

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Board Meeting

**Monday January 4, 2010, at 6 p.m.
at *Sandwich Delites in Berea***

Present: Gayle Albers, Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles

1. Financial statement: Nancy Howell reported \$13,307.53 on hand
2. Annual Appeal; So far \$1,403. received. This is a net profit of \$712. Costs included printing, postage, and coffee offered as gift to donors. Tom asked if we have ideas for improving next year. Possibilities: Send it out earlier? Tom also asked for figures so we might compare the results to previous years. Nancy will bring figures to the next board meeting.
3. Brainstorm ideas of Stakeholders: This item set aside for the next board meeting, due to absence of Diane Sigler.
4. Bird Trail at Zoo: Gayle Albers drew up a timeline of activities for putting a bird trail in place at the Zoo. Theme will be climate change and birds. Hoping to involve some other groups. WCAS will walk the area on March 22 at 2 p.m. in order to decide what habitats are available, what birds might find which areas attractive, and to look at possible routes for the trail. Timeline: Winter/Spring to pick field trip dates to list birds using the area and find possible nest sites. Spring/Summer to assemble and set up boxes, decide on communication and signage. Summer/Fall to do training on monitoring and to decide how to handle "undesirable" species. Trail to be opened or monitored in 2011. One idea: Martin house by the polar bears.
5. Grant Proposal: Audubon grant request was sent forward in December. Decision will be sometime after January 31, 2010. Asked for money to create a final report of the Five-year Rocky River Important Bird Area Forest Breeding Bird Survey.
6. Date for UltraWalk and Bird a thon: Saturday, June 5, 2010. Liz would like to see a booth set up in a high-traffic area along the route. Tom asked that we discuss public relations and community involvement at our next meeting.
4. COAC revival (Jan. 23rd meeting): Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters. Stan Searles and Diane Sigler have expressed interest in attending. Nancy

and Tom were part of this group in the past. They would like to see COAC take the lead in strengthening chapters.

5. Feb/Mar newsletter items: Kit Birch offered a draft of the next newsletter for review. We will ask for volunteers for several upcoming events: B-W Sustainability Symposium (Stan, Diane)
 - Science Olympiad, Buzzard Sunday, North Coast Nature Festival
6. Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair: WCAS presented a certificate last year. Penny asked if a cash prize might be awarded. The Board voted to award two \$50 prizes in addition to some certificates. Judging is Tuesday, March 16, at Cleveland State University. Judges: Gayle Albers, Nancy Howell, Dave LeGallee, Penny O'Connor.
7. Donations were agreed for the following :
 - Black Swamp Bird Observatory for Ohio Young Birders - \$50.
 - Medina Raptor Center - \$100.
 - Not agreed to: Ohio Ornithological Society, Whitetails Unlimited
8. North Coast Nature Festival (April 23-25) time to order table if we want one again: We will have a table. Liz will arrange. Volunteers can contact Liz.
9. Cuyahoga County Agric. Soc. – wind turbine at Berea Fairgrounds – meeting Jan13, 2010: Stan and Nancy will try to attend. Stimulus money will allow the project to go forward. WCAS will offer to monitor bird strikes.
10. Bonnie Park will be the spot for the June year-end picnic
11. Other: Gayle Albers was invited to be part of WCAS board, and accepted.
12. Year 5 of bird survey will be taken up at the next meeting
13. Next meeting: Sunday, February 21, 3 p.m. at Liz Clingman's house.