

Friends of the Wapsi River Center Minutes
Thursday, October 16th, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.

Present: Carol Rogers, Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski, Jim and Julie Ross, Ingrid Bogdanowicz, Mike Granger, Dave Murcia and Erma Wiszmann.

Minutes: Approved as mailed.

Treasurer's Report: \$50.00 Donation from visitor. Checkbook balance of \$8267.23 plus 2 CDS. Donation from girls scouts and Membership checks to deposit.

Staff Report: Emily is permanent 40 hour per week employee – had training on Purchase card. Dave has attended Nahant Board meeting. Staff will attend IAN meeting in Iowa County. County Jail workers helped with clearing brush and planting new shrubs purchased from Aunt Rhodie's at a discount. The dorm discharge checked every month meets standards. Capital improvements to take place on the property include a new pump house or well and new water lines. They need to be deeper. Continue busy with education. Had 7 groups on site and 9 groups off site. All well attended. On November 18th will hold a natural Basketry class and Natural Art. On November 25th there will be our annual Halloween Hike. Lucia will bring treats. Gourds may be used for decorating. Lucia will make some spooky glowing eyes out of toilet tubes and glow sticks. November 1st Dave will go to Jackson County to do a bird of Prey Program. We tagged and tested 24 Monarch butterflies. This Report will be uploaded on to our WEB site. We are planning new exhibits – considerations are an Ice Age or Native Americans. Soar is to provide another Screech owl. We will then have 2 in the same enclosure. We had several frozen birds of prey. They have been taken to a taxidermist for mounting. Professor Rob Porter of Western Illinois University is interested in a Possible Forest Restoration Project. They are also interested in Open Space management. To Review: Shrubs and trees have been planted, the workday event planned. Ecology day is in the works. Problem of Poison Ivy Discussed. All Background Checks are in. We will no longer hold winter meetings at Gander Mountain. Plan to hold them at West Lake Park Gate #3.

Miscellaneous discussion on Chinese chestnut. Want to get a couple on chestnuts. One is down by Leroy's garage. Thinking of a small nature trail focusing on Pollinators, possibly an outdoor bird enclosure, and an ADA ramp. Reports are showing up of Emerald Ash Borer appearing in trees other than ashes. Future Ecology days are always the 1st weekend in October.

Next Meeting: November 20th, 6:00 P.M. - West Lake Park – Gate #3.

Center will be closed for Thanksgiving – November 27th and 28th and 29th.