

## MINUTES OF WCAS NOVEMBER 2003 MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) was held at Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmsted, Ohio, on November 4, 2003. Mary Anne Romito conducted the meeting in place of chapter president, Tom Romito.

1. The minutes of the October meeting were read by Kit Birch, and it was moved, seconded and carried that they be accepted as read.
2. Mary Anne announced that the National Audubon Society gave us \$2,462.92 from the Safety Net fund which we were not expecting. We now have \$8,240 in our chapter bank account.
3. We now have 35 chapter members. The new WCAS Passport pamphlet was displayed and it is hoped this program will stimulate club growth and member participation. It will begin as soon as our Passport committee finalizes all details.
4. Rocky River Reservation is nationally listed as an Important Birding Area. Our board is beginning to work on a strategy for our chapter to become involved with this.
5. Terri Martincic is sponsoring a group project to help control invasive plants in the Metroparks. A Metropark staff member may be able to give a volunteer orientation for our group. Terri handed out cards to anyone interested in doing this activity, which she thinks could start in April of 2004 on a monthly basis.
6. Mary Anne introduced a "Name the Newsletter" contest in which all members were encouraged to enter a funny or catchy name of their choice. The WCAS board will choose one of these entries.
7. Nancy Howell informed us that our chapter will once again sponsor Audubon Adventures, which is an educational outreach program aimed at school children in fourth to sixth grades.
8. Reminder that this month's field trip will be at the Avon Lake power plant on Nov. 16, 8:30 a.m.
9. Information about next month: annual pot luck dinner; author Barbara Eaton will display and sell her environmentally oriented children's coloring books; next month's speaker will be John Winterich talking about "Northern Ohio Nature".
10. Our guest speaker was Tom Stanley of the Cleveland Metroparks. He gave an interesting talk and slide presentation on "Changes in the Land". Ohio has gone from 95% forested in 1780, down to 12% in 1912 and back up again to current levels of nearly 30% forested. Tom explained why these changes occurred and their impact on wildlife and people.