

## **WCAS Board Meeting Sunday April 22, 2007, 5:00 P.M at Book and Bean, Berea**

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

Called to order 5:10

### 1. Birdathon – individual and business pledges

Noted that several birders have secured sponsors who have pledged flat dollar amounts, or a per-bird-species amount.

Prizes: Bowling from Fairview Lanes, two \$20 gift cards from Nature's Bin, two books from Liberty Books, Family Membership from Cleveland Museum of Natural History, two \$25 gift cards from Staples, Dave Lewis Photo, Individual tax prep help

Birdathon prizes to: Most birds, Most money, most sponsors, then we will do a drawing among the sponsors, and drawing among the birdathon birders. Must raise \$20 to be eligible for a prize.

Tom will announce Birdathon at the May 1 meeting.

2. Rocky River Important Bird Area survey issues (Tom Romito): Tom complimented Kit Birch on the newsletter. It explains ongoing WCAS projects in a way that new people can understand. At the IBA Kickoff, many people signed up for many different things. Seven people have been trained for GPS. Almost all of the existing points have been re-flagged. When the new points are designated, Tom Romito and Don Howell will coordinate finding the new points. Vernal pools: Diane Sigler will send vernal pool volunteer names to CSU graduate student Valerie. Diane has requested more flags, requested a meeting with Dan Petit's replacement at Cleveland Metroparks, Tom Romito will give Valerie the sixty original points and the directions to them so she can survey those areas for vernal pools. There is a volunteer to input data from the bird survey. A BW student has volunteered for vernal pool study and vegetation study. Diane will send a letter to the student and to faculty member Mike Melampy at BW. Nancy reports that there are 15 people who would like to be observers. Diane reports that there are at least 18 people who wanted to be recorders. She will call them and see what areas they want to do, and when they are available. Diane would like to send a thanks and a progress report to all who volunteered for the IBA project.

3. Audubon At Home funding (Tom Romito)

This funding has dried up. Terri Martincic reports that Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources may sponsor reprinting of the Native Plants folder.

4. Other Bird Surveys (Terri Martincic)

Terri Martincic will survey a property near Huron on behalf of CMNH. Would like someone to help with finding and keeping track of points. There may be other properties needing a survey. Ohio Breeding Bird atlas needs more participation in Rocky River IBA area. Need to make sure that data is recorded.

5. We have been contactec about newsletter advertising – advertising a for profit business (Mary Anne Romito)

Decided no advertising in newsletter at this time.

6. Rockefeller Park Greenhouse Summer Camp (Tom Romito)

This is an Audubon Ohio initiative. Last summer Tom Romito participated in the Glenville Heritage Festival. Pat Pool has volunteered to help out this year.

Audubon Ohio wonders if the Greenhouse could be a focus for an Audubon Center in Ohio. Audubon is looking for conservation, nature-related activity, if camp is funded. The Rockefeller Park Greenhouse is in the Dike 14 neighborhood. This would be a good time to promote the use of the Dike 14 backpacks to teachers.

7. Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative has made WCAS a full partner.

Backpacks are for teachers, providing lesson kits on birds, trees, plants, butterflies, weather etc. (8 in all). May 5 Dike 14 Cinco de Mayo Migration, Tom Romito will be co-leader. Will have newsletters, etc. to hand out.

8. GIS (Terri Martincic)

Terri is looking for a grant to take a course to learn GIS mapping. EPA will send free software, a basic version. MAGIC 101. (Map and Geographic Information Collection) Tom suggests Grantseeker database. WCAS has subscribed for 1 year.

9. WCAS partnership with RR Watershed Council (Tom Romito)

They are trying to preserve the Watershed. Their main event is the Watershed festival each fall, will be at Rocky River Nature Center and also an event in Medina. It would be good for WCAS to participate. WCAS has participated in past years. Tom would like to formalize our relationship with the Watershed Council, as we could work together on fund-seeking.

10. Letter to Vern Hartenburg about the IBA and Hinckley (Tom Romito)

Want to offer support for Metroparks to acquire land in Hinckley, since Hinckley is an important IBA area, keep us on the radar, offer our support, highlight our IBA survey.

11. RRNC's need for help during the Nature Festival (Tom Romito)  
WCAS will be in the Auditorium. WCAS volunteers: Terri Martincic will set up. Terry and JoAnne Gorgas, Kathleen Tiburzi, Mary Beth Erb, Betty Green, Kit Birch and Fran Hall, Bill Deininger.

12. Additional: Kit Birch – We can do a “recycle my phone” project. to make some money. Kit will investigate the details.

13. Date for next board meeting: June 3, 2007 at 5:00 Book and Bean, Berea OH

Penny O'Connor, WCAS Secretary