

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2006 WCAS BOARD MEETING

1. The WCAS board held its monthly meeting on September 3 at the Romito residence in Cleveland. Attendees included President Tom Romito, Treasurer Nancy Howell, and Directors-at-Large Mary Anne Romito, Terri Martincic, and Kit Birch. Guests included Penny O'Connor and Kathleen Tiburzi and IBA Coordinator Diane Sigler.
2. FINANCES. Nancy reported that we have \$7, 073 in our bank account. We currently 37 paid chapter supporters.
3. BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE. Terri reported that that the Biodiversity Alliance between the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo wants projects to highlight. Terri said she would refer the point of contact to the Metroparks.
4. IBA FLYER. Terri and Mary Anne showed off the flyer they are producing about the IBA survey. We are printing 600 copies at 60 cents each.
5. BIRD OF THE MONTH. We reviewed the schedule for the Bird of the Month presentations at our monthly membership meetings. Tom asked the board to find non-board members to give some of the presentations. Penny offered to try and recruit several IBA volunteers who are not on the board.
6. LETTER ON BIRD OPPORTUNITIES. Tom said we should offer IBA volunteers who did not qualify as Observers some opportunities to improve their skills between now and next spring so they can qualify next year. Board members suggested that the letter highlight the spring Audubon walks, RRNC monthly walks, CVNP walks, WCAS field trips, and KBC field trips. Board members also suggested that the letter discuss the four additional components we are planning for future IBA surveys, as well as the top 50 birds reported this year. Tom said he would write the letter to send to our volunteers.
7. NEWSLETTER. Kit said should include in the November-December newsletter information on how to score legislators on their stance on conservation issues, plus how to contact these officials. Kit said she is looking for article ideas, and the board suggested reports on the IBA Appreciation Night dinner and the Casual Observation program, plus acknowledgements to members who help at upcoming events.
8. IBA OUTREACH. Diane discussed her plans to conduct outreach activities for the IBA project. She plans to visit local colleges, city councils, and other entities.
9. JULY FIELD TRIP. Terri said she is going to try and get photographer Miles Reed to lead the July 2007 field trip to Hinckley Reservation.
10. OTTAWA DRIVING TOUR. Mary Anne said the August 2007 field trip is a driving tour of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. We will car pool from Cleveland. The date will be announced in the future.

11. **THANK YOU LETTER.** Tom explained that he is writing a thank you letter to the Metroparks and the Zoo for the dinner that Aramark donated at the IBA Appreciation Night on August 31. The board suggested specific language to make it clear why the event occurred.
12. **AUDUBON ADVENTURES.** Nancy is sending a letter to the teachers who received an Audubon Adventures packet last year for their classrooms, asking them if they want to receive one this year. She said the price of the packets is increasing, and the board authorized an increase in the Audubon Adventures allocation from \$400 to \$600.
13. **UPCOMING EVENTS.** Nancy reported that Kathleen and Terri represented us at the recent Conservation Day at Coe Lake in Berea. Future events include the Conservation Symposium on September 8 at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Rocky River Watershed Festival at Rocky River Nature Center on September 23, and the Sparrow Symposium in Painesville and the Museum of Nature History on September 30.
14. **AUDUBON STATE ASSEMBLY.** Tom reported that the Audubon Ohio will hold a state assembly in Columbus on November 10-12. He asked for at least one member to go besides himself and asked the board to authorized reimbursement of expenses for anyone who attends. The board approved this and suggested that Tom announce the event at the upcoming membership meetings.
15. **AWARDS.** Terri suggested that we give certificates to people who attend Weeders in the Wild events. Mary Anne said she would design a certificate and give copies to Terri for future Weeders and the Wild projects.
16. **NEW BOARD MEMBERS.** Tom asked Kathleen if she would like to be a board member, and Kathleen said she would. Penny also volunteered. Kit will put their names in the next newsletter as board members.
17. The board decided to meet again on Sunday, October 1, at 6:00 p.m. at the Romito residence.
18. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.