

MINUTES OF THE WCAS BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2005

The board of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society met at the Rocky River Nature Center at 6:30 p.m. before the regular meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current business and to plan for the future. In attendance were Tom and Mary Anne Romito, Terri Martincic, Nancy Howell, Claudia Anders, Mary Beth Uhr, Liz Clingman, and Kit Birch.

1. Tom began the meeting by welcoming guests Mary Beth Uhr and Liz Clingman to our board meeting. He then went through the list of board offices open for next year and who would fill them:

Treasurer: Nancy Howell; Membership: Alice Mitchell; Recording Secretary: Claudia Anders; News-Letter: Kit Birch; Conservation: Terri Martincic; Programs: Nancy Howell; Field Trips: Mary Anne Romito and Terri M.; Education: Paula Lozano and Nancy; Advocacy: Kit.

2. Tom stated that he is contacting local non-profit organizations that also use the Rocky River Nature Center to invite them to become involved in WCAS. He also handed out updated copies of our member roster and encouraged us to contact some of them in order to fill board vacancies.

3. Tom informed us that WCAS has been invited to the Akron Audubon Society's end of year picnic on June 28, at the Biology Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve. The board decided that we will inform our members of this invitation, but we will still have our own end-of-year picnic on June 7, at the South Mastic Picnic area at 6 p.m.

4. Nancy confirmed that she will do the "Bird of the Month" presentation of the brown creeper after the regular business portion of the general meeting.

5. Kit explained the purpose of the bulletin board she purchased and decorated as a place to display all Audubon and relevant information for members and visitors to easily peruse. Articles, pictures, activist letters, etc. will be shared in this manner. She also passed out copies of the new "A Taste of the Tropics" magazine which further illustrates the importance of shade coffee farms to the survival of bird and other species.

6. Tom went over the updated bylaws.

7. Claudia has volunteered to attend the Audubon At Home chapter training to be held on April 30. WCAS will pay her fee.

8. Tom has lined up volunteers to man a table for WCAS at the Rocky River Nature Festival to be held on April 23 and 24.

9. The Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) would like all chapters to contribute to a scholarship for a teacher to attend the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine in the summer of 2006. They are asking for a \$200 donation from each chapter. Board members will decide on this next month.

10. Terri reported that she was able to get our WCAS monthly meeting advertised in the Northern Ohio Live magazine and The News Sun paper for free.

11. We will have a card table at the door for sign-in thanks to Alice Mitchell. This will allow us to keep a record of how many members and guests are attending monthly.

12. The 5th Annual Rocky River Streamside Clean Up will be held Saturday, May 14, 2005. Volunteers are needed and more information can be obtained by calling Becky at Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District: (216) 524-6580, ext.12.
13. Nancy told us she will ask for volunteers at the regular meeting for the Edgewater School Days event held at Edgewater Park. She said the wetlands mural is worn out and a new display will have to be made, preferably a simple interactive bird identification one. The board agreed to not participate in the "Festival of Feathers" at the Natural History Museum.
14. Mary Anne reviewed the next newsletter with us, and asked for more information to be included in it.
15. Tom said WCAS did receive a donation from the federal employee's payroll deduction program for charitable giving. He will enter WCAS in this program again in the fall.
16. Nancy passed around a flier for the Dike 14 nature walks to be held on May 21, at Cleveland Lakefront State Park from 7:30 to 11:30.
17. Tom shared a note concerning the Marsh Monitoring Program headed by Bird Studies Canada which is looking for volunteers to be trained as amphibian and/or bird monitors for wetland areas in the Cuyahoga River Watershed. Training will be held on April 9, at North Chagrin Nature Center and Cleveland Metroparks volunteers are encouraged to participate.
18. Tom recently attended the Firelands Land Conservancy Annual Meeting and received a letter from its director, Kate Pilacky, thanking him and encouraging us to join with a tax-deductible financial contribution.