

Mingo Swamp Friends Quarterly Meeting October 9, 2018

Present: Amanda Mossman, President; Leroy Romine, Vice President; Bruce Beck, Secretary; Herman Wilfong, member; Kara Ogilvie, Student Conservation Association Intern and member; Ben Mense, Refuge Manager, Debbie Koenigs, Refuge Ranger; Stephen Sutter, first-time visitor; Erin Snuggs, USACE Ranger at Wappapello Lake

Call to Order: President Amanda Mossman called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., in the Mingo NWR Visitor Center boardroom

Minutes of the July 10, 2018 Annual Meeting were declared approved as printed by President Mossman.

Financial report: A summary of the income and expenses for the third quarter, July through September 2018, was given by Bruce for treasurer Sharon Beck. The report was declared approved as printed by President Mossman. The printed report is attached.

Committee Reports

Facebook and Website Report by Amanda Mossman.

Both have been updated, highlighting the Photo Contest. The latest minutes have been added to the website.

Bookstore Report by Amanda Mossman.

An inventory of bookstore sales from June 29 through October 3 was completed by Amanda and Kara. Some items purchased years ago have incomplete data including wholesale cost. The report does not include shipping costs. The sales report is attached.

Photo Contest Report by Bruce Beck.

Bruce shared the schedule of venues for the photo display. The months of March, June and July are yet unscheduled. Bruce and Erin are continuing to fill the vacant months. Debbie invited the members to observe the portable display that she has set up in the multipurpose room. That display should not be needed until Eagle Days and perhaps at the Poplar Bluff Municipal Library in January.

Pavestones Report:

There are nine pavestones to be added to the display area. The display area will have to be expanded. Beck will contact Christian Memorials to get the pavestones ordered a month ago for Gerald Clawson and David Harris.

Membership:

Renewing members: Amanda Mossman, Bruce and Sharon Beck, Leroy Romine, Herman Wilfong

New Members: Zach Borowiak, Megan Cooley, Delbert Hupp, Tom Neumeyer, Stephen Sutter

Old Business

Banners and signage: The cleaned up logo with cypress swamp and eagle, done by Barbara Pelton of Artfully Framed in Poplar Bluff, was shown and its use discussed. A simpler logo, as on the bookstore's paper bags, was considered more appropriate for the pop-up tent and a tablecloth. **Motion** by Bruce, second by Leroy, to make available up to \$500 to Amanda and Debbie to design and buy signage at their discretion. If more funds should be needed, Amanda will contact the board members for approval. Motion passed.

New Business

Greater Poplar Bluff Area Chamber of Commerce Membership: Motion by Bruce, second by Leroy, that the \$125 annual membership be renewed. Motion Passed.

Eagle Days: Ben and Debbie suggested that the Friends pay the Mingo expenses for Eagle Days. This would help boost recognition of the Mingo Swamp Friends with the public. The cost should be about \$3,500. This will include the fees from Dickerson Park Zoo as well as the rental of chairs and portable latrines. Erin suggested that we might be able to use chairs from the Corps of Engineers at Wappapello. Dickerson Park Zoo offered to take the eagle presentation to schools in Poplar Bluff and Dexter for an extra cost of \$400. This will be discussed again at the January meeting.

Staff Reports

Refuge Manager Ben Mense:

- Priorities this past summer were to improve habitat for waterfowl. In July drainage was improved on Moist Soil Units 7 north and south. Trees and brush were cleared in "Charlie's Thicket." A new irrigation well was drilled in partnership with Ducks Unlimited.
- The Swamp Walk Nature Trail improvements were begun in early September. The eastern leg is being replaced with treated lumber bought and stockpiled last year. John Hagedorn, the new temporary maintenance worker has been working on the project, with some help from Job Corps youth. It is hoped that the work can be completed in the next few weeks.
- Sweets Cabin repairs and improvements will begin after the Swamp Walk is completed. The materials are in hand.
- Moist soil units are being flooded for waterfowl. Water is being pumped from Ditch 11.
- Managed hunts are being organized. The Managed Youth Hunt will be followed by the Soldiers Hunt. The Friends are asked again to buy the hunting licenses for the soldiers.

Refuge Ranger Debbie Koenigs:

- School field trips increased this fall.
- Debbie will be gone for training at the National Education Center in West Virginia October 14 through November 7.
- The Saturday morning Photography Workshops have worked well. Additional workshops will be scheduled in November.
- Kara mounted and labeled the winning contest photos. She took the display to the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center at the end of September.
- Debbie and Kara have been working on the Mingo history display presently in the hallway gallery. The group discussed additional sources of history, including asking the public for photos and stories.
- Programs concluded since the July Friends meeting:
 - Herps program, August 11
 - Saturday Photo workshops
 - Presence at the SEMO Fair

Next Meeting: January 8, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mingo Visitor Center.

Motion to adjourn by Leroy, second by Bruce. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Bruce Beck, Secretary