

MINUTES OF WCAS OCTOBER 7, 2003 MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) was held at Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmsted, Ohio, on October 7, 2003. Mary Anne Romito conducted the meeting in place of Tom Romito who was away on business. She presented the following information:

1. There will be a WCAS board meeting at the end of this month to discuss the "Passport" concept.
2. Chapter membership forms are available enabling us to keep all the dues money. Anyone joining the National Audubon Society gets free chapter membership, but none of this money comes to our chapter.
3. We have a website! It is www.wcasohio.org and we could use help from anyone with Publisher and Front Page computer knowledge.
4. A field trip leader if needed to welcome people and pass out literature for an August bird walk.
5. Our chapter could become involved in the Avian Inventory and Monitoring Program of Rocky River as a conservation need.
6. Barnes Nursery built a dike near Sheldon Marsh without going through proper channels which destroyed a lot of bird habitat. The Friends of Sheldon Marsh and the Firelands Audubon Society wrote letters to the government about this and the Barnes Nursery's renewal license was rejected, but the dike still remains. We are encouraged to write letters to the Corp of Engineers to proceed with restoration of Sheldon Marsh:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
LTC Jeffrey M. Hall
Buffalo District
1776 Niagra St.
Buffalo, New York
14207-3199

Nancy Howell was the next person to speak and gave the following information:

1. Tom Stanley of the Cleveland Metroparks will be the guest speaker at the November WCAS meeting. He will talk about 200 to 300 years of change in this area of the Metroparks.
2. A field trip to West Creek Preserve in Parma is scheduled for Oct. 12 at 8 a.m. It is on the south side of Ridgewood Rd. between Broadview and State Rds.
3. A field trip to the Avon Lake Power Plant is scheduled for November to see waterfowl, gulls and loons. Take I90 to Crocker Basset exit, go north to Lake Rd. then west or left to the power plant and past smoke stacks to parking area.

Our guest speaker for the night was Bob Kehres of Ohio Prairie Nursery. He discussed the native grasses and wildflowers found in Ohio prairies and how we can introduce them into our yards. Many of these plants host butterflies and produce seeds for birds. The need to fight invasive plants was also discussed and a pamphlet offered on the subject.