

MINUTES OF WCAS BOARD MEETING

JULY 7, 2005

The board of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society met for a picnic meeting at the home of Mary Anne and Tom Romito to discuss and plan for future events. In attendance were Liz Clingman, Terri Martincic, Mary Anne and Tom Romito, Alice Mitchell, Mary Beth Uhr, Kit, Birch, Nancy Howell, Delle Nadler (President of Coalition of Ohio Audubon Chapters) and Marnie Urso (Grassroots Coordinator, Audubon of Ohio).

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Thank you to Mary Anne and Tom for hosting the picnic and sharing their yard with us. Many delightful dishes were shared. Nancy would not reveal her pie crust recipe!

1. Terri announced that the birding field trips were on the web-she would share more details later.
2. Tom announced that Jerry Tinianow of Ohio Audubon has agreed to facilitate the planning session on August 20th from am to 1 pm at the Rocky River Nature Center. Twenty people have registered to date. Tables will be set up in a horseshoe shape. Tom requested that Liz cater lunch. The board suggested that a buffet lunch rather than individual boxes would require less packaging and allow for dietary choices. Terry asked if openings should be placed on the net. Tom said that this was to train the Board session.

Nancy asked about what the Chapter needed to do to assist. Tom said that no A-V was needed. Participants should bring paper and pencils. Tom stated that he would bring a flip chart.

(Kit will set up the map of the IBA corridor and other watersheds.)

Correction:

Kit volunteered to bring her watershed CD that I got at a RRNC teacher workshop last year. She needs to know if there is AV equipment available to project it to a screen for the whole group.

John will be collating data. Firelands, Black River, Chagrin, Grand and Vermillion Rivers have or in the process of identifying target areas. These Audubon chapters would also like training in surveying and data collection.

3. Membership-Following correction to membership list:

Terri's e-mail is Naturenut@wowway.com

The following is an addition to the list:

Kit's e-mail is kibir@sbcglobo.net

4. Membership issues:

No passports were turned in this year. Board voted to delete the program.

Membership rates:

Keep Enhanced Rate idea with new rates to be:

Basic: \$20 for 1-2 persons, same address

\$40 for 3 or more same address

Enhanced: \$35 for 1-2 persons, same address

\$55 for 3 or more person, same address

A WCAS patch will be offered to individuals with Enhanced memberships.

Discussion followed regarding stating 3 or more persons or "family" for the rates.

Newsletter editor stated that "family" takes up less space.

5. We decided to cancel the Passport initiative because nobody was using it.
6. We discussed putting a monthly calendar of events on the website. Mary Anne will work on this initiative as webmaster.
7. Kit, the new newsletter editor, asked for submissions for the upcoming issue of the newsletter. The board decided to mail this issue to all members, including Chapter Supporters and members who only belong to the National Audubon Society.
8. Nancy asked that we give an honorarium to all presenters during the upcoming program year. The board agreed to do that.
9. Mary Anne reviewed the budget for the program that ended in May. We agreed to increase meeting costs to \$1,100 to account for honoraria for presenters. We also agreed to increase Audubon Adventures costs to \$600 because Nancy said she plans to increase the number of teachers to whom she will send Audubon Adventures material.
10. Nancy introduced an initiative of her own called Community Birds. The intent is to get the public involved in awareness of birds in their communities. The birds would be community-specific and could be tied to Audubon At Home. We decided not to do anything about this now and agreed it would be an on-going project.
11. Mary Anne and Terri reviewed their work on coordinating field trips for the upcoming field trip year. Terri also reviewed the Weeders in the Wild schedule.
12. Tom explained that he is on working the chapter Annual Report, which is due to Ohio Audubon on August 15. He said the report is for the program year that ended on June 30. Tom said the president of the chapter has the responsibility to submit the report, and he is doing so because he was president when the program year ended, even though he is no longer president. He said that next year at this time, someone else would have to do the report, and the board agreed that it would probably work on the report as a group. Tom said that preparing the report includes planning for the upcoming year, which is a necessary step to ensuring that Ohio Audubon awards us the safety net.
13. Tom reviewed his proposal to contribute funds for a scholarship to the 2006 Hog Island Bird Camp, which the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) has suggested offering to one science teacher in Ohio. The cost of the camp is \$1,400, including tuition and transportation. Delle Nadler, President of COAC, was present and explained that COAC will carefully screen applicants for the scholarship to ensure that the winner will be a teacher who has the initiative to put the knowledge gained at the camp into the classroom. Alice moved to make a \$200 contribution and Terri seconded the motion. Alice called for a vote, which passed.
14. Tom discussed the Firelands Land Conservancy (FLC), which is located in Oberlin, Ohio and dedicated to the preservation of watershed habitat in northern Ohio. Tom moved that we join FLC as an organization for a \$20 fee. Kit seconded the motion, which passed.

15. Mary Anne said we bought a 35mm slide projector in 2000 and have only used it twice. She suggested we give it away or sell it. Delle Nadler said Crown Point Ecology Center in Bath, Ohio, where she is employed, could use it. Mary Anne moved to donate it to Crown Point. Tom seconded the motion, which passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Correction WCAS Board Meeting 7-7-05

Item 2:

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