



Waterloo Aquatic Education Center

Education Committee Meeting

January 19, 2009

Waterloo Aquatic Education Center

Attendance: Bernhard Debatin, Debbie Spangler, Keri Engelhart, Logan O'Shell, Tim Prange, Rocky McNickle, Heike Perko, Jim Raeder, Rina Caldwell, Amy Mackey, Emily Boyer, Cindy Parker, Bethany Philipow, Dan Hickman, Lorraine Mc Cosker;

Waterloo Aquatic Education Center (WAEC) Background: The WAEC is housed in the former ODNR Division of Wildlife (DOW) Research Center, located on the Waterloo Wildlife Area near New Marshfield. The Raccoon Creek Partnership (RCP), a local 501 (c) 3 non-profit, leased the laboratory from the DOW to be used as an Aquatic Education Center. The RCP signed the lease in March of 2008. The WAEC received a \$10,000 grant from DOW to purchase aquatic education equipment, and also received about \$2000 from the Athens Foundation to purchase paint and propane for the building.

Fall 2008 Day Camps:

- 4 camps (Aquatic Ecology, Animals in Winter, Plant Anatomy, Holidays in Coal Country)
- Average of 15 children / camp
- Feedback was minimal, but good, participants are interested in future activities.

WAEC Legal Issues:

- Jim Raeder will research the Ohio Recreation Act and speak with Sowash (lawyer) regarding liability concerns and drafting a waiver
- Rural Action and Sierra Club have a waiver that they use and will send to Heike

Spring 2009 Day Camps:

- April 4th – Spring Wildflowers (Debbie, Keri, Lorain, Cindy)
- April 11th – Amphibians (Heike, Amy, Rina)
- April 18th – Green Energy / Green Building (Zanesville girls), OR Aquatic Ecology
- Will put brochure together to be distributed at schools, food pantries, clothing centers, etc.
- All camps will be 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Participants bring their own lunch

Week-long Summer Camp(s):

- Possibly one in June and one in August?
- Ages 8-14
- Must Pre-register, limit to about 20?
- Focus on the Watershed
- Don't have to stay at the center; can utilize Lake Hope, Carbondale, etc.
- Would like to provide breakfast and lunch

- Free food may be available through Appalachian Food Nutrition Network
- Can we get busing?
 - From the schools
 - Church vans
 - Hocking vans / bus
 - May be able to get a grant from Walmart
- Possible topics
 - DOW electro-fishing demo
 - Hocking mist-netting
 - Evening camp (stars, coyotes, owls, bats...)
 - Carbondale doser
 - Canoeing (Keri and Logan are interested in instructing)
 - Fishing / Pond Study
 - Pollution
 - Landscape
 - Other topics???

Other Info / Ideas:

- Vegetable / native plant gardens at Waterloo
 - Need reliable volunteers to take care of it.
 - Would need to protect it from the deer!
- Possibly offer evening hikes / stargazing at Waterloo this summer
- Take WAEC programs to local libraries, etc.
- Conduct community interviews (Mineral, Carbondale, New Marshfield...)
 - Keri is interested in doing this
- Public meeting / activity / event in Carbondale, possibly at Community Center
- **Sierra Club: Edible Valentine's for Wildlife (sorry, I didn't catch the date for this!).
Contact Lorain for more info!**
- April 26th, Appalachian Ohio Alliance, Saving Our Land.
 - At Waterloo
 - FREE!
 - Will have local vegetarian lunch
 - Hiking
 - Possibly tour the new Hewett Fork property
 - Ben McCament (Raccoon Creek Watershed Coordinator) may present about the watershed.
 - Offer fishing and canoeing

ACTION ITEMS:

- Spring Camps
 - If you are in charge of one of the camps, be sure to get your activities and an agenda together! See dates and names above. All camps will be 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Leave 15-20 minutes for kids to eat lunch.
- Grants
 - A few people mentioned grant writing experience / interest. We are looking for funding to pay for phone and internet at the center, busing, food...
- Appalachian Food Nutrition Network
 - Emily and Cindy have utilized their services, could you get some info together for us??

- Bethany – please check dates and availability of your group for the spring camp!
- Summer Camps
 - Please be thinking of dates, topics, and possible instructors!

Next Meeting is scheduled for March 14th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center.

Thanks for your interest in the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center and we hope to see you in March!

Contact Heike at heikeperko@ohiohills.com if you have questions!