

## MINUTES OF WCAS BOARD MEETING OF JULY 1, 2004

The board of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society met at the home of Kit and Dennis Birch in Strongsville, Ohio.

The purpose of the meeting was to assess the work of the past year and plan for the coming year of our chapter.

In attendance were Tom and Mary Anne Romito, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Trish Faehnrich, and Kit and Dennis Birch.

1. President Tom Romito opened the meeting with a welcome to all and the introduction of a new board member, Dennis Birch.
2. Tom stated that our chapter's fiscal year starts today. He also defined our board as a planning group in whose members can choose to pursue any Audubon-related project they wish to do, such as Terri volunteering to create the "Weeders In The Wild" project.
3. Nancy announced that she has already achieved the planning of the Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec., programs for our monthly meetings and that information will be in the July newsletter. Nancy asked the board to budget money for program presenters. The board decided that any fees necessary to accomplish her excellent program schedule should be brought to the board and approved at that time.
4. Mary Anne informed us that the Cuyahoga Valley National Park is going to be designated as an "Important Birding Area" on Sept. 25, 2004. She suggested we do some type of field trip there such as a bird walk or a "big sit" (members sit in one place along a path to watch birds and talk to passers-by). It was decided we may do both beginning at 7:30 a.m. We will not be participating in the Rocky River Water-shed Day which is also on Sept. 25.
5. Terri volunteered to lead a field trip at Sandy Ridge on Sunday, Oct. 17, and 8:00 a.m.
6. We will continue to have our board meetings at 6:30 p.m. before regular monthly chapter meetings.
7. The Passport project will continue for another year in hopes of it "catching on" with members.
8. Mary Anne will send out our chapter newsletter to all 900 Audubon members for July only. After that we will send out newsletters only to paid chapter members due to financial concerns.
9. It was decided to leave our dues rates the same as last year.
10. Mary Anne told us that our current printer is not reliable so she is looking for someone else for the job. There will be pre-printed name tags for all paid members at our future meetings. Thank you notes to all who worked at the Dike 14 and School Days events were posted on our web site.
11. Tom suggested we be alert to possible future elected board officers by talking to regular chapter members personally and being welcoming to all their ideas and offers of help. It is good for our chapter to recruit new board officers so the same people are not in place "forever". We need to also announce well ahead of time when an opening on the slate for officers occurs. Terri suggested we also let chapter members know they are welcome to attend our board meetings to generate interest in what we are doing.

12. Tom attended a workshop put on by Jerry Tinianow of Audubon Ohio in Brecksville, along with ten others from northern Ohio chapters. The purpose was to learn more about recruiting new members and encourage current members to become more active. Tom will be implementing some of the things they learned in the coming year, but was happy to report that our chapter is already doing some of the things suggested. He also told us the National Chapter Relations Committee will be holding meetings and workshops around the country focusing on ideas for new programs for local chapter support. They will meet at RRNC on July 31, 2004 and anyone interested can attend.
13. We brain-stormed ideas on what will go into the annual report for Tom.
14. We will continue to promote the Audubon Adventures program for elementary school classes.
15. Terri has been making contacts with people knowledgeable on invasive plants in our area and is getting ideas for future projects for her "Weeders in the Wild" group. She will be asking for some chapter money for equipment in the future.
16. Trish is working on the Audubon At Home grant project in conjunction with a local artist to give chapter a large visual aid on native vs. invasive plants in home landscaping.
17. Kit will order Audubon shade grown coffee to be used at all monthly meetings.
18. Nancy wants to sell our chapter canopy and aluminum poles due to storage problems and lack of use. We also need to sell our slide projector for same reasons. She also informed us of her recent attendance at the West Creek and Metroparks meetings held to facilitate the Metroparks taking over the Parma West Creek area.
19. It was decided that we will no longer hold field trips in Jan., Feb., and March due to poor weather conditions and resultant lack of participation. We will instead have them throughout the summer months.
20. Tom adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.