

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Board Meeting

Sunday March 22nd at 5:00PM at
Book and Bean in Berea

Present: Kit Birch, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito,
Tom Romito (president), Stan Searles, Diane Sigler

A few preliminary items:

- a) The next meeting will be Monday, April 27, 2009 at 6 p.m. at Book and Bean.
 - b) ULTRAWALK: Stan Searles has arranged for Tim O'Konowitz from Metroparks Zoo to work with WCAS on media contacts and press releases for the UltraWalk. Tom Romito asked Stan if Tom could help with corporate sponsors. Penny will update the lists of mayors and other IBA political leaders. Stan suggested we ask other Audubon chapters and conservation-related organizations to put a link on their web pages. Will ask Liz Clingman about possible Emerald Necklace listing. Tom will ask to get on the agenda for the May meeting of the Metroparks commissioners. Diane asked for a number of t-shirts to order. We will use the vendor from 2007. Diane will try to schedule Mayor Pobst to walk five miles to the Marina. Tom will send the Ultrawalk pledge sheet to Audubon chapters, CMNH, and KBC.
 - c) Kiwanis visits by Tom and Stan: North Royalton, Rocky River, Parma
 - d) Finances: Nancy Howell reports \$12,838.28. Tom reports that we are still working to raise money for IBA Coordinator salary through grants and donations.
 - e) Coffee for next WCAS meeting: Kit will not be in town. Tom will bring the coffee, Nancy will sell.
1. Recap of Buzzard Day activities:
 - a. Volunteers were Kathleen Bradley, Liz Clingman, Terry and Joanne Gorges, Tom Romito. Tom will write a thank you to go on the WCAS website.
 - b. Bird guide sales brought in \$115.
 - c. Tom reported a "spectacular day" The volunteers talked to hundreds of people and promoted the field trip to Medina Raptor Center and the UltraWalk.

2. Dike 14 – Grant and stipend for volunteers to hold open and table at open houses 5/16 and 9/26.
 - a. Port would like to have Dike 14 open for a public event one day each month. Each of the 10 members of the EEC can take a day and stage an event of their choosing. Must be open to the public.
 - b. There may be a stipend for the person in charge of opening and closing. Mary Anne and Nancy will find out more about the responsibilities.
 - c. Nancy will ask the EEC about this status of the grant.
3. Move bank account to bank with good interest rate: Mary Anne will investigate options for non-profit accounts
4. Volunteer for Migratory Bird Day at Zoo – table /volunteers. Date is May 9. Kit Birch, Penny O'Connor, Stan Searles and Barbara Warny have volunteered. Will take board, banner, table cloth, bird activities, and bookmarks.
5. Volunteer for Earth Day at Zoo - table volunteer (Stan volunteered to help) Date is April 19. WCAS will not have its own table. Tom will take some literature, although he is representing Brooklyn Center Naturalists.
6. Observer Training and Testing – format and audio visual requirements:
 - a. Nancy is preparing a presentation and will bring equipment. Classroom is reserved. Don Howell will help with distance testing. Tom will take colored ribbon to mark stakes.
 - b. There are 12-14 observers
 - c. Date is March 31. Arrive 5 p.m. to set up.
 - d. Tom and Mary Anne will prepare answer sheets.
7. Proposed newsletter deadlines – 1/1, 4/1, 7/1, 10/1. Notify Kit if any item will be last-minute so she can save space.
8. Suggestions to make WCAS display board more informative
 - a. We want to be able to switch out fact sheets from the board.
 - b. Tom will ask Dave Lewis to produce a display board that is about half as big as the first one he made (the one we use now).

9. Activist Item – support funding for state and tribal wildlife grants. Tom will prepare the letters for Congresspersons on WCAS letterheads.
10. Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) application for 2009 and results for 2008 (Nancy any income?) Tom will submit our application for 2009 to the United Way. The deadline is April 31.
11. Ordering another supply of Waterford Press Bird Guides. The board authorized Tom to order 100 more Birds of Ohio guides.
12. Update on Audubon Ohio mini grant proposal from WCAS. Diane submitted a draft of our mini-grant. Tom praised it for its accuracy and readability. We agreed to ask for \$4,000, even if Audubon Ohio downgrades it to a lesser amount. Tom will finalize and submit the grant to the Chapter Relations Committee.
13. Support and involvement in Perkins Wildlife Center Smart Light / Safe Light We are not sure what this initiative means. Nancy will find out.
14. Birding Buddies. Penny suggested a program in which WCAS members hold impromptu bird walks and invite others to join them. We will make a general announcement about this in the newsletter and provide details via e-mail as members decide to hold them.
15. Lake-to-Lake Trail surveys. CMP wants WCAS to conduct point counts just north and south of Bagley Road on the Lake-to-Lake Trail. Diane will coordinate for volunteers and match them to points.
16. North Coast Nature Festival. Tom will ask Liz if she put our name in for a table.
14. Next meeting date. We agreed to meet again on Monday, April 27, at 6:00 p.m., at the Book & Bean.
15. Adjournment. We adjourned at 7:20 p.m.