

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2007 WCAS BOARD MEETING

1. **CONVENING.** The WCAS board held its monthly meeting on October 22, 2007, at the Book and Bean Coffee Shop in Berea. Attendees included President Tom Romito, Treasurer Nancy Howell, and Directors-at-Large Mary Anne Romito, Terri Martincic, Kathleen Tiburzi, Liz Clingman and Kit Birch. Guests included IBA Coordinator Diane Sigler and Stan Searles, Curator of Ornithology at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

2. **FINANCES.** Nancy reported that we have \$12,277 in our bank account.

3. **END-OF-YEAR APPEAL LETTER.** Prior to the meeting, Tom drafted an end-of-year appeal letter and distributed it by e-mail to the board members. We discussed whether it should be an appeal for donations or chapter memberships or both. We decided that the letter should first state an appeal for donations. Then the letter should state the importance of our IBA initiative. Finally, the letter should appeal to NAS members who are on our WCAS roster to become chapter supporters. We will offer the first ten people to give \$100 free chapter memberships. Tom will submit another draft to the board, and once the board approves it, we will print it and have an envelope-stuffing meeting. We plan to accomplish this by late November.

4. **NEWSLETTER.** Tom congratulated Kit on the latest issue of the newsletter, which is due back from the printer now. Mary Anne noted that we inserted two additional pages to make the issue eight pages long. The pages feature an article by Tom on Audubon Ohio's priorities and how WCAS is addressing them, and a portion of the WCAS history that is on the website.

5. **IBA WALK.** Before talking about the IBA walk, Stan suggested that we come up with a "theme bird" that captures the spirit of the IBA project, which has become more a habitat survey than just a bird survey. Stan, who is an ardent WCAS supporter, then suggested that we start promoting the 2008 IBA walk after November by meeting with the mayors of the communities through which we will walk. Tom will contact Penny to see if she already has names and contact information for the mayors. Stan said he wants to give talks to local Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs in the early part of the year to promote the IBA walk. We discussed elements of the IBA walk that we have been talking about for several months, including the duathlon, in which Stan is going to get Champs Racing members to participate. All of the proceeds will go to WCAS. Several board members, as well as Stan, and Diane met with Jane Christysen and Mike Barnhart of Cleveland Metroparks on August 29 to discuss the plan in detail.

7. **DONALD GRAY GARDEN PHOTO BOOK.** Mary Anne showed us a history book of Donald Gray Gardens. The board directed Mary Anne to post some of the pictures in the book on the website.

8. **DIKE 14 ACCESS.** Mary Anne discussed recent reports that some birders have gone onto the Dike without authority. The board asked Mary Anne to stress to our members at our next meeting not to sneak onto Dike 14.

9. BIRD COMMUNITY ATLAS PROGRAM AT CMNH. Terri said she is promoting the input of bird observations to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. This could involve inputting bird walk checklists from various community members and groups. Terri is going to hold an organizational meeting on November 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Museum library. She plans to conduct data entry on the third Wednesday of every month starting in January.

10. PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR IBA. Tom reported that he and Stan are going to give a presentation on the IBA project to the Town & Country Co-op in Medina on Tuesday, October 23. The board suggested that Tom take copies of the newsletter to hand out, as well as maps of IBA and one of our Powerpoint shows.

11. AUDUBON ADVENTURES. Nancy reported that she has seven classroom kits and two single kits in her possession. She contacted the teachers who participated last year and gave them until the end of October to apply for kits. After that, any teacher can ask for them.

12. COAC RETREAT. Tom explained that the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) has called a retreat for chapter leaders at the Mohican Outdoor School on November 3. Tom plans to attend as WCAS President and also as chair of Audubon Ohio's Chapter Relations Committee. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a proposed merger of COAC and the Chapter Relations Committee. Tom explained that the COAC trustees want to retain an identity as the independent voice of the chapters, and said the Chapter Relations Committee stands ready to help COAC accomplish its goals. The consensus of the WCAS board members is that doesn't really function as an individual voice. It appears redundant with the Chapter Relations Committee being as active as it is in trying to make chapters strong.

13. SCIENCE OLYMPIAD. Nancy said March 15 is the date of the next Science Olympiad at Cleveland State University and she cannot participate in it due to a professional commitment.

14. PURCHASE OF BACKYARD BIRD GUIDES. The board decided to table a discussion of this item until the next meeting.

15. IBA MESSAGING. The board table a discussion of this item until the next meeting.

16. ANNUAL REPORT. Diane showed us a draft of the chapter annual report she is developing. Diane said she should have a more polished version for the November board meeting. The board was please with her progress. Tom said that the Gund Foundation gave us a deadline of February to provide them with the report. Tom said that Gund also gave wants us to have conducted an outreach meeting with stakeholders by February. Kit asked what we will do with the grant we received from Gund this year besides fund the annual report and stakeholder meeting. We discussed funding another year of Diane's salary (if Metroparks does not fund it all) and possibly a graduate student's research project.

17. The board decided to meet on Sunday, November 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Book and Bean.

18. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.