

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society

Board Minutes

Monday, April 28, 2008 6 p.m. at Book and Bean, Berea OH

Present: Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles, Diane Sigler

1. Treasurer's Report: Nancy Howell
The treasury has \$12,783.65. Tom Romito presented \$127 in Big Walk pledges and/or donations from Audubon Ohio Board members. Tom requested that his expenses for attending the AO board meeting be covered by WCAS (about \$300) Board approved.
2. Staffing of WCAS table at Dike 14 on May 3: Terry and Joanne Gorges volunteered. They will have WCAS literature and plus bird guides to sell.
3. Results of Combined Federal Campaign: Tom reported that WCAS has received \$257. Tom and Diane made presentations at NASA Glenn Research Center.
4. Meeting with Metroparks Natural Resources staff
 - a. Tom and Diane met with Metroparks scientists John Mack and Terry Robison. WCAS is the only group surveying birds. WCAS has bird expertise. They would like for WCAS to develop a bird survey field manual and to complete the 62-point five-year forest breeding bird study. Stan suggested a board of scientific advisors for the IBA project. Scientists could come from Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Metroparks and local universities. This will ensure scientific protocols and ensure confidence of scientists in this and other WCAS surveys. WCAS can then enlist the efforts of graduate students in survey design and data analysis.
 - b. Stan and Tom discussed how WCAS might approach private landowners in order to do surveys on non-public lands in the Rocky Important Bird Area. Landowners would need to see how the survey might benefit them. Terri Martincic noted that Western Reserve Land Conservancy has expertise in this area, securing Rocky River West Branch lands for survey and conservation. Liz noted that WCAS has the goal to preserve. Stan suggested approaching township officials in such communities as Hinckley to learn of landowners with large undeveloped tracts. Terri Martincic suggested Greenprint. Stan suggested contacting landowners about the IBA walk.
5. July field trip to the Wilds
Attendees will need to register in advance. Cost will be \$20. We will meet at the Wilds in Cumberland a bit before 10 a.m. Wilds staff will lead us in birding in the morning. After lunch we will have a bus excursion through the Wilds pasture and carnivore areas. End of trip is at 4 p.m. Bring a lunch, or

buy lunch at the Wilds Café. Wilds can provide box lunches or a buffet with prices from \$7.50 per person to \$15.95 per person. We need 12 to do that. Penny will take reservations. Will publicize this at the May membership meeting and June picnic.

6. News from Terri Martincic: She will be leaving the WCAS board in July.
 - a. Buy Native Plants brochure has been a great hit around Ohio. ODNR, Biodiversity Alliance, and Botany Department of Cleveland Museum of Natural History will consider supporting a reprint. WCAS will put in \$500. to match the contribution of the other groups.
 - b. Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz June 14, 2008: Still some slots to fill. We will ask for more birders at the May meeting.
7. Big Walk: Stan report that 7 have signed up so far for 31 miles. We will need tee-shirts. Stan will find out how many needed for walkers. Will need some for volunteers and public officials. Stan outlined the plan for the walks and biathlon. Penny will send the multiline pledge form developed earlier. Jane Christyson will help with press releases and publicity letters. Kit will shuttle bikers from Marina to Ranger Headquarters in her van. Need a person to be at the Berea falls turnaround around 3 p.m.
8. Talks to groups: Tom has addressed 5 community service groups. He will meet give another talk at the Renaissance Retirement community in Olmsted Township. He has sold 45 bird guides.
9. Grants for Audubon chapters: Tom reports that Audubon Ohio has \$7,500 for chapter projects. WCAS may write a grant for seed money to cover salary for our IBA coordinator.
10. NASA Earth Event: Diane reports that there were many visitors during the two days, including birders. Many brochures handed out.
11. Traveling board to take to events: Diane put together a board that was smaller than Kit's large one, and easier to pack and carry - would like to get a couple of these that could be used on the road. It looked really nice - just needs to be done up with more permanent pictures. Also we need more brochures (one with Red Shouldered Hawk on it) Mary Anne will update it for reprint.
12. WCAS needs a new field trip coordinator. Tom hopes to recruit someone from the membership. The first field trip would be in September, most to Dike 14.
13. Andy Jones and Stan Searles are leading a Birding trip to Venezuela. Will publicize it at the next membership meeting.
14. Tom will send an e-mail to set up the WCAS board meeting for May.