

## MINUTES OF THE WCAS BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2005

The board of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society met at the Rocky River Nature Center at 6:30 p.m. before the regular monthly 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, and Claudia Anders. Recording Secretary Kit Birch was absent. Marnie Urso, Ohio Audubon Director of Development, attended.

1. Tom began the meeting by announcing that Christie Vargo, Director of Development for Ohio Audubon, was going to attend the board meeting, but could not attend due to the severe winter weather. Tom introduced Marie Urso, Ohio Audubon's Regional Director of Development, who attended the meeting.
2. Tom asked the board members how they were progressing with their solicitations to selected WCAS members to serve as board members for the upcoming program year. Terri noted that Claudia Anders attended the board meeting at her invitation. Nancy said she still has contacts to make. Tom said he is pursuing several avenues to try and interest people in serving as president.
3. Terri displayed the weed wrench she purchased with board approval. She will employ the weed wrench at upcoming weed pulls in her Weeders in the Wild program. Terry also said her informal conservation group will meet next on April 19 at the Burger King on Bagley Rd. in Berea.
4. The board discussed how to begin the Bird of the Month program at membership meetings. Nancy said she wants to talk about the Brown Creeper, but didn't have an image to show the group. Tom offered to try and find an image of the bird and other birds on some VHS tapes he has.
5. Treasurer Mary Anne moved that WCAS join the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS). She said the benefit would be to make it easy to partner with OOS on bird programs and field trips. She noted that OOS President Jim McCormac recently joined WCAS. The board agreed to join OOS, and Mary Anne said she would execute the appropriate application and fee.
6. Tom reported that he attended the statewide Audubon Assembly on Feb. 12 & 13 in Columbus, Ohio. He said he participated in a series of workshops on chapter development and learned many things that will help WCAS.
7. Tom said one issue he learned at the Audubon Assembly was that chapter bylaws must reflect the fact that members can be Chapter Supporters. He stated that the WCAS bylaws did not make this statement and would have to be amended. Mary Anne pointed out that the membership voted to have Chapter Supporters in 2002. Tom offered to amend the bylaws to reflect that decision.
8. There will be another Nature Festival at RRNC on April 23 & 24, put on by the Cleveland Metroparks. Tom will solicit help from members to man the WCAS table.

9. Tom reported that the National Audubon Society sent him a DVD about the caribou in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He said he would play the film at the conclusion of the membership meeting for anyone who wanted to watch it. Tom also displayed literature on the back table relating to the ANWC, which NAS also sent him.
10. Tom announced the upcoming Lake Erie Wing Watch in Oak Harbor, Ohio on April 12-13.
11. Marnie Urso explained her role as Regional Director of Development for Ohio Audubon. She said her primary focus would be watershed planning and wants to partner with WCAS in that effort. Marnie announced that Ohio Audubon is going to conduct chapter leader training for Audubon chapters in northeast Ohio on April 30 at Lake Erie Science and Nature Center in Bay Village. Tom suggested that Ohio Audubon be more proactive in getting the word out about this, since people are rapidly filling up their spring calendars.
12. Tom said that WCAS is going to have a joint picnic with Akron Audubon this year. Mark Purdy is planning the picnic at Bath Nature Preserve. Tom said he would follow up with Mark on the date.
13. Terri said the Ohio Environmental Council is meeting in Columbus on April 21 and she plans to attend.
14. Tom reported that he applied to the Rocky River Watershed Council for membership in that organization on behalf of WCAS.
15. Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m. to prepare for the membership meeting.