

MINUTES OF THE WCAS APRIL MEETING

1. Tom began the meeting by recognizing and welcoming all guests present, and asked them to fill out and hand in a questionnaire soliciting feedback about our meetings and what interests them.
2. The Recording Secretary, Kit Birch, read the March minutes.
3. Tom announced that the Akron Audubon Society has invited WCAS members to attend their end-of-year picnic on June 28, at 6 p.m. at the Bath Nature Preserve. We will also have our own picnic on June 14, at the South Mastic Picnic area beginning at 6 p.m.
4. Kit explained the purpose of the bulletin board at the back of the room as a place to display all Audubon news and other relevant information for members and visitors to read and also to contribute to. Articles, pictures, events, activist letters, etc. will be shared in this manner. She also introduced the new "A Taste of the Tropics" magazine which will be for sale on the back table for \$.25 and includes information on shade coffee farms.
5. Terri told us her next Weeders in the Wild pull date is April 30 at Rocky River Nature Center where we will be attacking garlic mustard and curbing its spread which harms native plant species.
6. Sara Cooley spoke about the desire to have WCAS members put on educational demos or classes for 3 to 4 year olds at a day care center where she works. Any nature oriented activity would be welcome and would help to introduce the children to the wonders of the world around them. Contact Tom if interested in this.
7. Karen of Cleveland Metroparks gave a short presentation on the benefits of planned giving via the Emerald Necklace Endowment Fund.
8. Nancy did a 'bird of the month' presentation using bird calls, slides and a mounted specimen; a really good bird I.D. learning activity. She also reminded us of the many spring bird walks that will be held from April 10 to May 15 at various locations. See the WCAS newsletter, the Metroparks program booklet, or the WCAS website for details. Nancy also would like members to volunteer for the Edgewater School Days event held at Edgewater Park on May 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Talk to Nancy if interested.
9. Dan Petit, Chief of Natural Resources for Cleveland Metroparks, gave an excellent presentation on the rare Blanding's turtle living in the marshes of the Ohio and Erie Canal. Once very common in Ohio, the loss of habitat has caused this turtle to become endangered, but it has many friends working to re-establish enough wetlands to allow the Blanding's and other wildlife to return.