

# WCAS CONSERVATION LAB REPORT FOR 01-06-2019

## Submitted by Tom Romito, Facilitator

WCAS held a third conservation project laboratory on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Cleveland. Fifteen people attended this event. Kurt Miske opened the meeting and Tom Romito facilitated the event.

1. We began by reviewing the action steps we developed in the December 1, 2018 meeting. They were as follows:

- a. Research production of native plants.
- b. Identify subject matter experts on who could advise us on native plants.
- c. Draft a grant proposal to fund the project.
- d. Market the project.
- e. Showcase the project at Frostville market in Rocky River Reservation.
- f. Recruit volunteers to showcase the project.

2. Lisa Del Rio reviewed her draft grant proposal to the National Audubon Society (NAS). Following are points that the participants offered to bolster the proposal:

- a. The goal of the project is to raise funds conduct the project and to educate the public.
- b. The objective of the project is to cover expenses and keep moving the project forward.
- c. Our outreach strategy is to conduct community engagement, presentation, and volunteer recruitment.
- d. Participants at the meeting will send names of potential partners to Lisa at [lisadelrio@wcaudubon.org](mailto:lisadelrio@wcaudubon.org).
- e. Our niche for this project is native, bird-friendly plants.
- f. Much discussion revolved around whether we will plant in the spring or the spring as well as in the fall. In either case, we will have to plan before we can plant. The answer to this question will drive how much funding we will seek from NAS.
- g. The request for proposals calls for the potential impact of climate change on the project. Participants noted that we have not snow cover to keep moisture in the ground and that native plants have long roots that combat this condition. Also, insects and birds are

moving to climate more to their liking. Finally, increased rainfall creates more stormwater runoff and native plants combat this.

3. The event culminated in the creation of this action plan to continue work on this project:

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
Send Lisa DelRio names of partners.	Lara, Josh, Joe	January 11
Determine the actual funding level to request.	Lisa and Lara	January 11
Give Lisa statistics that forecast the reach of the project.	Fran, Betsey	January 11
Send Lisa a contact for Olmsted Historical Society to learn the attendance at their farmers market.	Tom	January 11
Make phone calls to people who were involved in the Rocky River Important Bird Area survey (2006-2012) in order to raise seed money for the project.	Gloria	During the month of January
Conduct the next meeting.	All	February 2