

**Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting**

Sunday Mar 16, 2008, 5:00 p.m., Book and Bean, Berea

Present: Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Penny O'Connor, Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Diane Sigler

1. Treasurer's Report: Nancy Howell reported \$14,963.

2. Important Bird Area (IBA) Progress Report
Each board member received a copy. Tom Romito reported that 120 copies have been printed. They will be distributed to libraries, to public officials including mayors and engineers, as well as to Audubon Ohio board and chapters

3. IBA Outreach
 - a. Tom Romito has given several talks on the Rocky River IBA: Medina Town and Country Coop, Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District at Middleburg Hts (public officials), N. Olmsted Kiwanis. Six more are scheduled, including Metroparks Commissioners, N. Royalton Rotary, Westlake Community Center, Broadview Hts Lions. Berea Kiwanis. Metroparks Administration lent a laptop and projector.

4. IBA Walk and Biathlon – sponsors, media, van, volunteers. Also details on March 30 IBA celebration at Rocky River Nature Center.
 - a. Stan Searles believes that WCAS will make money because the registration money comes to us. Difficulty: Our walk is the same weekend as Cleveland marathon...
 - b. Our fundraising helps build name recognition through our IBA project. As we seek grants we will build on this. Need money to get money.
 - c. Terri Martincic mentioned the importance of preserving land from development. Western Reserve Land Conservancy needs help. RRIBA project has potential to help preserve land.
 - d. Tom: approval for letter? Yes.
 - e. Still trying to secure a van.
 - f. Volunteers needed to cover stations along the way. We will ask for volunteers on March 30.
 - g. Liz Clingman will arrange food for the March 30 event: Sandwiches for people doing testing and review (in a classroom) For public: Shade-grown coffee and pastries. Ice.
 - h. March 30 event: James McCarty will attend. Penny will send a notice to Sun papers.
 - i. Tom phoned about 60 chapter members to ask them to volunteer as observers, etc. in the upcoming IBA survey and other events.
The following people agreed to be observers: Ken Ballas, Bill Deininger, Dave Dvorak, Dave Grasskemper, Paula Lozano, Mary Anne Romito, Tim Krynak, Chris Flynn, Tony Hess, Jim McCarty, Kit Birch, Mary Lou Hura, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Henry Fortlage, and Gabe Leidy.
 - j. Switch points? Add points in "inner" Hinckley, Wetlands maybe? West Creek?
 - k. Tom: With respect to March 30:

- i. What tables are needed? Sign in table, Volunteers for walk, for kids (craft), GPS and recorder table, Vernal pools, amphibians, owls (Val Fetzer), Butterfly survey (West Virginia white butterfly =forest), Ohio Breeding Bird Survey Blitz. Classroom seating for initial presentation, tables, plus classrooms.
 - l. Sponsors
 - i. Stan Searles will check for corporate sponsors.
 - ii. Individual walkers will also ask for sponsors.
 - m. Stan has committed to t-shirts for participants. WCAS may need t-shirts for volunteers, need giveaways for participants. We agreed on magnets with logo and some wording.
5. Will give \$100. To WRLC. All present were in favor.
6. Involvement in Port Authority plan to move the Port of Cleveland
Tom Romito reported. WCAS is part of the Dike 14 Environmental Education Cooperative. Port Authority wants to move from near mouth of Cuyahoga River to E. 55th St. area. Audubon Ohio is against it as it encroaches on natural areas and IBA. Nancy Howell asked about some “lake shore mitigation” ODNR seems to see the Port of Cleveland move as inevitable. What is the time frame? Over twenty years. Principles we want to reinforce: public access and mitigation, and a wild area. Port Authority has supported Dike 14 EEC’s grant proposal, so Dike 14 EEC has supported the move.
7. Freshwater Future grant
- a. Diane Sigler wrote the proposal, Will ask Terry Robison to add a Metroparks perspective. Will try for a grant of \$3,000 and ask Gund to match.
8. Waterford Press brochure sales (Tom) Tom has picked up 100 each of Great Lakes Trees and Wildflowers, and Ohio Birds Can sell at RRNC events when EarthWords is closed. Can take to field trips.
9. WCAS logo stamp for 3/30 event.
Kit will investigate. Officemax is a possibility.
10. Activities and supplies for the Family Craft Table: Kit Birch has planned these activities for children and families
- a. Coloring sheets of several birds
 - b. Bookmark, Stickers
 - c. Pine Cone feeder, or bagel feeder
11. Other items:
- a. Nancy presented a brochure from Columbus Audubon for kids.
 - i. They also had bird trading cards
 - ii. Columbus Audubon has an annual birdathon which raises thousands. Would like to train other chapters in exchange for donation to Columbus Audubon.

- b. Mary Anne Romito suggested about Columbus Audubon offer – let's tell them that we are interested as a future item.
- c. Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, \$65,000 educational operating grant for 2008, Diane found from Metroparks board notes.
- d. Tim Krynak won an award as Interpreter.
- e. North Coast Bird Festival (proposed)
 - i. Began with Dave Lewis' e-mail
 - ii. Would be a huge commitment for groups...
- f. Audubon Ohio is offering minigrants for chapter projects.
 - i. Nancy's idea: activity book for families, trading cards
 - ii. Could be used at WCAS events, Dike 14 events
 - iii. Will think of groups which would collaborate, or share this
 - iv. Mary Anne will take Nancy's draft and create a folder in Publisher.
- g. Can WCAS recover compasses given out last year? Diane and Terri will account for them, and Tom will redistribute this spring.
- h. April meeting date: Monday, April 28, 2008 Book and Bean, 6 p.m.