

MINUTES OF THE WCAS BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2006

1. The board of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) met on Sunday, February 26, at 5:00 p.m. at the home of the Tom and Mary Anne Romito. Attendees were Tom Romito, Mary Anne Romito, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Bill Deininger (guest), and Joe Reardon (guest).
2. Tom welcomed Bill and Joe to the meeting. Tom explained that he invited them because wants to attract WCAS members to join the board.
3. Treasurer Nancy said we have \$9,393 in our bank account. Tom said we are going to receive two grants in the near future, \$500 from the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and about \$1,100 from Audubon Ohio, Both grants will support our IBA program.
4. Mary Anne reported that she has updated the website, especially the Take Action page. Information about the Endangered Species Act, along with sample letters to senators, are on the web pate.
5. Nancy reported that she participated in the Science Olympiad at Cleveland State University on February 25. WCAS members Jan Holkenborg and Dave LeGallee assisted her. The team conducted a bird identification station for 32 students.
6. Terri showed the board a flyer containing a schedule of invasive plant pulls for the Weeders in the Wild. Terri asked the board to fund the printing of the flyer she finishes it. We agreed to have Blue Sky Graphics print 500 copies (in color, on plain paper, and folded in thirds).
7. Tom updated the board on the IBA project. He will develop a equipment list to give to people to distribute to people who sign up to be point counters at the March 5 kickoff event. Tom also displayed a new name tag for IBA volunteers that Mary Anne designed.
8. Kit reported that she is working on the May-July issue of the newsletter and would like to include a two-page insert about the IBA project. Mary Anne is going to explore the cost of printing an extra page. We discussed asking in the newsletter whether members would like to receive the publication by E-Mail to reduce printing costs.
9. Kit also discussed the bulletin board that she brings to chapter meetings. She would like to post photographs of our field trips on the bulletin board and asked if that will be a problem with the people in the pictures. Mary Anne said it is not going to be a problem.
10. The board members signed a symphathy card for Don Altemus, whose wife Billie passed away on February 22.
11. Terri suggested that WCAS become a member of EcoCity Cleveland. She said by doing so, we could advertise our activities on their web site and they on ours. Mary Anne asked Terri to find out how many activities wecould put on their website and what the membership fee would be. We decided to table the matter until the March meeting.
12. Terri said she submitted information about the IBA project to the Sun Post newspaper.

13. Tom suggested we consider partnering with Friends of Big Creek. This is a local watershed group that solicited us for membership last year, but we couldn't connect with anyone in the organization in order to follow up with them. Tom encountered them at the recent Weeders in the Wild meeting and learned more about them. The board asked Tom to find out if it would be worthwhile to pay an organizational membership to join them.

14. Terri explained that Tim Krynak, a naturalist with the Rocky River Nature Center, is starting a non-profit organization in Ecuador to adopt a forest there. Terri asked if the board would like to make a donation to Tim's organization. Nancy suggested that we wait until we have the IBA project going. The board and felt that in the meantime, we ask could Tim to do a program for WCAS so we can learn more about it, or, since the program schedule is already set for this year, that we ask Tim to speak for five minutes at a chapter meeting. Kit moved that we donate \$100 to Tim's organization. The vote failed and we tabled the discussion to next month's meeting.

15. The board discussed food preparations for the March 5 IBA kickoff event. Liz said she will have cookies and beverages available from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Liz will also have crackers, cheese, cookies, and beverage available for IBA training on April 2 from 12:00-4:00 p.m.

16. The board then reviewed the timetable for the March 5 IBA kickoff event. We will arrive at 11:00 a.m. Tom will inform the IBA Taskforce about this. He will also coordinate with the nature center for the use of the laptop computer for the Powerpoint presentation. Nancy said she asked Janelle at the Nature Center to set up the auditorium with tables around the edge of the room and chairs in auditorium-style. Tom will bring his flip charts and markers.

17. Joe Reardon said he is a judge for the Regional Science Fair, which will be held April 18-20 at Cleveland State University. He said science teachers are always looking for projects for their student to do, and asked if Weeders in the Wild or IBA point counters might be appropriate projects. Terri said she would call some science teachers she knows about this idea.

18. The meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.