

## MINUTES OF WCAS BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 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 discuss current issues and plans and to hear news from Jerry Tinianow, Executive Director of Ohio Audubon, who was visiting us. In attendance were Tom and Mary Anne Romito, Andrew Hohenbrink, Nancy Howell, Terry Martincic, Jerry Tinianow, and Kit Birch.

1. Tom opened the meeting by welcoming our visitor, Jerry Tinianow. Tom then talked about ways to involve our chapter with other Audubon chapters in the area. He has been in contact with Mark Purdy, president of the Greater Akron Audubon chapter, who is interested in this also. It was suggested that the end-of-year picnic and plant exchange might be a good time to combine the two groups. We talked about some places that might be mutually acceptable to both WCAS members and Greater Akron members, such as Brecksville Reservation and CVNP. Switching the date to a weekend rather than the usual first Tuesday of the month was also discussed.
2. Terri has sent in her grant application to "Audubon At Home" for money to buy tools for use in her invasive plant eradication project. She has also entered into a partnership with the Firelands Land Conservancy on this project which will allow our group to be covered by their liability insurance. The new name for the invasive plant group volunteers is "Weeders in the Wild".
3. Jerry announced that at their general meeting the National Audubon Board agreed to share dues with local chapters for another year through fiscal year 2005. When questioned about whether "Take Back Audubon" had anything to do with this, he said he didn't think so because they are not very well organized. Jerry said that the new chairman of the board of directors, Carol Browner, gave a good speech and urged an end to in-fighting.
4. Jerry said that the Audubon state office is trying to promote more chapter-level involvement in issues and policy work. He noted that the chapters are not very organized in regards to this type of activity. Audubon Ohio has the staff and the funds to begin training local chapters on a very fundamental level in political/ conservation/ environmental activism. The training sessions could be one day events that would cover such questions as how do we get data and publicity, how do we deal with elected officials, and how do we organize events? Audubon Ohio would cover all the costs of these sessions including food, rental, publicity, mailings, etc. Jerry would like the WCAS board to find out what types of issues and policies our members are interested in expanding their involvement in, and to let him know as soon as possible.
5. Audubon has lobby days in which they fly people into Washington to lobby their legislators. Jerry is looking for one more person to train on Feb. 24 and go to Washington on Feb. 25. The current

subject is state wildlife grant funding.

6. The board members agreed to meet again at 6:30 p.m. before the next general meeting in March.

7. There will be AIM trainings at Holden Arboretum on April 17, and at CVNP on May 16 for anyone interested.

8. Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. so the general meeting could begin.

9. After the general meeting ended, Mary Anne requested a quick regrouping of the board members so that a vote could be taken on making a donation to the Kirtland Bird Club to help them pay for the updating of the previously mentioned birding book and guide. As treasurer she told us we have \$760 in our bank account after spending \$410 on Audubon Adventures for local schools. Nancy recommended that we give \$250. A unanimous yes vote gave her permission to make this donation.