ron & Janet Vande Hey

**BRUCE KOBS**

By: Carole Vanden Heuvel  
Sheila Vetrone  
Don Ristau

**Volunteers Needed for the Nature's Images Spring Art Fair**

Sunday, May 20, 2012 • 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

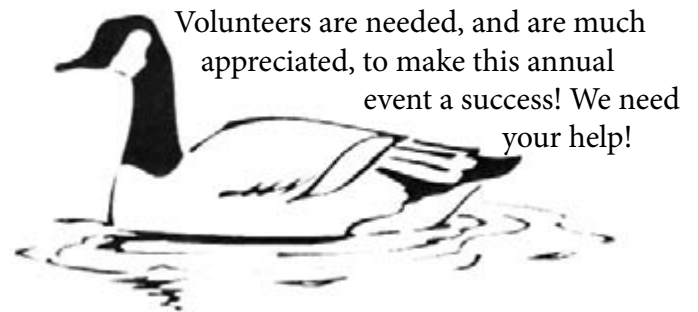
We need volunteers to help us with this spring's Art Fair! This event is very important to our mission to support the 1000 Islands Nature Center, and it is important to our community as well.

Volunteer opportunities include:

**Bake Sale:** We suggest, and would very much appreciate, bars, cookies, breads, cupcakes

Please price them, and drop your bake goods off at the Center Friday or Saturday, May 18 or 19, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m

**Plant Sale:** Gardeners, when removing or thinning out perennials, please consider donating some for the plant sale. You may even like to start from seeds or bulbs. Plants that you donate can be dropped off on Friday, May 18. Be sure containers are clean!



Volunteers are needed, and are much appreciated, to make this annual event a success! We need your help!

**Weekend Volunteers!**

Speaking of volunteers, the success of 1000 Islands itself depends on the generous support of volunteers. We are very much in need of additional weekend volunteers, the people who run the Center on Saturdays and Sundays.

It's easy to be a weekend volunteer. Sally or Debbie will give you the essential training, and that's it! Open the building up, feed Jabber, and greet visitors to our Nature Center and answer the phone. The day that you donate will make a big difference to each and every person who visits the Environmental Center.

Become a weekend volunteer. Contact Sally at 920-766-4733.



1000 Islands Environmental Center  
 1000 Beaulieu Court  
 Kaukauna, WI 54130

Cat-Tails • Sally Kenney & Randy McSorley, Editors  
 Phone 920.766.4733  
 email thousandisland@new.rr.com

The "Friends of 1000 Islands Environmental Center" is a non-profit organization whose main objective is to provide assistance to the 1000 Islands Environmental Center. This assistance comes through fund raising projects, membership dues and volunteers who donate time and skills to the Center. The purpose of the Environmental Center is to promote the appreciation of and involvement in nature by people of all ages.

Some of the benefits offered to members of the "Friends" are:

- This newsletter, which features articles of interest to the whole family
- Special programs for members with visits to interesting nature spots
- Free use of snowshoes
- As a member, you are welcome to attend the "Friends" meetings which are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Center
- Members names are listed on the "Friends" plaque located in the Center.

Membership fees are:

Adult	\$20 per year
Family	\$30 per year
Student	\$10 per year
Senior Citizen	\$10 per year
Benefactor	\$100
Lifetime	\$100 per person

**Friends Application**

Enroll me as a "Friend of 1000 Islands."

Here is my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ membership.

\_\_\_\_\_ This is a new membership

\_\_\_\_\_ This is a renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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 1000 Islands Environmental Center  
 1000 Beaulieu Court  
 Kaukauna, WI 54130