

WCAS Board Meeting - September 23, 2002

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jan Holkenborg. Present were: Carol Ball, Marie James, Nancy Howell, Mary Jo Lakner-Segal, and Tom and MaryAnne Romito.

We discussed the organization's liability policy in light of the extreme increase in the premium. Jan Holkenborg had contacted an insurance agent who indicated that since 9-11, premiums for liability had increased substantially and it was doubtful that we would be able to obtain any policy with a lower premium. The agent volunteered to review our policy and determine if he felt we had adequate coverage. After discussing the situation, all board members appeared to be in favor of canceling the policy and requesting a return of the unused premium. Jan Holkenborg will contact her attorney and confirm that the corporate status shields any and all officers and board members from being sued in the event of a lawsuit against WCAS. It doesn't seem necessary to have anyone review the policy if we feel we would be willing to exposure of the liquid assets of the organization.

The material contained in the complimentary teachers' kits from Audubon Ohio received a very positive response from everyone. We discussed whom we felt would best benefit from them. The Rocky River Nature Center and the Lake Erie Science Center were two suggestions. Jan Holkenborg agreed to contact Ken Gober at RRNC to determine which grade level he felt would best suit their purposes and also to contact Paula Lonzano to get a status on the teachers who were receiving the Audubon Adventures. She would also determine if Paula wished to continue to administer the Audubon Adventures program.

We discussed the possibility of contacting other Audubon groups in the area to see if they would be willing to have joint field trips with the hopes that more members would participate. The Chapters suggested were: Black River, Firelands and Greater Akron. Nancy Howell expressed the idea that she would like to see an article describing the activity on our field trips included in our newsletters.

Fund raising efforts were discussed. It was the common consensus that we did not want to endeavor to sell Audubon calendars. Mary Jo Lakner-Segal offered to obtain information on a bulb sale which we could undertake for the spring planting season. Also discussed was a bird seed sale that could be done with the help of the WildBirds Unlimited store in North Olmsted. Another project considered was a Bird Seed Feeder Wash when decent weather would permit.

Other items to be listed in the newsletter included a list of the upcoming events during the year with the hope that more people would participate. The events mentioned were: the Christmas Bird Count in December, The Great Backyard Bird Count which is usually on Presidents Day Weekend in February, The Science Olympiad held in March, and Migratory Bird Day in May.

Tom and Mary Anne Romito expressed a desire to award a plaque of some sorts for wildlife friendly bird gardens sponsored by various companies located in our area.

Thoughts were given to awarding some type of certificate that could be framed and hung in the company's lobby and/or a plaque that could be placed in a conspicuous spot in the garden itself. Consideration could be given to making the award at a monthly meeting. Tom Romito felt that we could have the membership give us nominations as to recipients and for criteria for the award itself.

Tom Romito will e-mail the five year plan that he developed at the previous meeting.

Jan Holkenborg will bring Audubon items to the meetings with the hope of selling the merchandise to the membership.

Dates proposed for the next meeting were November 11th or 18th.