

Friends of the Wapsi Center Minutes

Thursday, April 19th, 2012

Present: Connie Huber, Jessica Steines, Mike Granger, Carol Rogers, Warren Wiese, Jim Ross and Erma Wiszmann. VISITORS; Boy Scout Troop 13 from Eldridge (Scott Dickman with 6 scouts and 3 moms).

Minutes: Approved as mailed

Treasurer's Report: Bank Balance \$6,604.73 plus 2 CD's

Staff Report: Director Dave Murcia absent today. Aaron has completed his fire training on line. We held a controlled burn. Jamie Meyer's last day is on April 23rd. Amphitheater cement seats being re-spaced to allow for mowing. We have announced the need for a seasonal Naturalist. Staffs have had hearing tests. These are necessary due to the use of power equipment. We do wear ear plugs. A leadership summit is scheduled to include all Scott County Departments. On the Grounds – trails are being made ready. Reminder that the reptile room doors need to be closed. We need a host for Saturday, April 21st. Time is from 12:30 to 4:30. No food items are to be left in the Eco Center. March was busy and we had 7 groups here and 10 off sites. Teacher Workshop (EDIWILD) is scheduled for the end of June. Up to 40 teachers will attend and receive credits. Sustainability will be the theme for the workshop. Sites for the workshop include Nahant Marsh, The Wapsi Center, and Rock Creek. The newsletter is out. It includes the calendar of events and has informative articles. It is also available on line. Events include P Paddling, garlic mustard pull, kayak experience, Menke Open House and Heritage Days. We discussed some new information about a possible weevil to eat Garlic Mustard. Clinton County is seeking to have a 4th full time naturalist. Discussed the need for participants to wear proper clothing for the outdoors such as warm jackets, rain gear and certainly not flip flops. We are still deciding on a proper handicapped entrance and walks to the Eco Center in honor of Dottie Wala. Host list was passed around for future dates. We are reminded of general housekeeping at the nature center. Debated – a Preserve is a designated place from which items may or not be collected. The Annual meeting will be June 21st. Prior will be the meeting and Cookout (6:00 P.M.) at 7 P.M. we will board the Blue Heron for a river cruise. Jessica has saved 15 slots for the Friends. Please make reservations with Jessica. The new building at Rock Creek is finished. The Nature Gallery is not complete. After the meeting adjourned the scouts, naturalists, and friends members held a general discussion over requirements to become a naturalist such as biology and related degrees, years of experience etc. The Scouts participated freely. Some reported on animals that they have been studying. With all of the stresses on our environment, reckless developments by investors, it is so encouraging to interact with young people.

Next Meeting - Thursday, May 17th 2012 - - 7:00 P.M. at the Wapsi River Center