

WCAS CONSERVATION PROJECT REPORT

NOVEMBER 6, 2018 WCAS CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

WCAS held a program on November 6, 2018 that featured personal reports by WCAS members who participated in three conservation projects: Donald Gray Gardens (1985-1996), Dike 14/Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (circa 2000-2012), and Rocky River Important Bird Area Surveys (2006-2012). Thirty people attended this program. Following the reports, attendees at the program participated in four idea stations and produced the following ideas for potential WCAS conservation projects:

LIGHTS OUT. The Lights Out Cleveland crew picked up 2,000 live and dead birds on the ground that had struck glass on downtown buildings. Joe Reardon mentioned American Ceramics Society in Westerville, Ohio has a glass division that makes glass that could preclude birds from flying into buildings.

CLEVELAND LAKE NATURE PRESERVE (CLNP). Here are ideas people generated for what the preserve could be:

1. Build a boardwalk on CLNP similar to Magee Marsh (located near Oak Harbor, Ohio on the lakeshore).
2. Create mudflats for shorebirds and wading birds.
3. Work on removing non-native plants.
4. Add prairie, edges, meadows, and forests.
5. Maintain the gate to preclude dogs and bikes from going on the preserve.
6. Maintain the fence around the preserve for security.
7. Building an observation tower.
9. Build habitat boxes.

PLASTIC POLLUTION.

1. Reduce or eliminate the use of plastic bags in stores
2. Use our own bags in stores.
3. Stop using straws and coffee cups.
4. Buy refillable soap and cleaners.

5. Buy large stock to refill individual containers.
6. Speak up at stores and say, “No, I don’t need a bag, thanks” or at restaurants and say, “No, I don’t need a straw, thanks.”
7. Hold a cleanup date at rivers, streams, and waterfronts.
8. Adopt a stream or green space, such as Wendy Park.

OPEN MIKE. This idea station drew ideas from people covering a wide range of topics of their choices, as shown by this list:

1. Increase habitat with native plants.
2. Be stewards of land.
3. Build a chimney swift tower.
4. Build a bird blind.
5. Adopt urban gardens to attract butterflies.
6. Educate residents on native plants, habitat yards, and fruit plants. Link residents to resources to learn about these things.
7. Increase native plant seed availability.
8. Advocate for legislation to make cleaning products bio-degradable, and educate people about these this issue.
9. Eradicate invasive plants, such as garlic mustard.
10. Encourage nurseries to donate native plants for fund-raisers.
11. Recognize businesses that plant native species around their property.
12. Encourage schools to tell kids about habitat.
13. Invite teachers to our meetings to educate them about habitat.

NOVEMBER 10, 2018 CONSERVATION LAB

WCAS held a conservation project laboratory on November 10, 2018 at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Cleveland. The idea of this event was to build on the idea stations that took place at

the WCAS program meeting on November 6 in order to create new conservation projects for WCAS. Nine people attended this event. Tom Romito facilitated the event. Following is a list of potential projects the group generated:

1. Market Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve to attract urban people to visit it and learn about the impact of climate change on bird populations.
2. Raise support for WCAS conservation projects by seeking revenue for equipment, supplies, food, and printing, plus in-kind services for these projects.
3. Generate new businesses that the city could support. Profits could go into WCAS conservation projects. Joe Reardon mentioned making bio-degradable straws.
4. Seek grants for seeds to grow plants on an actual plot of land, maybe with the help of a charter school. Sell the seedlings to homeowners to populate their own yards. This flow chart emerged from this discussion:



5. The event culminated in the creation of this action plan to begin the work on these projects:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Decide on the next meeting to pursue work on potential conservation projects.	Whole group	Saturday, December 1, 1:00, Bethany Church
Do homework on natural areas and charter schools.	Tim	Before December 1
Contact schools that could help us conduct outreach to students and teachers.	Not specified	Not specified
Research prairie gardens.	Jane showed interest.	By December 1
Contact science fair organizers to see if they would want conservation projects that students could work on.	Joe	By December 1