

## Lawrence Nature Center Minutes May 4, 2009

**Attendance:** Rick Dutko, Helen Dutko, Ben Muzi, Dave Bosted, Pepper Evans, Tahirih Smith, Ralph Copleman, Jim Cordingley, Anne Demarais, Pam Mount, Barb Wethe, Carol Nicholas, Steve Groeger.

### **Teacher Visit:**

14 LIS 4th grade teachers visited the center today. Ralph and Rick introduced them to the potential teaching opportunities at the center. Barb presented several lesson plan ideas. Melissa Lockett will collect the teachers' comments, ideas, reservations, requests and forward to Carol and Rick.

### **Earth Day:**

Most people thought the day flowed well, had interesting displays, great animal show, fun crafts. The dedication of the Chimney Swift tower was wonderful and well attended. There was disappointment in the overall attendance. Other big events that day were Super Science Weekend, Princeton Communiversy Day, Washington Crossing event, sports. We decided to do a survey of friends who attended and also the participants to learn more and plan for the future. Carol will email a draft in an email today. Suggestions for next year are find a sponsor to help fund more ideas, puppet show, food venue, edible wild cooking workshop, music festival, nature games run by volunteers/scouts. Problems we know we need to solve are 1) difficulty getting good advertising in papers, 2) parking and how to get to center from parking.

### **Family Night:**

Anne completed the schedule and will be distributing the final draft soon. We need volunteers to help control crowds, introduce the speaker and lock up. Please call Anne and help out. Thanks Anne. The program looks great!

### **New Business:**

Carol will sign LNC up with Hands on Helpers. Once we do that, we need specific jobs for volunteers to do. Suggested ideas are 1) train guides to help lead class groups 2) develop the arboretum 3) develop a "baited track pit" in the meadow in view of the sunroom to watch animals and then study the tracks. Barb suggested several projects 1) boot scraper and mats at side door to reduce dirt 2) put up blinds/shades in storage room to decrease sun damage and curious eyes 3) build a shelf in the slop closet to get soaps off the floor and away from unsupervised children 4) put up cork board in sunroom inset so can use pins to display things. Tahirih suggested we have a display at the EPNA yard sale on May 16th 8:30-2 pm. Rick will move forward with the deck now that Steve has the permit.

### **Potluck Dinner**

We all want to thank Peter Wood for cooking a delicious Deep Fried Turkey, and everyone who brought a delicious side dish. Thank you to Anne for setting up and thinking of all the extras so we could enjoy the delicious food and comradship. Thank you to the cleanup crew who left the center sparkling. Our volunteers are the best!