

## **Friends of the Wapsi Center Minutes/ Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - 6:00 P.M.**

### **Held at Scott County Park – Pioneer Village**

**Present:** Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski, Ingrid Bogdanowicz, Jim Ross and Eliza, Carol Rogers, Dave Murcia, Mike Granger, Kyle Moeller (quest), Erma Wiszmann and Emily Santiago.

Prior to the official friends meeting the Friends of the Wapsi Meeting held a potluck. Following the enjoyable feast Deb from Pioneer Village (Manager) discussed the village operation and programs. The Village also has a Friends group which applies for grants, holds fund raising events. The friends also help with events and leading tours, etc. Major events are on Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. In September this year there will be a Song and Dance festival. During the various events, they have presenters who show fur trapping, spinning wheel, blacksmithing etc. There needs to be more young people to go through the apprentice program to carry on the skills for these special events. The pioneer Friends help with the brochure and some historical publications.

**Meeting:** Friends official meeting called to order. Lucia moved the approval on the May Minutes as mailed. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** 6377.43 in the checking account. Paid out was \$110.00 that was previously approved. Have two CD's. Each amount is \$2500.00. Tonight we have received pop machine money and a \$20 donation and bonus bucks from Green Thumber's of Davenport.

**General:** Discussed tree to be planted for former employee Lisa Gerwulf: Learned about an Iowa Crabapple, but only get cuttings from a tree in Kentucky. The flowering crab apple would be in season to buy in July through September. Need prairie fires to help with crab apple. Staff attended the meeting at Nahant. For the frog and toad survey class at the Wapsi center 7 people attended including some Wapsi Staff (Santiago and Horton). Santiago and Horton are doing a frog and Toad survey route with 5 locations. Identified frog calls – Cricket, chorus and Green. This is led by the DNR. This will finish on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be certified by the National Park Service. All staff attended the Pollinator conference. Thanks to the Friends for the financial support. Thank you Carol, for recommending the Pollinator program to be a part of EDIWILD. The new summer interns are Kyle Moeller of Western Illinois, Ivy Swank of University of Illinois and Ariel Hyde who completed a St. Ambrose Internship. We are setting stones for the Pollinator garden and want to plant some more plants. The new well house has been slowed by the weather. They need to pour cement. There will be drinking fountains outside. The building can store the gator inside. Leroy, Kyle and Mike have planted almost 900 sapling trees in May. Nature center has more plants blooming without all of the trees. There is more sun. Bee Balm is blooming. Our Bee hive is doing well. They almost filled the container. They might start swarming if the queen flies away with a group from the hive, the hive will be designated. We can feed our hive through the winter. There is no known way to protect bees from mites in an observation hive. Dormitory discharge is in sync with state standards. Our Cabin is booked through August. Emily and Becky heard a hissing noise and it was the propane tank at Kestrel cabin. It was overfilled and was overheating. As trees grow the shade will help this. In May hosted 969 people. 5 programs were offsite. This year's EDIWILD was a 2 day course and participants will get 1 credit. When it was a 4 day course students got 2 credits. Becky, Emily and Bob Bryant evaluated the participants. Believe there is \$400.00 left of Ediwild money. 6/22 – 6/26 is the Jr Naturalist Camp. This will be at Nahant and at the Wapsi River Center. The Picasso Picnic was popular in July. Mike will shoot off Rockets. The Frogwarts are due here in July. The next friends Meeting will be at the Menke Observatory. We had a rare sighting of Black bellied Whistling ducks at the Wapsi Center. They are night feeders with long legs, and may use a wood duck house. Think they are nesting down at the small pond. Also saw a meadow Jumping mouse. It is a small mouse with a tail 3 times the length of its body. The bird mounts are almost complete.

#### Nominations and Election of Officers:

**President:** Ingrid Bogdanowicz **Vice President:** Lucia Dryanski **Treasurer:** Carol Rogers.

**Secretary:** Erma Wiszmann

**Board Members:** Mike Granger, Bill Robbins, Jim and Julie Ross

**All voted unanimously. Meeting adjourned.**

Open discussion: Language for Wala Memorial. Haven't seen Warren Wiese in a while. Donation to Wapsi Center may go to new center with natural heat and light. Possibly move to the front grass parking lot. Possibility of staff offices within the new center.

**NEXT MEETING: 7/16/2015 -----6:00 P.M. ----- At the MENKE OBSERVATORY**