

Friends of the Wapsi Center Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 2019
Wapsi River Environmental Education Center

Attendees: Naturalist Becky Baugh, Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski, Jim Ross, Erma Wiszmann and friend Pat, Carol Rogers, and Joy Sheeley.

The treasurer's report was approved. The current bank balance is 14,920.95. Becky told the group that the Cordova District Library has made a donation of \$250. The Center staff has presented programs there, as well as at many other area libraries.

Staff news: Two 4H AmeriCorps members have accepted positions at the Wapsi Center and will begin work in mid-May.

Grounds: Native roadside plantings have been burned this spring.

Facilities: The dormitory will remain available for environmental education until June 1, when renovation work will begin.

Education: Last month 5 groups, including 94 individuals, attended on-site programs. An additional 13 groups, including 1488 individuals, participated in programming off-site. One program was cancelled.

The Eagle View Eco Center welcomed 60 visitors this month. Bees will arrive this week for the Eco Center hive.

Old Business: About 20 people are expected to assist with the annual Volunteer Stewardship Workday on Saturday, April 20. Some goals are to weed the Eco Center perimeter, the butterfly garden, and in front of the dormitory. The Friends will provide salad and sandwiches from Panera for participants.

The group continued to discuss plans for the Sept. 14 Monarch Festival. Lucia suggested a craft session where participants would make a butterfly from watercolors, coffee filters, and clothespins. Jim suggested that another session could be a "reading corner" where someone would read aloud picture books that feature monarchs or monarch migration. The group agreed to provide a taco bar for the event.

We discussed ways that a laptop might be used by the Friends group, but did not decide to purchase one.

Becky suggested that we might give people the opportunity to order rain barrels for \$50, along with offering one or two ready-made barrels for sale in the gift shop. She will make a sign.

Becky has been in contact with Midwest Graphic Designs and Printing as a first step to adding kiosk and trail signage. She said we need to give them the graphics we want, and they will send us a template to approve. Signs under consideration are a map of the Center to be located in the kiosk, and multiple trail signs that will show an image of the trail and a hiker's location at that point.

New Business:

The Friends agreed to sponsor the hognose snake at \$100 per year. This amount will cover the cost of purchasing toads as a part of its diet.

The Center is still in need of ice cream buckets, five gallon buckets, and toilet paper tubes.

Becky thanked hosts and program volunteers, as well as those who have renewed their memberships, made donations, or sponsored EcoCenter animals.

The Friends group will meet next at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 16 at the Wapsi River Center.