

1000 ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

City of Kaukauna
Nature Center Building
1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna



Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:30 PM

AGENDA

In-Person

1. Call to Order
2. Reading and Approval Minutes
 - a. [1000 Islands Education Sub-Committee Minutes of January 6, 2023](#)
3. Old Business
4. New Business
 - a. 2023 Summer Public Programs
 - b. Upcoming Field Trips
 - c. Volunteer Opportunities
 - d. New Exhibit Ideas
5. Other Sub-Committee Items
6. Adjournment

NOTICES

THIS MEETING IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED. IF REQUESTED THREE (3) DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE.

1000 Islands Environmental Center Mission Statement: To provide children, adults and families the knowledge and skills needed to build a sustainable balance among the environment, economy and community through education, conservation and recreation.

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Friday, January 06, 2023 at 9:00 AM

MINUTES

In-Person

1. Call to Order

Pautz called meeting to order at 9:01 AM

Members Present: Pautz, Breitzman, Jakel, White, Carlson

Also Present: Nowak, Ironside

2. Reading and Approval Minutes

a. 1000 Islands Education Sub-Committee Minutes of November 1, 2022

Pautz pointed out two typing errors in the minutes for correction. Breitzman also pointed out an error in the spelling of her name.

Carlson moved to waive the reading and approve the minutes with the corrections mentioned. Seconded by White. Motion carried.

3. Old Business

a. Update on 2023 Eagle Days

Nowak provided an update on the Eagle Days event. Most activities are set and ready.

Nowak is currently recruiting and scheduling volunteers for various activities. Help from the Kaukauna High School Key Club has been requested. Although we do not know how many Key Club volunteers are helping yet, there is usually a good turnout.

Nowak is still working on Door Prizes and Coloring Contest Prizes. There are a couple of media interviews scheduled for the week before the event.

The National Eagle Center presentations have been sponsored this year by a memorial donation from the family of Michael Cleveland. Nowak is working with Michael's wife on plans for a memorial acknowledgement to have on display during the event.

4. New Business

a. Approve Snowshoe Replacement Plan including expenditure of up to \$4000.00 to purchase new Tubbs snowshoes

Discussion was held on the idea of replacing the old, wooden snowshoes with modern snowshoes. Nowak shared a plan for the replacement including the quantity and sizes of the snowshoes, cost to purchase the snowshoes and where funding would come from.

White made a motion to recommend to the full Committee the approval of an expenditure of up to \$6,000 to purchase new snowshoes through Tubbs Snowshoes. Seconded by Breitzman. Motion carried.

There were concerns regarding the current fees for snowshoe rentals as listed on the User Fee Schedule. Discussion surrounded what price would be beneficial for 1000 Islands, but still reasonable for families. Nowak provided some comparisons from other nature centers and various outfitters.

Jakel shared concerns regarding off-site rentals and the possibility of not getting the snowshoes back. Especially with concern of not having snowshoes for upcoming groups. It was suggested to have a flat deposit amount of \$100 as well as a form for renters to fill out signing off on liability for the cost of repair and replacement of snowshoes. A drivers license can be held to secure an on-site rental instead of the deposit, but both on-site and off-site rentals should utilize a rental form.

Carlson made a motion to recommend that the full committee approve a change in snowshoe rental fees to \$5 per pair for on-site rentals for visitors 16 years and older with a drivers license as well as \$15 per pair for an off-site rental up to 4 days with \$100 deposit. Seconded by White. Motion carried.

b. Discuss 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Ideas

Nowak gave an overview of a webinar she attended regard the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant managed through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The program aims to provide educational support and learning experiences for children outside of the regular school day and over school holidays. There is a lot of potential to create after school programs or days off of school programs for students in the Kaukauna Area School District with these grant funds. Current staffing levels won't support the addition of a program like this, but the idea will be kept for possible future implementation.

5. Other Sub-Committee Items

Pautz asked for an update on the summer program list and program evaluation form. Nowak informed the group that both have been completed. The summer program list has already been shared with a couple of groups looking to schedule a program for the summer. The first evaluation form link was just sent out for the start of 2023.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Jakel made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Breitzman. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 am.



Summer 2023 Public Programs

- Thursday, June 8 **Bird House Building Clinic** (10 – 11 AM) Put together a wooden bird house using pre-cut wood pieces in this building clinic. All wood pieces and nails will be provided. This is an on-site building clinic and we encourage everyone to stay at the Nature Center to build the bird house. Once your bird house is built, take it home and decorate it or hang it up as it is in your yard. Bring a hammer if you have one. **Registration is required and group size is limited. \$5.00 per kit donation appreciated.**
- Friday, June 9 **1000 Little Wonders - Sowbugs** (9:30 – 10:30 AM) This class is for children 3-5 years old and their parent/guardian. Listen to **The Bugliest Bug** by Carol Diggory Shields. Participate in a obstacle course and learn where they live. This program will take place outdoors and indoors. Please come dressed for the weather. **Registration is required and group size is limited. FREE**
- June 13, 15, 16 **River Critter Camp** (10 AM – 12 PM) This three-day camp is geared towards children ages 5 to 10 and will focus on the animals that live in the river. We will look for crayfish, learn how to fish, and take a walk along the Fox River. The majority of the program is outdoors so please wear appropriate clothing, bring sunscreen and bug spray. Bring a water bottle as well. **Registration is required and group size is limited. The cost of this camp is \$15 per student.**
- Friday, June 16 **A Storybook Walk and Adventure – Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt** (9 AM – 7 PM) This is a fun, educational activity for the entire family. Enjoy the outdoors and read the book **Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt** by Kate Messner on our kid-friendly boardwalk trail. Reading stations will be set up along the boardwalk for a self-guided walk to read a page or two at a station. Visit each station to read the entire book. After completing the book, be sure to explore the Conservancy Zone and trails! **FREE**
- Saturday, June 17 **Service Saturday – Dig in like Dad** (8 AM – Noon) Dear old Dad – He works hard and plays hard. 1000 Islands is a lot like that too as a place for both conservation and recreation, so let's 'build some character' with a morning of service work and celebrate afterwards with a **Free Picnic Lunch for All Volunteers at Noon! Free Special Gift for Dads**
- Tuesday, June 20 **Crayfish and Critter Hunt** (9:30 – 11 AM) Join the staff for an exciting adventure in the Konkapot Creek catching crayfish and other aquatic critters. Wear shoes to walk in the water and bring a net and bucket if you have one. **FREE**
- Thursday, June 22 **Basics of Bees** (10 – 11 AM) Are you scared of bees? No need to be! The more you know, the less you fear! Join beekeeper Brian Jacobs to learn the difference between bees and wasps by exploring their nests by dissecting old hives, looking inside an active bee hive here on the property, and tasting some of the honey our resident bees make. Ages 6 – 10. **Registration is required and group size is limited. FREE**
- Thursday, June 22 **Bees with Brian** (6 – 8 PM) Join beekeeper Brian Jacobs to learn about the bee hives on the property and what he does to manage the colony. Taste last year's honey and check out some honeycomb as we learn about the process of how bees make honey. This program is geared towards adults. **Registration is required and group size is limited. FREE**
- Friday, June 23 **1000 Little Wonders - Bees** (9:30 – 10:30 AM) This class is for children 3-5 years old and their parent/guardian. Listen to the book **Save the Bees** by Bethany Stahl. Pretend you are a bee and collect pollen. Learn how a bee grows up from a egg. This program will take place outdoors and indoors. Please come dressed for the weather. **Registration is required and group size is limited. FREE**
- Saturday, June 24 **Basic Survival Skills for Adults** (1 - 3 PM) Want to learn basic survival skills? Join us as we explore shelter building, fire starting, and how to make water safe to drink. Minimum age to attend is 13 years old with an adult. **Registration is required and group size is limited. The cost of this program is \$8 per person.**

- Tuesday, June 27 **Crayfish and Critter Hunt** (12:30 – 2 PM) Join the staff for an exciting adventure in the Konkapot Creek catching crayfish and other aquatic critters. Wear shoes to walk in the water and bring a net and bucket if you have one. **FREE**
- Thursday, June 29 **Fishing Basics** (9:30 – 11 AM) Join us as we explore the basics of fishing. Learn how to cast a fishing rod, learn fun facts about fish, and participate in a fish scavenger hunt around the nature center. This program is geared towards children 5 – 10 years old. **Registration is required and group size is limited. FREE**
- Friday, June 30 **Birding Basics** (1 - 2 PM) Join us at the Kaukauna Public Library as we learn about birds. Participate in a indoor bird walk and listen to different bird calls. Learn how to identify birds by sight and sound. This program is geared towards younger children. **FREE**
- Friday, July 7 **1000 Little Wonders - Trees** (9:30 – 10:30 AM) This class is for children 3-5 years old and their parent/guardian. Listen to the book **Be a Tree!** by Maria Gianferrari. Experience a tree with your four senses and take a bark rubbing. Make collages with leaves you find as we take a walk. This program will take place outdoors and indoors. Please come dressed for the weather. **Registration is required and group size is limited. FREE**
- Saturday, July 8 **Service Saturday – Celebrate U.S.nA.ture!** (8 AM – Noon) Happy Birthday America! Celebrate our nation and its leadership in conservation with a day of service on the 1000 Islands Conservancy! **Free Snacks and Lemonade for All Volunteers at Noon! Free Gift for ALL VOLUNTEERS!**
- Tuesday, July 11 **Crayfish and Critter Hunt** (9:30 – 11 AM) Join the staff for an exciting adventure in the Konkapot Creek catching crayfish and other aquatic critters. Wear shoes to walk in the water and bring a net and bucket if you have one. **FREE**
- Saturday, July 15 **World Snake Day Celebration** (Noon-2 PM) Come celebrate World Snake Day with Steve Keller's Traveling Snake Show! Learn about snakes & get a chance to have a hands-on experience with one of the world's most misunderstood creatures! **FREE**
- Tuesday, July 18 **Bird Feeder Building Clinic** (10 – 11 AM) Put together a wooden bird feeder using pre-cut wood pieces in this building clinic. All wood pieces and nails will be provided. This is an on-site building clinic and we encourage everyone to stay at the Nature Center to build the bird feeder. Once your bird feeder is built, take it home and decorate it or hang it up as it is in your yard. Bring a hammer if you have one. **Registration is required and group size is limited. \$5.00 per kit donation appreciated.**
- Wednesday, July 19 **Pollinators Galore!** (11 – 11:45 AM) Join us at the Kaukauna Public Library as we explore the world of pollinators. See a preserved specimen of a bat and learn ways to help bats. Discover the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly and the important role milkweed plants play in it. Explore the different roles honey bees have and the plants that help attract them. **FREE**
- Friday, July 21 **A Storybook Walk and Adventure - Diary of a Worm** (9 AM – 7 PM) This is a fun, educational activity for the entire family. Enjoy the outdoors and read the book **Diary of a Worm** by Doreen Cronin on our kid-friendly boardwalk trail. Reading stations will be set up along the boardwalk for a self-guided walk to read a page or two at a station. Visit each station to read the entire book. After completing the book, be sure to explore the Conservancy Zone and trails! **FREE**
- Friday, July 21 **1000 Little Wonders - Centipedes** (9:30 – 10:30 AM) This class is for children 3-5 years old and their parent/guardian. Listen to the book **Bug on a Rug** by Sophia Gholz. Learn how many legs centipedes have and make your own centipede to take home. This program will take place outdoors and indoors. Please come dressed for the weather. **Registration is required and group size is limited. FREE**
- Saturday, July 22 **Nature Journaling for Adults** (10 – 11:30 AM) Practice your journaling skills as we learn about different journaling techniques. Get your own nature journal and start it as we explore different places on our property. This program is geared for adults. **Registration is required and group size is limited. The cost of this program is \$8 per adult.**
- July 25, 27, and 28 **Animal Homes** (10 AM – 12 PM) This three-day camp focuses on different animal homes. We will explore our property to find different animal homes and even try to build some human sized animal homes ourselves. Hunt for bugs under logs and try your luck at crayfishing. This camp is geared towards children 5 – 10 years old. **Registration is required and group size is limited. The cost of this camp is \$15 per student.**

- Thursday, August 3 **Bee Protectors** (11 – 11:45 AM) Join us and the Kaukauna Public Library at 1000 Islands Environmental Center as we look for bees around our property. Participate in the Bumble Bee Watch and be part of a citizen science project. This program is a continuation of the *Pollinators Galore!* program at the Kaukauna Public Library on July 19th. **FREE**
- Friday, August 4 **1000 Little Wonders – Crayfish** (9:30 – 10:30 AM) This class is for children 3-5 years old and their parent/guardian. Listen to the book *Crawdad Creek* by Scott Russell Sanders. Touch a live crayfish and learn where they live. This program will take place outdoors and indoors. Please come dressed for the weather. **Registration is required and group size is limited. FREE**
- August 8, 10, 11 **Basic Survival Camp** (10 AM – 12 PM) This three-day camp teaches basic survival skills to children ages 5 to 10. We will focus on shelter building, the importance of water, the role of fire, and ways to signal for help. **Registration is required and group size is limited. The cost of this camp is \$15 per student.**
- Thursday, August 10 **Kitchen Compost Adult Workshop** (6 – 7:30 PM) Ever wonder if you could compost on your kitchen counter? You can! Join us as we explore the reason for composting and what you can compost. Make your own starter compost kit. This workshop is geared for adults. **Registration is required and group size is limited. The cost of this program is \$20 per person.**
- Saturday, August 12 **Service Saturday – Fun in the Sun** (8 AM – Noon) Hot, hot, hot! All winter we dream of spending summer days at 1000 Islands, so come hang out with us for a morning of service. **Free Ice Cream Social for All Volunteers at Noon!**
- Tuesday, August 15 **Crayfish and Critter Hunt** (9:30 – 11 AM) Join the staff for an exciting adventure in the Konkapot Creek catching crayfish and other aquatic critters. Wear shoes to walk in the water and bring a net and bucket if you have one. **FREE**
- Friday, August 18 **A Storybook Walk and Adventure – They All Saw a Cat** (9 AM – 7 PM) This is a fun, educational activity for the entire family. Enjoy the outdoors and read the book *They All Saw a Cat* by Brendan Wenzel on our kid-friendly boardwalk trail. Reading stations will be set up along the boardwalk for a self-guided walk to read a page or two at a station. Visit each station to read the entire book. After completing the book, be sure to explore the Conservancy Zone and trails! **FREE**
- Friday, August 18 **1000 Little Wonders - Snakes** (9:30 – 10:30 AM) This class is for children 3-5 years old and their parent/other guardian. Listen to the book *The Greedy Python* by Eric Carle. Touch a real snake skin and move like a snake through an obstacle course. This program will take place indoors and outdoors. Please come dressed for the weather. **Registration is required and group size is limited. FREE**
- Monday, August 21 **Fairy Walk** (5 – 7 PM) We'll have lots of new ways to explore and celebrate fairies and nature during this year's event. **Visit the Kaukauna Library website for more details. Registration recommended through the Kaukauna Public Library. FREE**
- Tuesday, August 29 **Crayfish and Critter Hunt** (12:30 – 2 PM) Join the staff for an exciting adventure in the Konkapot Creek catching crayfish and other aquatic critters. Wear shoes to walk in the water and bring a net and bucket if you have one. **FREE**

Please call the Nature Center at 920-766-4733 or
email thousandisland@kaukauna-wi.org to register for a class.

1000 Islands is proud to provide the majority of our programming free of charge. Please help us keep these programs free into the future by making a donation when attending or visiting.