

Mingo Swamp Friends  
Minutes of Quarterly Meeting  
May 9, 2017

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by President Amanda Mossman.

Attendance: Seven persons were present: President Amanda Mossman, Vice President Leroy Romine, Secretary Bruce Beck, Members John Stanard and Steve Shelton, Assistant Refuge Manager Corey Kudrna, Refuge Ranger Debbie Koenigs, and Intern Jessica Reker. Steve Shelton was recognized as our newest member and welcomed to the group.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the January 12, 2017 Quarterly Meeting were read by Secretary Bruce Beck. Motion by John Stanard to approve the minutes as read. Second by Steve Shelton. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The financial summary from December 31, 2016 through April, 2017 was prepared by Sharon Beck and read by Bruce Beck. Motion by Shelton, second by Stanard to approve the report as printed. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Facebook: Mossman reported no changes since the January 12 report.

Website Management: Mossman reported no changes since the January 12 report.

Bookstore: Mossman reported that she continues to replenish the bookstore items. She has been ordering books, laminated folded pocket guides and plush toys. Items ordered specifically for Eagle Days have sold well, with little stock remaining. Just today she updated the inventory of the bookstore stock. A printed copy of the inventory was shared with the group. The inventory lists items ordered and their costs, their sale price, and number sold.

Unfinished Business:

Newsletter: Mossman reported that she is working on the May newsletter together with Kudrna and Koenigs. Mossman is including a report on the April 22 Pilot Knob NWR hike. It was suggested she highlight books and other items for sale in the bookstore.

Ag Expo: Beck, Mossman, Kudrna and Koenigs worked the Ag Expo booth. Attendance seemed to be down, perhaps due to weather.

Eagle Days: The Swamp Friends banner was found before Eagle Days, thanks to Peter Rea. The event went more smoothly than in the past. Cooperation with the Corps of Engineers and others was productive. Bookstore items sold exceptionally well. Kudrna and the Swamp Friends hope to find a way to make Eagle Days an annual rather than a biennial event at Mingo.

Fishing Rig Loans: Romine has prepared the fishing rods for loan. Koenigs has set up the display in the Visitor Center. There have been no takers yet, but the display and newspaper announcements have yielded positive responses.

Pavestones: We are waiting on responses from Gerald Clawson's family to Judy Plunkett.

Food Plot Discussion: Plots have been disked and planted by Egypt Gate, at Sand Blow and on Moist Soil Unit 2. Motion by Beck, second by Stanard, that \$200 be available to Mingo NWR for fertilizer and lime as needed. Motion passed.

Photo Contest: Beck reported on the display setup, the display schedule, and proposed procedures. The display has been at the following locations since last August:

- September – Sikeston Depot
- October – Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center
- January – Poplar Bluff Public Library
- February – First Midwest Bank in Puxico
- March – Puxico School
- April – Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center in St. Louis
- May – Peoples Community Bank in Puxico
- June – Lake Wappapello Corps of Engineers Visitor Center

A copy of the proposed rules and entry form, display venues, and budget are attached. Beck, Stanard and the officers will review these before finalizing and printing the forms. Beck will get forms printed. Mossman will post the rules and registration form on the Swamp Friends website. Beck will have the contest fliers and entry forms printed. They will accompany the display and be sent to schools, sponsors and chambers.

Membership Fliers: Stanard will look for photos used for the original membership flier. Beck will have 500 revised membership fliers printed.

New Business:

Fishing Day: After much discussion, it was decided to not hold Fishing Day on the Refuge this year. Considering flooding and competition with MDC fishing days, it was deemed that Fishing Day on the Refuge would not be effective. Instead, we will recognize a “Fishing Year,” with the loaning of fishing gear on the refuge.

Quickbooks Update: We see no need to update Quickbooks for approximately \$300, especially since we do not yet have someone who can program and use it.

McAfee Virus Protection Renewal: Beck will have McAfee renewed on the Friends’ laptop.

E-mail for Mingo Swamp Friends: Mossman will look into getting e-mail service for Mingo Swamp Friends.

Ag Expo: The Butler County University of Missouri Extension Council has sent a letter to past exhibitors at Ag Expo offering a 10% discount for early registration and payment for the January 19-20, 2018 Ag Expo in Poplar Bluff. Motion by Stanard, second by Shelton, to pay the \$200 registration before May 31. Motion passed. Beck will take a check for \$200 to the Extension Office, asking for the same booth space #24 that we had this past January.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting and election of officers will be held Tuesday, July 18 at 6:30 p.m. We’ll have an ice cream social in the multi-purpose room of the Visitor Center.

Staff Reports:

Assistant Manager Corey Kudrna reported that flooding has closed the Ozark Highlands Road past Rabbit Ridge. Water passing through the new spillway at present is about 1,472 cubic feet per second. This compares to the normal flow of about 350 cfs.

Ranger Debbie Koenigs reported that rain has caused the cancellations of the May 6 paddle ride and several school visits. She and Jessica Reker are concentrating on indoor activities and a night sky watch on May 26. Summer reading programs at the Poplar Bluff Public Library are providing Mingo awareness to the public. We hope to have more visitors to Mingo this coming summer.

Adjournment: Motion by Shelton, second by Stanard, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

## 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MINGO SWAMP FRIENDS FLORA AND FAUNA PHOTO CONTEST

The Mingo Swamp Friends Flora and Fauna Photo Contest is intended to showcase Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and our local wildlife and plants. The photos are displayed locally and across the state. Participants exhibit their passion for Mingo and for nature through their photography. Contest winners receive recognition, ribbons, and monetary premiums.

### Entrant Categories:

- Y Youth – 17 and younger as of August 1, 2017
- A Adult – 18 and older
- P Professional – persons making more than 25% of their income from photography

### Photo Categories:

- Mingo Landscape – *Photo must have been taken at Mingo NWR*
- People in Nature – *Photo must have been taken at Mingo NWR*
- Native Wildlife
- Native Plants

### Judging Criteria:

- Overall impact
- Technical excellence
- Originality
- Subject matter appropriate to Mingo NWR

### Placings and Premiums:

- Best of Show – One each for Youth, Adult and Professional, \$50
- First Place – in each photo and entrant category, \$20
- Second Place – in each photo and entrant category, \$10
- Third Place – in each photo and entrant category, \$5

### Submission Guidelines:

1. Contestants may enter only one photo per category. No photos entered in previous Swamp Friends contests may be entered.
2. All photos must be 8”x 10” in size and must be matted to an 11”x 14” outer measurement.
3. A high quality digital file must be submitted with the photo –via email to [beckbugs@mycitycable.com](mailto:beckbugs@mycitycable.com), USB drive or SD card.
4. A signed release form must be submitted with the entry form, giving Mingo Swamp Friends permission to use submitted photos for promotional and educational purposes.

**Entry Fee: \$5.00 fee to enter any one photo, OR \$25 to enter four photos plus membership in Mingo Swamp Friends for one year.**

Submit photos and digital files in person or by mail to:

Mingo Swamp Friends  
Mingo National Wildlife Refuge  
24279 Highway 51  
Puxico, MO 63960

Deadline for Entries: August 1, 2017

Questions? Phone (573) 222-3589

Email [mingoswampfriends@gmail.com](mailto:mingoswampfriends@gmail.com)



Mingo Swamp Friends Photo Contest  
 Display Venues 2016-2017

Month	Location	Contact
August	Mingo NWR Visitor Center - judging and display	Corey Kudrna 573-222-3589
September	Sikeston Depot	
October	Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center	Sarah 573-290-5386
November		
December		
January	Poplar Bluff Public Library	573-686-8639
February	First Midwest Bank, Puxico	Anthony Sifford 573-222-3503
March	Puxico Schools	Tara Brown - tbrown@puxico.k12.mo.us
April	Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center	Rebecca Rodriguez - Rebecca.Rodriguez@mdc.mo.gov
May	Peoples Community Bank, Puxico	
June	Lake Wappapello USACE Visitor Center	Andrew Jefferson 573-222-8562
July	Mingo NWR Visitor Center	Corey Kudrna 573-222-3589