

MINUTES OF WCAS BOARD MEETING OF MAY 4, 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 continue the planning on issues discussed at last month's board meeting, and to introduce new ones. In attendance were Tom and Mary Anne Romito, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Trish Faehnrich, Daniel Melcher, Wilton Sogg, and Kit Birch.

1. President Tom Romito began the meeting by introducing two visitors: Dan Melcher, president of Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, and Wilton Sogg, Audubon Ohio advisory board member.
2. Tom reviewed the details of our annual picnic which will be held at Horseshoe Pond in C.V.N.P. on June 6, 2004. (See April 6 minutes). Tom invited our visitors to come also.
3. Tom informed us that tonight is our annual election per our by-laws. Since current board members have agreed to serve another year, Tom will ask the membership at tonight's meeting for a unanimous vote on keeping them. Mary Anne suggested he ask for any new nominations first. Andy Hohenbrink and Jason Kassouf have resigned from the board, Trish Faehnrich has been added.
4. Terri has scheduled an invasive plant pull at Sandy Ridge Reservation on May 22. She has obtained volunteer group status for Weeders in the Wild from Lorain County Metroparks in order to do this.
5. Kit explained the purpose of the display board she made regarding shade grown coffee habitat in South America helping migratory birds. She said Casey Tucker from Audubon Ohio had talked with her on the phone about this project, and also gave her more information on what needs to be done on the Audubon At Home grant project which she passed on to Trish.
6. Trish explained her idea for a possible grant project. She would like to work with an artist to create a display board showing a natural landscape habitat, and then have plastic overlays of invasive plants that could be placed one at a time over this to illustrate the negative effects they cause. All agreed this was a plan worth developing. She will also order more Invasive Plant Species pamphlets.
7. Nancy suggested we pay our speaker at tonight's meeting, Harvey Webster, \$100 due to the live animals involved. This was unanimously agreed to. She also suggested that WCAS pay for memberships in groups such as the Ohio Ornithological Society. It was decided to look into this further. We could use more volunteers for the Dike 14 Wildlife Fest. WCAS will have a tent and display there.
8. Audubon Ohio's "How to Develop a Policy Campaign" has changed into "Volunteer Recruitment Strategies". Identifying problems of why we have trouble recruiting new volunteers, and solutions and a game plan will be addressed at meetings/workshops. Tom plans to attend a restaurant planning get-together in Independence with Jerry Tinianow and others.
9. The WCAS annual report will be done by Tom over the summer.

10. Wilton Sogg told us he is happy to be on Audubon Ohio's Advisory Board of Directors and thinks it is a good organization. He said they have a committee studying how Audubon Ohio interacts with its chapters, and how chapters interact with one another. It seems many chapters feel isolated, or not really "connected" to each other or to the state organization. For this reason he encouraged Dan Melcher to come to our WCAS meeting.

11. Dan stated that the Cleveland Audubon Society split into two chapters--the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland and the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society--some years ago, and since the 1990s have had no interaction between them. He thinks it would be worthwhile for chapters to begin working together regionally. Dan would like to see other chapters (like WCAS) take field trips to his chapter's sanctuaries, and to become active in fund raising for a new nature education center on one of the them. ASGC's new website is www.clevelandaudubon.org.

12. The board agreed to begin exchanging newsletters with ASGC, and also that we will announce each other's activities in our newsletters.

13. Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:30 so the general meeting could begin.