

## **Friends of the Wapsi River Center Minutes**

**Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 P.M. - Wapsi River Center**

**Present:** Dave Murcia, Mike Granger, Bill Robbins, Carol Rogers, Ingrid Bogdanowicz, Kyle Moeller and Erma Wiszmann

**Minutes:** Approved as mailed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Checkbook Balance of \$3945.90 plus two CD's. Received \$25 from Tim Sowash who wants to be a member. Have pop money and donations to deposit.

**Staff Report:** Our new intern is Christian La Carte. The program is 40 hour weeks for 12 weeks. Christian Lives in Parkview. He plans to dedicate his internship to developing a hydroponic garden. Dave Murcia, Kyle Moeller and Beck are certified in IOWATER. We received a grant from Iowa Trees Forever. Now we can start buying more pollinator plants. We have 3 Eagle Scout projects planned. One project is for our raptors which will be an outdoor cage. There will be 2 raised garden beds and 3 Leopold benches. Sean is continuing with mowing the grounds and trails. New office plans are continuing. Headquarters is thinking of getting rid of the old buildings. Utilities are there. May create a new center and redesign. The new building might be located between the current office and the kestrel cabin. Want building as maintenance free as possible. They Might use cement board siding. Water sampling is okay but is updated. Fire extinguishers have been recertified. First aid kits are resupplied. Dorm discharge has been submitted to Iowa DNR. The Bees have arrived. One new hive is at the pole barn and the other at the Eco Center, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> at West Lake Park. Total of 36,000 bees were purchased to fill these hives. The bees come with food in their package. They are sprayed with sugar water and then put into the hives. We hope they will start producing honey. There are many environmental educational programs ongoing. This month there were 12 groups at the center and 7 groups off site. Many events are also planned. Dave will lead a program on the Channel Cat pontoon boat discussing raptors along the river. Emily is doing a program series called Paint by Nature. Girl scouts had a large event at the center one weekend. They donated 55 blue bird boxes made from old lumber. Thanks to the friends who paid a \$175 scholarship for the Nahant Marsh Wilderness Adventure Camp this summer. The grant will be given away to a camper via raffle. We still need to produce and mount the Dottie Wala Plaque. Ediwild is on June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Nahant Marsh. The Pollinator Conference is June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the River Center. 990N has been submitted. The Wapsi Friends are invited to a Pot Luck at Pioneer Village Saloon on July 17<sup>th</sup> at Noon. There will be music at 1:00 P.M. for the public. Friends are asked to stay around to answer questions of any potential new volunteers.

**General:** Mike described how the new bee packages were installed. Host list was passed around to volunteers. A discussion took place on the subject of Night Hawks. They have been seen by Lock and Dam 14, and the Wapsi River Center. Some discussion was focused on the decline of city building roofs which are no longer covered in gravel which the Night Hawk loves to nests on. We took our North Cedar group to Maquoketa caves, and saw a red milk snake. Garter snakes and fox snakes are active, outside. We discussed DRONES which have been recently seen. A fledgling hawk was found at a local cemetery and was left undisturbed for the parent hawks will take care of it. Ride the river brochures were passed out. Audubon is looking for 16 target species. This is a federal/ international program. To meet federal recognition. The birds need to be seen 3 years in a row to meet the official count. Red Shouldered hawks have been seen around Bettendorf.

**FRIENDS OF THE WAPSI CENTER ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> ~NOON to 5:00 P.M. ~ Wapsi River Center**

- >**There will be our meeting/orientation/training and Potluck!**
- > **Pot Luck: A Meat Dish, Drinks and Tableware will be provided.**
- > **Please bring a desert or side dish to share.**