

MINUTES OF WCAS BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2004

The board of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society met at the Rocky River Nature Center before the regular monthly meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the planning on issues discussed at last month's board meeting. In attendance were Tom and Mary Anne Romito, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Trish Faehnrich, Jason Kassouf, Rich Kassouf, and Kit Birch.

1. Tom began the meeting with a review of details for the annual chapter picnic. It will be held on June 6, at Horseshoe Pond located in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. A bird walk will begin at 8 a.m. and there is a pavilion with grills and tables available on site. At approximately 12 noon we will have a short combined business meeting with the Akron Audubon chapter. Prizes for the WCAS Passport program will be handed out and a plant exchange will take place. Tom will make a flier up containing picnic details and a map and send it out to all 50 chapter members.
2. Tom told us he called 50 of our chapter members in an effort to get volunteers to staff a WCAS table for the Nature Show being held at RRNC on April 17 and 18. He was able to get eight members to volunteer for this. The hours are 9:30 to 4:30 Saturday and Sunday.
3. Tom announced that we definitely will be getting a \$1000 grant from Audubon At Home.
4. Mary Anne stated that she has been working on Sundays to update our chapter website, and also reminded us to give her any news items we have for the next newsletter. She suggested that since we have some extra money from National Audubon dues sharing, it might be a good idea to send our next newsletter to all Audubon members in our area, not just chapter members, as an incentive for them to join WCAS. It was unanimously agreed upon to do this.
5. Nancy reviewed the upcoming events that need WCAS volunteers. She brought fliers on the Dike 14 Wildlife Fest, put on by the Environmental Education Collaborative, to pass out at tonight's meeting. She also said she still has no volunteers to staff a WCAS table for the Edgewater Park School Days Program.
6. Tom told us he gave a presentation about our WCAS chapter to the Greater Cleveland and Black Brook Audubon chapters, and thought it was well received. He informed us that there will be an IBA workshop at Holden Arboretum in April and another one at Happy Days Visitor Center in CVNP on May 15. He also said Audubon Ohio will have a new website up in June.
7. Jerry Tinianow (Audubon Ohio) wants to give us some training on how to organize a policy campaign. He may hold it in June and will call it a "Think Tank in Policy Campaigning". HR 218 (Lake Erie shoreline access vs. ownership) is an example of what he is talking about.
8. Terri updated us on her "Weeders in the Wild" group activities, one at North Chagrin and one at Frostville Museum area, and plans to hand out fliers at tonight's meeting. She said that Trish will be handling the Audubon at Home grant part of her invasive plants project. Terri told us she wants to hold certain activities at the same time, same place, each year to achieve greater participation and to be able to see

the results on a long-term basis.

9. Tom told us that the 6:30 p.m. monthly board meeting had been questioned by Ken Gober, the senior naturalist at RRNC; but after conferring with his staff, he had determined it was OK to do so.

10. Kit gave a summary of what she had learned at the Audubon At Home Train the Trainer Workshop at Wolf Creek in Medina on March 27. She passed around all the materials that had been handed out that day, and stated she would like to be a resource person for WCAS using these and knowledge acquired at the workshop. She also suggested we begin using shade grown coffee at our hospitality table at all WCAS meetings as a means of preserving winter habitat for migratory birds in a "hands on" way that all members could participate in. Tom told Kit to bring it up at our meeting and ask the members what they thought of the idea.

11. Trish suggested we acquire a large Audubon sign that could be put up at our WCAS activities and displays. Everyone agreed with this.

12. Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:30 so the general meeting could begin.