

# **Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Board Meeting**

**Monday January 12, 2009 at 6:00PM at  
Book and Bean in Berea**

Present: Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles, Diane Sigler, Barbara Warny.

## 1. Finances and response to annual appeal - Nancy Howell

a. WCAS made \$336. on the silent auction at December 2008 program

b. The Annual Appeal has so far grossed \$1,460. Cost was about \$600.

Tom asked for opinions on why the response to the annual appeal was better this year. We added a self-addressed envelope. Wording of the letter was improved. We offered prizes for donors.

c. Next financial challenge is pay and benefits for Coordinator of the Important Bird Area project, Diane Sigler. WCAS can pay half of the salary now, but will need to raise money for the rest. Metroparks will provide support of benefits. Metropark support is not as high this year. WCAS has the following means of raising the funds: Audubon Ohio Minigrant, Annual appeal, Silent Auction, Outreach talks, Ultrawalk. Tom would like to see another fundraiser this winter and spring. Diane proposed she talk with some faculty and classes at Baldwin-Wallace to see if there might be walkers, or if the programs there might mesh with our project. Diane also offered to write an article for the newsletter of the Miami University Environmental Sciences Program. Kit suggested we sell some space in the newsletter, specifically in the copy which goes to the 900-plus national Audubon members. Tom would like to have some corporate sponsors. Barbara mentioned that the sponsor would not have to be a large company, but more likely a local business. Diane mentioned corporate environmental units which might have some matching funds. Stan indicated that in our pitch we should be clear what audience we reach, and mention that we have x-volunteers who have donated x-hours to the IBA project. Liz requested a script for recruiting sponsors. Tom asked that each person identify two prospects and find a contact person.

## 2. Upcoming newsletter – Kit Birch

Tom will write a front page item about the IBA walk. It will include events leading to our IBA survey, open house and Ultrawalk. Kit will include a list of Audubon Spring Walks during April and May. Item for newsletter: Need volunteers for Buzzard day and for North Coast Nature Festival.

## 3. New Petersen Biography: We will request their review.

4. Audubon Ohio Minigrant – Diane Sigler
  - a. Diane is writing proposal. There are two categories of grant: Education, Conservation or Chapter Development  
Global Warming  
Our IBA project seems to fit best with conservation or chapter development. It continues to broaden our base in the community, to generate funding and support. Quotes: Contact Andy Jones of Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Ann Murphy of Western Reserve Land Conservancy
  
5. Insert in newsletter with membership renewal – yes – no – how we prevent fall out. – All. We can “ sticker “ the sides of the mailing. Also might consider “post-it” type adhesive for the notice. Renewal notice should be a separate sheet of a different color. This is for the 900-piece mailing next fall.
  
6. Opportunity to talk about RR IBA at Parma Heights Library. Nancy Howell will contact the library to learn what type of program would fit in, and to pick the date. This would be part of a series of “green” programs in May.
  
7. Ohio Bird Record Committee Checklist - do we want to sell? Mary Anne reported that Robert Hershberger at Time and Optics has paid for publishing. He will provide copies at wholesale to groups. Copies in bulk are \$1.99 He sells single copies for \$3.75 including shipping and tax. In his shop they are \$2.99. WCAS could sell at meetings, if Earthwords does not have them on sale.
  
8. Gund and other foundations have reduced grants due to economic crisis. Tom Romito and Stan Searles reported that there is less attention to green projects, unless you are big, or unless the project addresses an emergency situation. WCAS will need other funding to support the IBA project in years 4 and 5.
  
9. IBA survey year 4 orientation and training dates: Our first choice is Sunday, March 29, 2009. Second Choice is April 5. Will contact the Nature Center about availability on these dates. We will have an open house and training on the same day. Tom, Penny and Diane will meet with Black River Audubon to see some of their birders would like to be part of the IBA project. Will invite them to the open house

10. Buzzard Day: March 15, 2009. We have the opportunity to have a table. Will check with Martha Catherwood of Hinckley Twp. To learn what hours, and other details. Will ask for members to volunteer to staff the table.
  
11. North Coast Nature Festival: April 24, 25, 26, 2009 will contact Dan Crandall who is coordinating the event. Will ask for members to volunteer to staff the table.
  
12. Meeting with Metroparks to discuss Diane's salary for 2009: January 15, 2009 at 3 p.m. Mary Anne, Tom, Diane, others? Will attend.
  
13. Ultrawalk planning: Small number walk 31 miles, and a larger group walk the final five. Need some event at the Ranger Station area where the 5-milers will await the Ultrawalkers. Will look at the visible small parking area in front. Would like to promote this in the Emerald Necklace (need 90-day lead time) Liz will contact Emerald Necklace. Stan will contact Bob Hinkle. Will also contact Jim McCarty at Plain Dealer. Nancy Howell suggested that we have a separate meeting to plan this event. We can outline the steps and action needed. Date for this is Sunday, January 18 at 11 a.m. at Panera in Strongsville, following the Hinckley Township property walk that morning.
  
14. Landfill and burnt hawks – can or do we do anything? Liz Clingman explained the problem of raptors perching on methane pipes at landfills. As the gas is burned off, the raptors are killed and injured. Excluders can be added to the vent pipes. Diane will check with Ohio EPA.
  
15. Quick report on the Wind conference in Cleveland – Liz Clingman. This was an all-day event. Technical and futuristic. Wind energy firms were there. Mayor Frank Jackson spoke. Sites on Lake Erie are proposed. Considerations include birds, water depth, and wind. Area off Cleveland looks like a probable site. Liz brought back literature and a DVD copy of the Ohio Coastal Atlas.
  
16. Next meeting date: Sunday, February 22, 2009 at 5 p.m. Liz Clingman's.

--Penny O'Connor