

CONSERVATION LAB MINUTES OF 01-04-2020 V1.0

1. The WCAS Conservation Lab met at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at Bethany Church to plan our activities for 2020. Attending were Jess Bibbo, Karen Czerniawski, Gloria Ferris, Linda Garrity, Holly Henry, Nancy Howell, Rory Hurley, Connor Karakul, Patty Kellner, Kurt Miske, Bruce Missig, Betsey O'Hagan, Jean Paulus, Rayka Petkova, Janelle Reardon, Joe Reardon, Amanda Sebrosky, and Nancy Valente. Kurt opened the lab and moderated the conversation. (18)

2. AGENDA. Kurt presented the following agenda:

1. Native Plant Sales Project: review, report, and planning the 2020 native plant sales.
2. Urban Birding Cleveland Project:
 - i. Hear from the Urban Birding Route Committee.
 - ii. Hear from the Urban Birding Outreach Committee.
3. Chimney Swift Towers Project updates
4. New Business
5. Next Lab: Saturday, February 1, 2020 from 1:00pm - 3:00 pm, Bethany Presbyterian Church.

3. NATIVE PLANT SALES PROJECT.

- REGARDING TREE PLANTING: KAREN C. talked about native plants; improving the Cleveland tree canopy; and farmer market research. NEOSD provides trees for planting; the group inquired and discussed what kinds of trees might be available, numbers, and variety, etc.
- RAYKA P. talked about tree planting as an engagement strategy with local schools and details how to recruit volunteers.
- JOE R. explained he has put together a public speaker presentation, “Trees to Shrubs for Pollinators” incorporating native plants and Nature’s value from a full ecosystem perspective. Joe stated he is scheduling public presentations and intends to donate speaker fees to support WCAS Conservation Projects. The Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes <https://wildones.org/> was recommended as a resource.

4. URBAN BIRDING CLEVELAND.

- ROUTES REPORT: AMANDA S. reported sub committee work updates. The group is scheduling a series of presentations to various Tremont Block Clubs. The group is

recruiting knowledgeable area birders and bird walk leaders to begin mapping out draft routes in Tremont.

- GLORIA F. reported UB Cleveland rack cards are in development. GLORIA F. reminded us all to keep in mind programing and activities should be developed through the lens of public health and well-bring.
- UB OUTREACH REPORT: JANELLE R. reported the committee is developing ideas for print and digital educational resources: 10 Common Birds Identification Card, Booklet, and Guide. Materials will support in-school, adult group, and trails activities.
- GLORIA F. reported Monica Marshall (UB CLE partner, Broadway Boys and Girls Club) could use above materials in conjunction with arts education, learning tool, youth materials, and for example, to engage in nest building projects.
- KURT M: What is needed by this group from the Lab Community?
 - GLORIA F. 3-4 volunteers are needed to accompany each Block Club Presentation. Presentations are in Jan, Feb, Mar, and April. See the **TREMONT BLOCK CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2020 below:** (as of 01/05/2019).

BLOCK CLUB	DATE/TIME	LOCATION-POWERPOINT?	WCAS REPS
Irish Town Bend (Jenny Rodriguez)	April 8, 6:30- CONFIRMED	Hooples-1930 Columbus Rd., Cleveland Powerpoint okay	To be announced
Duck Island (Milton Lorring and Rick Warren)	Plan for spring 2020	Forest City Brewery	
North of Literary (Chris Roy)	January 21, 6:30 - CONFIRMED	Post 1 at Jefferson & Literary Ave. Use handouts only	Janelle Reardon Amanda Sebrosky Tom Romito Mary Anne Romito
Central Tremont (Chris and Jen Zellner)	February 3, 6:30 - CONFIRMED	Polish Vet Alliance, 2234 Professor Ave. Powerpoint okay	Tom Romito Gloria Ferris Janelle Reardon
South Jefferson	Contact closer to	Post 58 on Jefferson Ave.	

(Deborah Smith)	desired date.		
Auburn-Lincoln Park (Kate O'Neil)	Contact in April or May.	Rose Mary Center, W.14th & Kenilworth	
Mentor-Castle-Clark/ Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley (Angelica Pozo)	February 5, 6:30 CONFIRMED	Angelica Pozo's Art Studio at 1193 Holmden Ave. Powerpoint okay	Tom Romito Julie West Amanda Sebrosky
Lincoln Heights (Henry Senyak)	March 9, 6:00 CONFIRMED	Rear of 2846 W. 14 St. (Walsh Hall, St. Augustine, basement of old school building, church rectory) Powerpoint okay	Tom Romito Gloria Ferris
Metro North (Sue Krosel)	March 24	To be announced.	

- JANELLE R. said educational materials need to meet STEM criteria to be considered credible/acceptable in-school presentations.
- RAYKA P. added science teachers be recruited to join this working group and offered to help with this.
- NANCY H. reminded everyone that educator standards are available at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History <https://www.cmnh.org/erc>. And that Audubon Adventures is an excellent resource <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/audubon-adventures>
- BRUCE M. reported he has composed a general invitation letter to Parma City representatives about Western Cuyahoga Audubon and inviting the city to exploratory dialogue to identify new collaboration opportunities. BETSEY O. will share this document with the group for feedback so a final copy can be formed and sent.
- JANELLE R. & GLORIA F. explained to the group that UB CLE is a collaborative network. WCAS is a host and driver of UB CLE network growth.

5. CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWERS PROJECT.

- AMANDA S. reported chimney swift towers cost from \$500.00-\$700.00 per tower. Amanda explained Swifts originally roosted in forests until deforestation largely eliminated natural roosting locations; next Swifts roosted in building chimneys until many were capped; and hence today, the need to build and erect Chimney Swift Towers

for the purpose of roosting. AMANDA S. is working to promote tower construction projects with local schools and with the Urban Birding Cleveland route subcommittee to identify locations for towers. AMANDA S. is gathering ideas and information across all areas of interest to improve development opportunities.

- Follow and Join the Northeast Ohio Chimney Swift Conservation Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/chimneyswiftconservation/> Email AMANDA S. at asebrosky@gmail.com Other information sources: ChimneySwifts.org <http://www.chimneyswifts.org/> National Audubon Society-North Carolina <https://nc.audubon.org/landingbirds/chimney-swift> Alleghany County PA put up 100 Chimney Swift towers, see <http://www.aswp.org/pages/chimney-swift-tower-map>
- Chimney Swift populations are declining because 1) there is a decrease in the number of babies 2) insect food sources are rapidly declining 3) generally decrease populations. We need more pollinator gardens and flyway support.
- KURT M. What does CSTP want from the WCAS Conservation Project Lab?
- AMANDA S. (1) Opportunity and support to train the public and teach practical tower construction skills. (2) NANCY H. and RAYKA P. volunteered to assist AMANDA S. and the CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWERS PROJECT.
- CONNOR K., HOLLY H., and PATTY K. added various important ideas and suggestions, not captured here.
- AMANDA S. provided a review on 2 initiatives:
 - 1) BIRD CITIES, a six state model with practices. Bird City Wisconsin is an example at <https://birdcitywisconsin.org/>
 - 2) URBAN BIRD TREATY CITIES-USFWS <https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/urban-bird-treaty.php>
 - Both programs provide grants, educational resources, and are conservation focused. The URBAN BIRD TREATY CITIES is a program designed for large cities of 100,000+ populations. This program is not for smaller cities and suburban municipalities. 2020 grants due 1/30/2020.
 - GLORIA F. suggested we apply to UBTC as a region to encompass greater Cleveland Metropolitan areas.
 - RAYKA P. endorsed this idea and stated the programs are in good alignment with UB CLE activities.
- GLORIA F. on FUNDRAISING. Gloria invited anyone interested in developing the above and other fundraising ideas to email her at gloria.ferris@gmail.com and to join the “GRANT WRITING COMMITTEE”. GLORIA F. reported WCAS is waiting to hear a decision on the chapter’s application to the National Audubon Society for the support of the UB CLE Project development of, UB CLE With David Lindo June 8-18, 2020.

- NANCY H. and BETSEY O. proposed a ‘Christmas Bird Count 2020 Project’ working group assembled to plan and develop the annual event scheduled for Sunday, December 27, 2020. If you’re interested in email nancyhowell@wcaudubon.org for more information about the annual Count and to receive team information updates, email betseymerkel@gmail.com

6. NEW BUSINESS.

- Fran Mentch, Sierra Club Ohio, was unable to attend but asked it be proposed WCAS investigate for the purpose of supporting Lights Out Cleveland efforts to advocate for window treatments for Cleveland State University buildings. Fran has been invited to explain more to the Lab community perhaps at the Feb 1, 2020 Lab session.

8. NEXT LAB. Kurt led the group in deciding when the Lab should meet again. We agreed to meet on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Bethany Church.

9. ADJOURNMENT. Kurt adjourned the Lab at 3:30 p.m.

Notes Respectfully Submitted by Betsey O’Hagan.