

Friends of the Wapsi Center Minutes
August 15th, 2013 - Wapsi River Center

Present: Carol Rogers, Julie Ross, Lucia Dryanski, Bill Robbins, Mike Grander and Erma Wiszmann
(Birthday Cake Presented to Julie Ross and enjoyed by all).

Minutes: Approved as mailed

Treasurers Report: Bank Balance \$9336.10

This includes E Script through June. Have Just Received checks from last October (2012) Wapsi River Cleanup. Cleanup for 2013 will be from Sherman Park to Allen's Grove. The Friends will handle the Financials. (Totals of 2013 were delayed to a death in the family of one of the leaders).

Staff Report: Seasonal assistant ended 8/9/13 – Hired in Des Moines. Our New hire seasonal is Ashley from Hampton, Illinois. She has experience with Birds of Prey and working with Scout Camp. Kyle, Casey, Dave and Mike did workshop on the Mississippi River with Living Lands and Waters. Dave Murcia has attended Nahant Marsh Operations Community meeting. Kyle our Eastern Iowa Intern has been a big Help. He completed his 120 Hours.

LeRoy has been working on Brush Removal. The pond level is low, May have to look to another way to maintain the water level. At the pond they are seeing plovers and Killdeer. Dave has submitted a grant request to the Iowa DNR. The WREN will be out next month. No program is planned for next week. General discussion over cicada killer wasp, whippoorwill call, and red shouldered hawks that are seen in Clinton County, Buena Vista and the Milan Bottoms, plus the "twigaloo" Hobbit House and a new soft shelled turtle. The Friends stopped to review the new display of the Suitcase for Survival furnished by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We had 14 groups, 11 on our site. The Fall Festival – Ecology Day is scheduled in September. One Seasonal Naturalist position is advertised and hope to interview. Are about to decide on a replacement cabin. We have not accepted reservations for August. Suggested to erect large bat houses to keep the bats from the buildings. The Release of information reports all cleared. Ecology Day will be on September 28th. There will be shooting sports and hunting and gathering. Question whether Friends will serve Lunch – Undecided. Kyle thanked Mike and Dave for allowing him to Intern and volunteer at the WRC. Kyle offered up the idea of a Halloween hike. We have advertised it as a festival for kids. We will have a campfire for cooking, scavenger hunt etc. Friends expressed interest. Kyle/ Mike will work on the plans. The Host sign up sheet was circulated.

The next meeting at the Wapsi Center - Thursday, September 19th, 7:00 P.M.