



Cat-Tails



Newsletter of the Friends of 1000 Islands

Spring/Summer 2016

The Bats of Summer

Naturalist's Notes
by Debbie Nowak

Picture a summer evening, just past sunset. You may be enjoying some quiet time sitting outside with friends or family. Suddenly you catch movement out of the corner of your eye and catch the sight of a bat swooping through the air. What feelings come to mind? For many it may be a little nervousness, fear, uncertainty. For me, I get a sense of awe over what amazing animals bats are.

Wisconsin is home to seven different species of bats: little brown, big brown, northern long-eared, eastern pipistrelle, silver haired, hoary, and the eastern red. Of these bats, only four species are the typical bats that we picture, hibernating in caves. The little brown, big brown, northern long-eared and eastern pipistrelle are considered cave bats and are some of the few true hibernators in Wisconsin. The other three species, the silver haired, hoary and eastern red bat, are tree bats. Although any bat can potentially roost in trees, the difference with tree bats are that they are migratory species and do not hibernate in Wisconsin but travel south in the fall. In the warmer winter climates, they may still go through periods of torpor, a shortened version of hibernation driven by temperatures and available food, instead

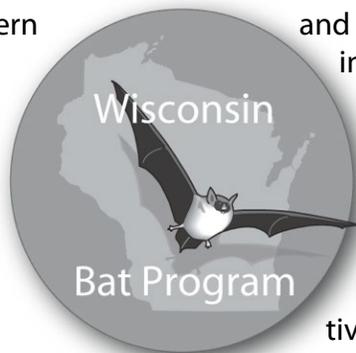


Our new "Bat-Condo"

of true hibernation, which is associated with day length and hormone changes.

1000 Islands is a great summer home for many bats. The combination of woods, open areas and the water is ideal. As we have reported in previous newsletters, we have partnered with Heckrodt Wetland Reserve and Lawrence University to monitor the bat populations on the property through the use of an anabat, a device that changes the high frequency echolocation calls from bats into a frequency that we can hear. By using this device, biologists can identify what species are present based on the call itself. Through walking a consistent route on the property for a number of summers, we have been able to document many big brown and little brown bats. There has even been evidence indicating that eastern red, hoary and northern long-eared bats can be found on the property as well.

Due to limited funding for the collaboration, we are no longer able to monitor bats by transect, or walking route, here at 1000 Islands, but we are still collecting data. In the spring of 2015, a fixed bat monitoring station was installed along the river by the nature center. Funding for the monitoring station was provided by the Wisconsin Bat Conservation Fund, the Stewardship Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and 1000 Islands. This monitoring station includes an anabat detector and microphone mounted on a metal pole and powered by a small solar panel. This monitoring station monitors for bat calls every night starting just before sunset to just after sunrise all year long. In the summertime, when bats are active, the monitoring station has picked up as many as 300 calls per minute! That's a lot of



bat activity!

Other recent batty improvements include a new bat condo. The condo was built by Eagle Scout candidates Gage and Parker Williamson. The purpose of the bat condo is to provide a safe place for little brown bats to roost in maternity colonies. It will be used only in the summer months ranging from April through October. Not only is it a safe place for the bats to have their pups and raise them until they can fly and hunt on their own, but it is a better alternative to your house or attic! Based on the size and structure of the bat condo, it could house up to 3000 little brown bats.

So why all of this fuss about bats? That takes us back to my opinion that bats are AMAZING! Not only are they an impressive animal capable of impressive flight, echolocation, hibernation and more, but they are a huge friend to humans. A single bat can eat anywhere from 500-1000 mosquito sized insects every night. This diet of insects not only helps control the number of biting insects that we have to deal with, it has a huge impact on Wisconsin agriculture. The DNR estimates that the impact bats have on the agricultural industry ranges from \$658 million to \$1.5 billion annually through the control of crop damaging pests. What would our agriculture and ecosystem look like if bats weren't around? Unfortunately, we may experience the reality of a significant drop in bat populations all too soon.

White nose syndrome, is a disease that is spreading through the United States, affecting large numbers of hibernating bats. It is a fungus that spreads through bat hibernaculums. It affects the soft tissues of the bat including the nose, ears and wings. The fungus causes hibernating bats to wake and results in abnormal movement towards cave entrances or daytime flights during winter. These behaviors result in bats quickly going through their fat reserves meant to last the entire winter and they become emaciated and many starve. White nose syndrome is fatal in an alarming 90% of bats, and it has already been documented in Wisconsin.

Join us on Saturday, July 16 at 7:45pm for a program on Wisconsin Bats including a chance to get outside and use an anabat detector to listen for their calls.

Do you have a bat house or condo near where you live? Make the time to watch for a morning swarm this summer. Arrive at the location about an hour before sunrise. Keep back at least 15 feet from the bat house so that you don't disturb them. Keep noise levels low, or keep voices at a low tone and be still. Watch as the bats return to their roost from the night's flying and feeding. Sit back and reflect on how they have impacted our lives and be amazed. Want to take it a step further? You can become a citizen scientist and count the bats. The Wisconsin Bat Program is looking for citizens to help monitor bat populations. Check out their website for more information: <http://wiatri.net/inventory/bats/>

Join us on Saturday, July 16 at 7:45 PM for a program on Wisconsin Bats including a chance to get outside and use an anabat detector to listen for their calls. As it is with everything in life, you never know what the future holds, so make sure to take time to appreciate our only flying mammal in Wisconsin.

Education about bats and the struggles that they face today is vitally important, but not just for the agricultural industry or for those that enjoy sitting outside on a summer evening. Education is important to encourage people to get out and witness these amazing animals before that chance is gone. Due to the presence of white nose syndrome, this summer may be one of the last opportunities to see the emergence of bats flying from their roosts in the evenings or see a swarm of bats before they return to their roosts in the early morning hours. These are experiences that can leave you in awe and really grasp how amazing they are. I encourage everyone to get out and learn about, see, and appreciate this amazing part of our natural world, before the opportunity is gone.



Interior of the "Bat-Condo"

Friends Notes

Art Fair Bake Sale

The Friends' will once again hold a bake sale during the Annual Art Fair on May 15, 2016. We will need lots of help to make it a success. Please consider donating cookies, bars, cupcakes, pies or bread for the sale. You can price your items or we can price for you. Items can be dropped off at the Center on Saturday, May 14 between 10:00 AM and 3:30 PM. Thank you!

Art Fair Parking

During the Art Fair the Friends' will again have a bus to shuttle visitors to the Center. If parking is unavailable around the building please park by ball diamond #1 and the bus will take you to the Center.

Jars!

Have any canning jars around the house? Donate them for our maple syrup program!

Eagle Days - An Amazing Event

by Randy McSorley

This year's Eagle Day event at 1000 Islands brought in over 1,000 people from all over Wisconsin and beyond. Some observations, and things to consider, about this event:

- Families who have never been in Kaukauna before came not only to see the eagle event, but also to maybe have lunch at a local restaurant and see more of what Kaukauna has to offer. Maybe local businesses will want to work with us for future events.
- Eagle Days has the potential to become one of Kaukauna's "Big Events." It already receives a lot of television coverage due to Naturalist Deb Nowak's dedicated efforts, but it may grow into something much bigger if we and the City of Kaukauna want to move in that direction.
- We may need to consider expanding our resources going forward. The building was bursting at the seams! Maybe we need a new building!

With a little effort and the continued terrific support of the Friends, Eagle Days will continue to amaze and can grow into a new tradition for the City of Kaukauna!

Ask the Naturalist

Answers to frequently asked questions

Q Why are there fencing sections up in the Upper Woods?

As we have reported in previous issues of Cat-Tails, we recently completed a selective timber harvest in the upper woods. One of the reasons for this harvest was to get new plants growing to replace the current generation of trees when they die. Since the harvest we have had some great sprouting of new trees from the stumps left from the harvest and even an influx of new wildflowers.

However, we do still have a healthy population of deer in the Upper Woods area. The deer love eating young vegetation and new growth quickly gets eaten by deer and other animals in the woods. The fencing, referred as exclusion fencing, is our effort to keep the deer and other browsing animals away from young vegetation. Our hopes is to give the two fencing areas a few years to regenerate plants and then move the fencing every 3-5 years in order to protect different areas and allow for more growth.



The fencing, thus far, has done a great job of protecting the plants inside, as long as the deer stay outside. We have had one occasion of a deer finding its way inside due to damage to the gate. We were able to shoo it out without much fanfare and repair the damages. At any point, if visitors see damage to the fencing or deer inside the area, we ask you to contact Center staff at (920)766-4733.

Where are the Eagles?

Q This is a very common question that we get year-round, but especially in the winter months when bald eagles tend to congregate on the Fox River. What is the best answer to that question? Outside. We try to help visitors remember that eagles, along with all of the other animal species seen at 1000 Islands are wild animals and are not always predictable or easy to find.

We are more than happy to share information on where and when we may have seen them recently, but in order to see wildlife you need to just take some time to look for them. The effort to search out wildlife often can be the most exciting part of the experience. Not only will you potentially be rewarded for your time by a great sight, but you can enjoy the benefits of being out in nature along the way. When you are looking to spot something, make sure to dress for the weather. This can include boots, hats and mittens in the winter months, and a wide brimmed hat, sunglasses and bug spray in the summer months. Any time of the year, we are happy to lend out binoculars for use while on the property. Walk slowly, enjoy the small details of the nature around you and keep voices quiet to enjoy the sounds of nature.

To answer the question in a more direct manner, in the winter you will have the best opportunity to see eagles because of many eagles wintering along the Fox River due to its open water and fishing opportunities. Watch for them roosting in the trees of the islands, especially where the fishing opportunities are best. This can vary from year to year, but the overlook and the bend of the river just past the overlook tend to be good locations as well as the upstream end of the collection of islands to the west of the nature center and around

Island #3. Be sure to watch for the white heads as they perch in the trees.

In the early spring through mid-summer, your best viewing opportunities are usually around their nesting location. Currently, the eagle nest is located in a tree on the north side of the islands. There is not a point on 1000 Islands property where you can view the nest, but it can be seen from the north side of the river along Thilmany Road. Please note that although it is a public roadway, the road has heavy truck traffic and the paper mill property is private property. The nest location does move from time to time, so feel free to stop in the nature center for the current nest location.

If you are hoping to see eagles in late summer through fall, it can be tricky. This is the most unpredictable time to view eagles because the young of the year have fledged from the nest and are learning the ropes from the parents. Where the lessons are being taught can vary greatly from day to day.



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

Visit us at

<http://www.1000islandsenvironmentalcenter.org>

then click the "Facebook" button!

facebook®

2016 Spring Programs

1000 ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER 1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna, WI

April 22, Friday **EARTH DAY CELEBRATION** 4:00-8:00 PM Celebrate Earth Day with us by joining in on some Spring Clean-Up around the property, Earth Day arts, crafts and games, and wrap up the evening with a 6:30 pm presentation by Ross Mueller on his BIGBY adventure where he tried to see as many different species of birds without the use of fossil fuels!

April 23, Saturday **WEBELOS CUB SCOUT CLINIC - INTO THE WOODS** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM 2 hour program with start time (9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM) chosen by leader. Find out how forestry affects you every day in the interactive clinic. Completes all the requirements for Into the Woods Elective Adventure. Pre-registration and payment required. Call 766-4733 for more info.

May 7, Saturday **BIO BLITZ** 8 AM - 12 PM Join us for a brand new program where you get to be the scientist. Walk the trails taking pictures of as many different plant and animal species as you can find with your smart phones or other mobile devices. Staff and volunteers can help with identification and submitting data to iNaturalist for a fun way to learn about the flora and fauna found at 1000 Islands.

May 12, Thursday **MIGRATORY BIRD PARTY** 6:30 PM International Migratory Bird Day is officially May 14, but we are getting the celebration started early! Join us for games, stories and crafts that are not only fun but help to understand the importance of our migratory birds.

May 15, Sunday **34TH ANNUAL NATURE'S IMAGES ART FAIR** 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM Fine art, music, food and raffles to benefit the Friends of the 1000 Islands.

June 7, Tuesday **NIGHT EXPLORATIONS** for all ages, 6:30-7:30 PM. Learn how to explore nature after dark. Each session we will concentrate on a different topic in nature that can be seen after dark. A librarian from the Kaukauna Public Library will join us with some stories and we will head out onto the trail for a short walk before it gets dark.

June 17, Friday **CRAYFISH & CRITTER HUNT** for all ages, 9:30 -11:00 AM. Wear water or tennis shoes to walk in the water.

June 21, Tuesday **BIRD HOUSE BUILDING** for all ages, 9:30-10:30 AM. Call 766-4733 to register at least 2 weeks in advance of date. Bring a Hammer. Donation \$1.00

June 30, Thursday **EAGLET ADVENTURES** for ages 3-5, 10:00-11:00 AM. Pre-school program for children encourages independence and peer socialization while teaching nature and environmental awareness. Children participate in nature activities, mini hikes and crafts without Mom or Dad. Donation \$1.00 Call 766-4733 to register at least 1 week in advance of date.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR PROGRAMS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

2016 Summer Programs

July 13, Wednesday **VITAMIN N(ATURE)** for all ages, 1:30-2:30 PM. Meet us at the Kaukauna Library for a fun program on the joys of nature.

July 16, Saturday **WISCONSIN BATS** 7:45 PM. Jamie Kozloski, a local bat educator, will be here to explain the ecology of bats and what bats are present here. Following will be a short hike to look and listen for bats.

July 19, Tuesday **BUG BONANZA** for under 10 years, 10:00 AM. Learn more about insects, arachnids and other creepy crawlies then go on a bug hunt to see how many of them you can find.

July 26, Tuesday **BIRD FEEDER BUILDING** for all ages, 9:30-10:30 AM. Call 766-4733 to register at least 2 weeks in advance of date. Bring a Hammer. Donation \$1.00

July 26, Tuesday **NIGHT EXPLORATIONS** for all ages, 6:30-7:30 PM. Learn how to explore nature after dark. Each session we will concentrate on a different topic in nature that can be seen after dark. A librarian from the Kaukauna Public Library will join us with some stories and we will head out onto the trail for a short walk before it gets dark.

July 28, Thursday **CRAYFISH & CRITTER HUNT** for all ages, 9:30 -11:00 AM. Wear water or tennis shoes to walk in the water.

August 4, Thursday **EAGLET ADVENTURES** for ages 3-5, 10:00-11:00 AM. Pre-school program for children encourages independence and peer socialization while teaching nature and environmental awareness. Children participate in nature activities, mini hikes and crafts without Mom or Dad. Donation \$1.00 Call 766-4733 to register at least 1 week in advance of date.

August 9, Tuesday **NIGHT EXPLORATIONS** for all ages, 6:30-7:30 PM. Learn how to explore nature after dark. Each session we will concentrate on a different topic in nature that can be seen after dark. A librarian from the Kaukauna Public Library will join us with some stories and we will head out onto the trail for a short walk before it gets dark.

August 13, Saturday **HOT DOG ROAST AND NIGHT HIKE** for families and adults, 8:00-9:30 PM. Begin the evening with a hot dog roast around the campfire followed by a guided hike after the sun sets. Bring your own food. Campfire and roasting sticks will be provided.

August 23, Tuesday **KAUKAUNA PUBLIC LIBRARY FAIRY WALK** for all ages, 6:30-7:30 PM. Walk a short trail viewing Fairy Houses built by Kaukauna Public Library patrons. Take part in Fairy activities, crafts and vote for your favorite house.

August 24, Wednesday **EAGLET ADVENTURES** for ages 3-5, 10:00-11:00 AM. Pre-school program for children encourages independence and peer socialization while teaching nature and environmental awareness. Children participate in nature activities, mini hikes and crafts without Mom or Dad. Donation \$1.00 Call 766-4733 to register at least 1 week in advance of date.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR PROGRAMS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

MEMORIALS

NATHAN CROWE

By: Mara Christiansen

KATHY COLLINS

By: Thomas Collins

GENE PLOETZ

By: Carol Rausch
Estate of Gene Ploetz

BERNICE WUYTS

By: Karen Diedrick & family

WALLY MOONEY

By: Clark Nienow
Ed & Lee Ladenburger
Craig Lahm
Elaine Ven Rooy

LINDA FUERST

By: Paula Carner

GEORGE GREENWOOD

By: Greenwood family

DON NOLAN

By: Mary Fiabelkorn

NEW MEMBERS

Linda Rollins

Marty & Linda Nackers

Marsha Weber

Pat & Jackie Hughes

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Eric Hietpas

Florence Balck



Eagle Days

By Janice Jansen, Friends' Board Member

On January 23, Eagle Days was held at 1000 Islands Environmental Center. The Center was filled to overflowing with people young and old all wanting to learn about the bald eagle. They were not disappointed.

The presenter was educational and entertaining. Of course the highlight was the appearance of the live bald eagle. A big thank you to the staff of 1000 Islands for a day well spent.

If you missed it, be sure to check it out next year. (January 28, 2017)



Left: Jennifer Drayna, Naturalist for the National Eagle Center, presented Angel, an adult Bald Eagle. **Right:** An eagle is spotted near the Nature Center.

DONATIONS:

- Binoculars
- Tubing for sap collection
- Money donation
- Money donation
- Money donation
- Display case
- Fishing poles & equipment
- Money donation
- Books

GIVEN BY:

- Unison Credit Union
- Carsten's Ace Hardware
- Kaukauna Sportsmen's Club
- Kit Scheidenhelm
- Kristine & James Serwe
- Linda Graetz
- Bill Flynn
- Shirley Hurst
- David Drewa

Weekend 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: _____

The Friends of the 1000 Islands Environmental Center
1000 Islands Environmental Center
1000 Beaulieu Court
Kaukauna, WI 54130