

# Nature Center Minutes

## 10/13/10

Attendance: Anne Demarais, Rick Dutko, Helen Dutko, Sue Hermann, John Gaston, Teresita, Linda Townsend, Madeline Price, Steve Groeger, Carol Nicholas  
Guests: Richard Adamczyk, Michael Adamczyk, Ilene Miller, Alan Takasugi

### Scout Projects:

- Alan finished making and installing his boardwalks on Sunday October 11. He will submit his report to Boy Scout council in the near future. He submitted bills to the nature center, and Anne will give him a check for \$500 to cover expenses.
- Evan Halliday was home from college and came to the nature center last weekend for official pictures of his library Eagle Scout project. A plaque was installed.
- Garrett is still working on the write up for his Eagle project, which is to build a fence around the butterfly garden.
- John suggested we create a Scout Album with all the scout pictures and projects. We can have an annual exhibit to showcase their contributions. Ilene suggested using Command Strips which hold pictures on the walls without making holes in the walls.

### Rain Garden:

- the Public Works Department, Brian Friedlich, Jeremiah Bergstrom, Sean Walsh, and LNC volunteers helped install the rain garden on October 11th. The rain downspouts were buried and extended underground to a depressed area. Native plants were planted. A sign will be installed teaching about rain gardens. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this happen. A description of the process to make a rain garden accompanied with pictures will be put on the LNC website. Jeremiah Bergstrom would like to do a presentation for the public, and will communicate with Teresita and Rick to organize a date and time.

### Grant:

- Richard Krawczun announced that the nature center will be awarded \$25,000 for trail improvement from the New Jersey Recreational Trails Grant.
  - the grant will cover the supplies to build boardwalks over the wetlands, and some signage.
  - Rick and Anne will meet with Richard to plan the projects.
- Hopefully many volunteers can help to reduce expenses. Must be completed by 2013.

### Community Day:

- Rick, Sue and Carol had a table at Community Day teaching about nature, advertising the bat program, and looking for volunteers. Sue emailed 21 people who left their names and email addresses and asked them to sign up for the e-news. She invited them to attend the monthly meetings.
- the La Leche League gave Carol a \$50 check donation for the Nature Center, with thanks for letting them use the facility. Carol will send a thank you note.

### Programs and Events:

- Rick recently lead a nature hike for 8th grade students from the Cambridge School. They found many salamanders.
- The LHS environmental club is helping to monitor the boards installed around the property, and they are documenting the insect, herpes, reptiles, mammals.
- October 16-17 Teresita is leading a trail clean up with the Fraternity from 12-2. Contact Teresita if you would like to help.
- October 23 TBA Music Recital - Teresita is going to do a neighborhood survey this week and will report the results to Richard Krawczun so that she can organize a thank you concert for the Drexel Ave. neighborhood. More information to come soon.
- October 25 Bat Program - "Plight of the Bats" lead by naturalist Rick Dutko, 7 pm. Free
- November 21 - LHS environmental club S.A.V.E. will do a trail clean up from 2-4 pm.
- December 4th - Decorate a Wreath - lead by Teresita from 10-12. More info to come.
- December 11th - Trim a Tree - lead by Teresita from 2-3. More info. to come.

#### Plans and New Ideas:

- Linda and Pepper are thinking of organizing an open house in the spring for teachers. No date set yet.
- Linda and her 6th grade scouts may do a story time for young children. No date set yet.
- Sue would like to organize a changing seasons story time this fall. She will call the Mom's club to see if they are interested. No date set yet.
- Anne is talking with Lillian Lasalle from the Senior Center to organize a meadow walk. No date set yet.
- Carol and Linda Burroughs emailed the LTPS science coordinator to see if they could organize a science day at the nature center. No response to date.

#### Bylaws and Board Members:

- Members needed more time to review the bylaws so discussion was postponed to next month.
- If you would like to step down from the board, please inform Carol.
- If you would like to volunteer to be a board member, please inform Carol [<mailto:csn78@verizon.net>] by the next meeting in November.