

**Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
Board Meeting Monday, April 22, 2013  
at Sandwich Delites, Berea, Ohio**

**Present: Kit Birch (Moderator), Liz Clingman, Nora Ebie, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles, Barry Wolfe**

1. Reports from Strategic Champions

a) Barry Wolfe, Membership. Has sent e-mail to members who attended the past few programs. Many e-mail bounces, not much response. Nora will check the e-mail addresses.

b) Kurt Miske, Leadership. Not present. He completed the May-July newsletter, which is going out soon to members. Tom Romito wrote a front-page article on leadership transition.

c) Stan Searles, Education. Not much response at meetings. He is developing a PowerPoint slideshow for outreach.

2. Finances: Nancy Howell reports \$26, 430.64 in the treasury. The next expense will be the newsletter

3. Nominations and election

a) Job clarity for members: Penny will copy from the chapter by-laws and create an e-blast to include this information, plus the suggestions of Carol Miske. Outline the time commitments.

b) Barry Wolfe noted the need to keep to our plans and goals

c) By-laws call for the board to be the four officers (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) plus chairs of standing committees and six directors at large.

d) Tom Romito will not be at the WCAS May meeting, and asked that Barry present the nominees, ask for additional, and conduct the election.

e) Passed a revision to the bylaws to clarify that the chapter's immediate past president will remain as a board member:

**After a new president is elected, the current president stays on the board as "immediate past president" for two years, which is the term of the newly elected president.**

This is an addition to the chapter bylaws, **ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

Section 1. The control and conduct of business of the Society shall be vested in its Board of Directors elected from the membership in good standing. The Board shall include elected officers, appointed chairpersons of standing committees, *the immediate past president*, and six Directors.

AND in the following article:

**ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS.**

Section 1. The election of officers shall take place at the May membership meeting. The officers shall be installed at the membership meeting in the following September.

Section 2. Officers nominated by the Nominating Committee shall be elected by a voice vote of the membership present at the elections. If there is more than one candidate for any office, the election of such office shall be by ballot, with the winner receiving the majority of ballots cast.

***Section 3. After a new president is elected, the current president stays on the board as "immediate past president" for the term of the newly elected president.***

4. Newsletter - electronic options: Nora suggested that the WCAS newsletter be delivered electronically. Consensus was that members will have a choice. Most memberships are renewed at the beginning of the fiscal year. Nancy Howell will revise the membership application to offer a choice of paper or electronic. This will be included in the August-October 2013 newsletter which will go to all national Audubon members.

5. Social Media Update:

a) Nora has created a Google account and a Twitter account for the WCAS board. The Google account includes gmail, Google plus (similar to Facebook), Google Drive (shared file storage), Picasa for sharing and editing photos and YouTube.

WCAS could create educational or promotional videos to offer to the public via YouTube.

b) Mary Anne Romito (webmaster) would like for others on the board to be able to update sections of the WCAS website, for instance, programs or field trips.

7. Rocky River Nature Center iPad/Bird Seed purchase. The board agreed to give \$600. to the Rocky River Nature Center for purchase of an iPad with case and bird-related applications. The iPad will be engraved as a gift from WCAS. Nancy will coordinate with Valerie Fetzer, manager at RRNC. Any leftover money could be used toward bird seed. Barry Wolfe offered to contribute seed in addition to what WCAS might donate.

8. Report on EarthFest: WCAS had a table at EarthFest at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds on April 21. Volunteers were Kit Birch, June Cangey, Nancy Howell, Jack McKenzie, Laura Obloy, Joanne Righi, Stan Searles and Diane Sigler. "Kids" of all ages enjoyed the migration game and the bird whistle prizes. "A really good event," said Nancy Howell. There was even a visit from the WCAS pileated mascot.

At EarthFest, Nancy reported that the organizers of the Burning River Fest invited WCAS to take part. This takes place on Whiskey Island, Friday 6-11 p.m. and Saturday 1-11 p.m. July 26 and 27, 2013. An application to exhibit is at <http://www.burningriverfoundation.org/contacts/add/exhibit>

9. Birding for kids group this summer:

a) Nancy Howell reported a request from Le Chaperon Rouge in Independence for a program during the week of August 5. Nancy will be able to coordinate. Would like some help.

b) Kit stated that we might get more younger adults (typically 25 to 45 years old) interested in WCAS membership if we had more family-oriented activities or programs. These would not be during the usual monthly programs for adults that we currently offer. It would provide WCAS with visibility and recognition.

c) Nora noted that Cuyahoga Community College has summer camps.

d) Nancy suggested that WCAS might be able to offer a part-day.

e) Kit suggested celebrity birders to work with younger people. Black Swamp Bird Observatory works with young birder groups.

f) Stan Searles noted that WCAS will want to have background checks on adult leaders or volunteers if we set up programs for children.

10. Science fair winner and more: Stan Searles will invite Rachel Yurchisin to the next WCAS program to give a brief presentation on her award-winning project

from the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair. WCAS has picked her projects for special awards in 2012 and in 2013.

Stan reported that he has been working with a group of young birders in Thailand.

Stan asked the Board's go-ahead to contact Mike Melampy regarding WCAS linkage with science clubs at Baldwin-Wallace University.

11. Next meeting: The WCAS Board will meet Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m. at Sandwich Delites, Berea, Ohio.