

# **Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society**

## **Board Meeting**

**Monday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM at  
Emerald Necklace Inn and Tea Room, 18840 Lorain Road  
-Minutes-**

Present: Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, JoAnne Gorges, Terry Gorges, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Diane Sigler Kathleen Tiburzi

Before the meeting, board members toured the garden with an eye to suggesting ways to attract birds. We suggest plants such as Bee Balm (Monarda), Cannas, Daylilies. Holly plants in the garden are very attractive to birds. Food for the birds can include thistle seeds in a thistle seed tube, Peanut feeder with raw peanuts, Peanuts in shell, sunflower. Suggested sources for seeds: Wild Birds Unlimited, Landmark.

### 1. Finances (Nancy Howell)

- a. If WCAS owes you money, bring receipts for reimbursement
- b. Nancy distributed a chart of income and expenses for FY 2007-2008, WCAS and Important Bird Area Project. Tom asked if we can put into the official Audubon categories. He will send Nancy the information.
- c. We discussed moving some funds into a CD or Money Market fund, agreed to move \$5,000. Nancy will investigate.
- d. Speaker's fees and or gifts approval: okayed \$900. for the year.
- e. Field trip gifts (letter with cling, t-shirt, etc.) (Tom Romito) Tom noted that we will give t-shirts or thank-you with WCAS cling to field trip leaders.
- f. Audubon Adventures money: Nancy noted that in past years we have supplied 10-12 Audubon adventure kits to schools and home-school units. Approved \$600.
- g. United Way request for contributions (Tom Romito)  
Tom noted that WCAS benefits from the Combined Federal Campaign. Tom, Kit Birch, Diane Sigler and Kathleen have represented WCAS at fairs at some federal workplaces.

### 2. Membership (Nancy Howell) Nancy noted that membership renewals are coming in slowly. For next year we will investigate adding a separate membership blank for the newsletter issue going to all 900 National Audubon members. May add a sheet to our next newsletter to members.

3. IBA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
  - a. The date is Thursday, October 16, 2008
  - b. Menu: Will investigate whether it can be a gift to WCAS. Otherwise, potluck
  - c. Letter to volunteers will go out when we have decided on the menu.
  - d. Centerpieces: Diane Sigler will get mums, blue jay, cardinal and chickadee favors, hard candy? plus daffodil bulbs. Will have white tablecloths and placemats.
  
4. Dike 14
  - a. Need help on Saturday 9/20 (Tom Romito)  
This is the annual open house. WCAS needs people to staff the table.
  - b. Discovery Kits – Diane has our kits. Penny will take one for Sept 20 open house. There are two new members to the Dike 14 group: Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources and Ohio Lepidopterists group.
  - c. Mary Anne Romito passed around a picture of how Dike 14 could look with some improvements.
  
5. Council of Audubon Chapters Workshop on Saturday 9/20 (Tom Romito)  
Members are invited to attend. It will be held at Ashland University, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
  
6. Audubon Ohio State Assembly 10/18-19 (Tom Romito)
  - a. This two-day workshop will be held in Bellville Ohio at Quality Inn and Suites. Three tracks: Protecting IBAs, Involving young people, Restoration
  - b. Tom will present a session. WCAS can have a display table. Will take a Display Board and Flyers. WCAS will need to print more flyers. Agreed on \$300.
  - c. Kit Birch and Kathleen Tiburzi expressed interest.
  
7. Update on Bill Jordan Hinckley Medina bird survey (Mary Anne Romito)  
Hinckley Township owns a 30-acre parcel of land near the corner of SR 94 and SR 303. They would like to make it into a nature preserve with some trails. Would like to have a bird survey. WCAS will contact the township trustees to say yes.

8. Wind Turbines in Cleveland and Cuyahoga Fairgrounds
  - a. They are for educational purposes
  - b. Audubon supports wind energy with reservations
9. Christmas Silent Auction (Mary Anne)

Have received donation of a Longaberger basket and some crystal.  
Will let members know it is coming up.
10. Ohio Birds Records Committee will be publishing bird checklist for Ohio (Mary Anne Romito)

It is in the form of a small book. Cost is \$1. We can sell it for a profit at meetings. Will buy 50 copies.
11. Ultra Walk lessons learned (Tom Romito)
  - a. Nancy Howell: Keep it Simple
  - b. Diane Sigler: Need more visibility and support people at Park Ops as 5-mile walkers assemble to join the Ultra-Walkers
  - c. Further discussion at the next meeting
12. Point counts for land owners and conservancies after end of IBA project  
In absence of Terri Martincic, will postpone until next meeting.
13. Green Print – website sign on and pass word  
In absence of Terri Martincic, will postpone until next meeting
14. Speaker Eldon Remy, « The Great Pageant » are we interested ?

Author of forthcoming book. We would like to see the book before we decide.
15. The Shanahan Law firm, LLC who want to do volunteer work (Mary Anne Romito) They will give time to help with invasive plants around the Rocky River Nature Center
16. Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Picnic on 9/13. Tom also made note of the Wildlife Diversity Partners meeting at Shawnee State Lodge Sept 3-4.
17. How the Rocky River IBA surveys are contributing to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. Penny noted that the survey data is being entered into OBBAII, rounding out information for blocks within our IBA region. The data for 2008 is being compiled and will go to Terry Robison (Cleveland Metroparks) and to Terri Martincic.

18. Freshwater Futures group, of which WCAS is a member would like additional donations. Board rules, no at this time.
19. Dike 14 field trip October 5 will require permits, key and release forms for attendees. Mary Anne has done the permits. Nancy Howell will take care of keys.
20. Our gracious hostess for this meeting was Gloria Cipri Kemer of Emerald Necklace Inn. Board voted to grant \$100. toward bird feeders, etc. to help to attract birds to the Inn. Liz Clingman will provide a hand-crafted suet feeder. Board members will consult.
21. Next board meeting will be Monday, September 26, at 6 p.m. at Book and Bean in Berea, Ohio.