

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Board Meeting

**Monday April 27, 2009 at 6:00PM at
Book and Bean in Berea, Ohio**

Present: Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles, Diane Sigler

1. Finances – Nancy Howell reported \$10,721.53 in the treasury. Since last month we have paid out funds for printing of Native Plants brochure, insurance, newsletter, and various other expenses.

2. Ultra Walk – details, marketing and PR plan

Stan Searles presented a press release and marketing plan created by Tom O'Konowitz, Marketing and Public Relations for Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Board offered some additions to the press release. Diane Sigler asked about t-shirts for participants. She suggested having some bandanas for walkers who do not register in advance, instead of t-shirts. Deadline to register in advance is May 10. We will send an e-mail blast to remind people to register for the walk and birding. Regarding events on the day of the walk: Diane will take care of banners. Penny volunteered to be at Park Ops and bring table. Page Stephens will play guitar. Liz will order 50 bottles of water. Will give out t-shirts at start of 31-mile walk and at start of 5-mile walk. Need volunteers to be at Park Ops and at the Marina for the finish of the walk. Mary Anne and Kit will bird the 31 miles.

3. Dike 14 – volunteers and plans

Date is Saturday, May 16, 2009, 7:30-3. Will ask for volunteers at our membership meeting.

4. Recap of events everyone has attended (Nature Festival, etc.)

-April 25-26 North Coast Nature Festival: Volunteers were Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Tom Fishburn, Joanne Gorges, Terry Gorges, and Penny O'Connor. Crowd was mainly families. We promoted our programs, field trips, and IBA walk. Made contacts with potential members, a teacher, and a potential sponsor for the Native Plants brochure.

-April 15-16 NASA Earth Day. Volunteers were Penny O'Connor and Diane Sigler. Our table was in a very visible location in cafeteria. NASA crowd is very science-minded.

5. Migratory Bird Day at the Zoo, Saturday May 9, 2009

-Volunteers are Kit Birch, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Stan Searles and Barbara Warny. Nancy will bring IMBD bird stickers. Kit will bring

stamps and stamp pad. We will have WCAS newsletters, bookmarks, Ultrawalk signups.

6. Start up of survey – dissemination of point directions maps and observation sheets to observers.
 - Mary Anne has phoned the observers to see what maps and forms they need. There is an open slot for an observer in Hinckley. Kit will do Dan Petit's former points. Linda Sekura will take over a group of points. If an additional observer is not available, the observers may be asked if they can each add one point.
7. Donation to Medina Raptor Center. The board voted to make a thank-you donation to the Medina Raptor Center: \$100
8. Update from John Mack, via Diane about new points for Abrams Lake to Lake trail.
 - WCAS has received a diagram and list of suggested points. Need to select, flag and write up directions. These points are in wetlands, so observers will need boots and/or waders. Will need to make our request for equipment, such as boots and bird recordings to be used. Nancy will be one of the observers for this part of the survey.
9. School days event – 5/20/09 at Edgewater Park.
 - Dave LeGallee has volunteered. Nancy will contact some other members who might like to take part. This is an event for school children.
10. Need for hospitality volunteers each meeting – meet greet and cookies.
 - Kit and Nancy will bring cookies for the next WCAS meeting. Will invite members to volunteer to bring snacks and meet and greet.
11. Grant possibility from US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Conservation Fund: It appears this grant relates to land around a pipeline located in southern Ohio.
12. Hinckley property: WCAS is surveying bird life on land owned by Hinckley Township, along the east branch Rocky River. Next walk is Monday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. Meet at Hinckley Fire station. Had to cancel earlier evening walk due to rain.

13. Water treatment plant tour. This will be in addition to our field trips.
Will try to schedule on a Friday in late July.

14. Dike 14 WCAS field trip: We will try for a date in November. Nancy will lead.

15. Next meeting date: Monday, May 18 at 6 p.m. at Book and Bean in Berea, Ohio. Will finalize plans for Ultrawalk day.