

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2006 WCAS BOARD MEETING

The board of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) met on Thursday, May 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Tom and Mary Anne Romito in Cleveland. The following people were present: Kathleen Tiburzi, Glenda Buzzelli, Holly DiBin, Terri Martincic, Liz Clingman, Henry Fortelage, Tom and Mary Anne Romito, Wayne Cox, Nancy Howell and Kit Birch.

1. Nancy gave the treasurers report, stating that we currently have \$7222.43 in the treasury. We have not received the promised \$1500 from Audubon Ohio for our IBA project, but it is coming.
2. It was discussed and decided by all present that all new members paying chapter dues after April 1 of any year will automatically be enrolled for the whole next fiscal year of July 1 through June 30.
3. Tom informed us that we were not invited to the Olmsted Historical Society's Summerfest at Frostville this year because they have too many activities planned already.
4. Terri and Tom explained that the Rocky River Watershed Council exists to help educate people about what a watershed is and why it is important in their lives. They operate on money from a 319 Grant and are affiliated with the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency. WCAS has been invited to participate in the Rocky River Watershed Festival on Sept. 23, where other nature-oriented groups and food vendors will also be present. It was decided that we will have a booth there staffed by members in 2-hour shifts.
5. Wayne Cox presented his idea of a group of interested people buying land in Ashtabula County, gaining a conservation easement for it, and then reselling it as a means of protecting a rural area from future development. Members brought up the fact that the Western Reserve Land Conservancy does this type of thing also. Wayne thinks a smaller group of investors could get grant money and sell to people who want to live or vacation on the land, but not change it or sub-divide it.
6. Kit asked if the board would like to have a small article put in our next newsletter about the "Las Gralarias Foundation Inc.", which is set up to conserve cloud forest bird habitat in Ecuador. All agreed this would be O.K. She next invited members to send her any news concerning how our state and federal congressmen have voted on environmental issues so this information can be put in our next newsletter. Tom suggested that we might like to connect this to a topic such as "Alternative Energy Sources". Please send relevant info. To [kibir@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kibir@sbcglobal.net). This can be in Word or Publisher format, or forwarded emails, web news, etc.
7. Mary Anne handed out a printout listing all WCAS committees, chairpersons, and descriptions. Each chairperson then gave a brief talk on what his or her responsibilities are. New members were invited to help out with these committees. We also need a secretary to take minutes at board and regular meetings. This is a good starter position for anyone wanting to learn more about how WCAS functions.
8. Mary Anne presented an email asking for birding information for a field trip to Bacon Woods in Lorain County by Horizon Activities Center. The board gave suggestions and Tom and Mary Anne will respond to this email.

9. Tom explained to the new members present what has been done so far with our Rocky River Important Bird Area project. He next gave an update on how he and Dan Petit have been selecting points: 20 in Rocky River north and south, 25 in Mill Stream Run and 15 in Hinckley. The points are first found with a GPS unit, then it is decided if it is accessible or not. Nancy Bucher is writing up the instructions on how to get to each point. They have made an effort to keep each observer's points in reasonable proximity to each other. Lists have been printed out with observers and recorders names and phone numbers. It will be up to the observers to call recorders and tell them when they plan to go out (days and times), and ask them if they are available for those times. Observers will be given packets with all the things they need to do their jobs successfully

We will also be encouraging "casual observation" by our members to keep interest in the RR IBA going, and to provide anecdotal data to Dan Petit for conservation purposes. Dan can provide ready-made simple forms for this purpose.

Tom stated that the Coordinator Selection Committee has narrowed their search down to four candidates who they will interview on Monday night. This is a seasonal position of 30 hours a week, with Metroparks paying the salary. The coordinator will be responsible for compiling the data the point count teams send in. Nancy Bucher, Dan Petit, Nancy Howell and Tom Romito will work on what method or mechanism the coordinator will use to consolidate all this data. The coordinator will also do public relations work for us.

Tom would like to have a timeline written of all that WCAS has done on the RR IBA project since its inception in August of 2005. This will provide a historical blueprint for WCAS that we can build on as our project continues, as well as being a great help to other Audubon chapters around Ohio who might want to adopt their closest IBA.

10. Our next board meeting will be 6:00 p.m., June 25 at the Romito home.