

# **Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Board Meeting Sunday March 18, 2007, 1:00 p.m., Book and Bean, Berea**

Present: Kit Birch, Laurie Boylan, Nancy Howell, Dave Lewis, Terri Martincic, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Diane Sigler, Kathleen Tiburzi

## 1. Coffee sales: Kit Birch

Going well, need to order only \$30-worth for free shipping. Will bring Coffee to the April 1 IBA meeting. WCAS expects to make about \$100. on coffee by the end of the year. Discussion of whether to serve decaffeinated coffee at the meetings. Will change over.

2. Dave Lewis Photo fund-raiser.: Mary Anne Romito reports that the first 24 photos are on the WCAS website, the rest will go up after tax time. At the next meeting and at the IBA meeting we will let everyone know that photos are available to purchase.. Dave has created a beautiful presentation for North Coast Nature Festival.

## 3. Grantseeking

Tom Romito will request a grant from Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund. This organization funds organizations interested in watershed planning and habitat. Will build our grant on last year's outcomes, i.e. survey. Part of the package includes our budget and our plans for funding from some other sources. Also have analysis of IBA survey results.

4. Report of meeting with Dan Petit, Cleveland Metroparks (Tom Romito, Diane Sigler, and Mary Anne Romito) : At some point we will have training for the vegetation survey. A citizen science group is very effective in approaching the community officials. Volunteers can have a high impact. A CWRU graduate student will be doing a vernal pool study in the IBA area. Volunteers may help by measuring depth of water in survey areas to identify vernal pools. Next year she will be able to do a salamander survey. This will integrate with the bird and vegetation surveys. Diane notes that it will be worthwhile to combine. We are developing a network of scientists who will help with IBA.

5. April 1 IBA meeting (All) : In addition to Tom Romito, WCAS board members and Dan Petit, presenters will include Kathy Kayak, Valerie Fetter. Mary Anne has prepared a list of volunteer options for the IBA project. Tom circulated a list of talking points : a) Celebrate success, review survey, note that this is not a test day, talk about components and events in the survey. There will be a field test in April or May to qualify observers. Nancy Howell and Mary Anne Romito will be the field testers. Will promote the Audubon Spring Bird Walks, WCAS Birdathon,

field trips, Nature Center monthly morning walks and beginning bird walks as refreshers. Dan Petit will give an overview of the IBA area. Tom will talk about identifying points on the ground. Previous points will have to be flagged again, New points will need to be identified and flagged. New points will be wetland and forest. Will introduce the concept of the vegetation survey. Will also talk about the salamander survey and vernal pools. Also we will need for people to sign up : observers, recorders (NH), point-finders (TR), vernal pools (MA) and amphibians (Fetzer and K. Krynak), vegetation (Terri Martincic), Birdathon (POC). Will also talk about weeders in the wild, additional skills, besides the science skills. Food for IBA planning event : Liz Clingman. Board members are asked to be at the Rocky River Nature Center by noon.

6. Letter to BW professors about IBA survey: Diane Sigler. Will invite Dr. Melampy and students to the April 1 IBA meeting and propose that BW students do studies in connection with our IBA project.

7. Birdathon planning (Penny)

Recognition of donors : On website, newsletter, Birdathon literature : Brainstormed about possible prize donors .Add to newsletter list. Sponsors who support the birdathon at \$35 level or higher will receive a WCAS supporting membership, name badge, cling. Prizes for most money, most species, most sponsors. Wrapup at June picnic. Need Rules and Checklist. Rule : in IBA. Enter casual observations.

8. Bird walk before the May membership meeting to promote birdathon (Penny) 5:30 p.m. Yes!

9. Audubon “2007 Trees for Birds and Climate: Mary Anne shared an e-mail about planting trees. Audubon Ohio will provide the trees. Will give them out at Nature festival, and encourage people to plant them at home.

10. “The Verb “To Bird”: Sightings of an Avid Birder” offered at a reduced price by publisher. WCAS will probably not do at this time.

11. Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative meeting (Mary Anne and Diane): Question, will WCAS be a full-fledged member? Responsibilities: attend 2 meetings per year, have one public event per year, be part of public outreach events, provide materials for educational packets. Contact with citizens in that area: Cleveland City Greenhouse and Audubon Ohio are interested in a summer program.

Motion to craft a letter to seek membership. Mary Anne Romito made a motion. Tom Romito seconded. Motion Passed. Letter will go forward April 19. For Dike 14 packets, we will order 100 copies of folder Eastern Backyard Birds. 25 will go

into Dike 14 packets, remaining 75 will be for sale as a fundraiser at \$5 to members, for others \$6. Will sell at field trips, Dike 14 open house,

12. Newsletter items for May-July edition (Kit) Items due! Birdathon, IBA, Dave's pictures, Introduce Diane as IBA coordinator. Coffee, FUNdraisers. Deadline April 1.

13. Date and time for next meeting: 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 22, 2007

14. Adjourned at 3:36 p.m.