

**Friends of the Wapsi Center Minutes**  
**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**Wapsi River Center**

**Present:** Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski, Carol Rogers, Ingrid Bogdanowicz, Mike Granger and Erma Wiszmann. (Dave not feeling well)

**Minutes:** Erma Approved. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Robbins. Motion carried.

**Staff Report:** Dave Murcia attended the Nahant Board operations meeting. Staff have been through hearing tests. Murcia and Santiago went through the CIG “Certified Interpretive Guide” training. It consisted of 5 days of training with 14 people in attendance. The training included 5 book reviews. Thanks to the friends for the financial support. Dave Murcia has applied for a \$500.00 grant to purchase new binoculars. We have applied for an AmeriCorps crew to do late summer projects. They would live at our Dorm. We would time it so they will not interfere with our Frogwarts camp in late July. Storm cleanup is still in progress. There is work on our downed trees. Hope to plant Hardwood in those areas. Tree limbs were downed around the Pine Ring. Boy Scouts troops have helped in the cleanup. Remember to change the heat settings at the Center. The DNR cleared the Dorm discharge site, and HON donated new office chairs. In February we had 11 groups on site and 2 off. The WREN will be out by the end of the month. The Beehive cabinet is here and will be installed at the Eco Center. The Maple Syrup program was well attended. High school students are interested in Native American activities. The Grizzly bear in the Eco Center is from the Dubuque River Museum. We do not know much of the history but it was in a restaurant for several years. Fish Iowa training has been held. It was a ½ day class. Their policy has changed so that at least one of the teachers must also be trained in the program for us to do classes. Wala plaque is being pursued by Lucia and Ingrid volunteered to help as well. SOAR “Save Our American Raptors” will hold training in Illinois. Lucia moved to spend \$400.00 for 2 people to attend. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Rogers, motion carried. Carol moved to spend up to \$500 to upgrade the alligator snapping Turtle tank, with a stand. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. Motion carried. We discussed a pollinator garden project near the Eco Center Building. The friends agreed to table until we learn more regarding the costs, etc. On April, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 there will be a Frog and Toad DNR training. The host list was circulated, meeting adjourned.

The next Friends Meeting is:  
**APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 ~ Wapsi River Center ~ 6:00 P.M.**

**NOTE: April 3<sup>rd</sup> is a county Holiday (Good Friday)**