

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
Board Meeting Monday, April 23, 2012  
Sandwich Delites, Berea, Ohio

Present: Mark Hofelich (new), Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles, Barry Wolfe

1. Finances: \$13,244.94 in the treasury. Biggest upcoming expense is the May-July newsletter.
  
2. Ultrawalk/Ultrabird plans. Dates for Ultrabird are May 24, 25 and 26. It is our May field trip. Birders will join Mary Anne at 6 a.m. or at 8 a.m. each day. Date for the Ultrawalk is Saturday May 26, leaving at 6 a.m. from Buzzard's Roost in Hinckley. Tom Romito, Stan Searles and one other walker are planning for 31 miles. Terry and Joanne Gorges have volunteered to staff a registration table at Park Ops, where the 5-mile walkers will join the Ultrawalkers. At the May 1 membership program we will ask for volunteers to set up a finish line at Emerald Necklace Marina. Will publicize both events on Facebook, and the Ultrabird field trip on the Ohio-Birds listserv.
  
3. Wind Turbine at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds: Tom Romito attended the ribbon-cutting. The Wind Turbine is named Fair Winds. WCAS may do a survey of bird and bat kills. Stan Searles noted the importance of following standard protocols such as those established by the American Bird Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
  
4. Lake to Lake Trail research briefing on April 25: Study was done by Case Western Reserve University students. Penny O'Connor and Liz Clingman will attend.
  
5. Medina Raptor Center support: Tom noted that \$100 went to Medina Raptor Center, and shared the latest newsletter.
  
6. Important Bird Area Final Report Progress: Goal is to make the results of the project available to stakeholders such in communities in the East Branch Rocky River watershed. Copies will go to public officials, libraries, Cleveland Metroparks, etc. Nancy Howell will put the sections written so far onto a flash drive. Stan Searles will ask the graphics specialist at the Zoo if she would like to work on this as a free-lance activity.
  
7. Bird Buzzer board: Scoutmaster of the troop in Brooklyn has indicated that scouts may be interested in building this.

8. Detroit-Shoreway Community Development Organization may work with Western Cuyahoga Audubon to write a "TogetherGreen" grant application supporting environmental projects for the Eco-Village area in the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood. Tom, Mary Anne, and Stan attended a meeting with DSCDO.

9. Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve open house May 19: The nature preserve, formerly known as Dike 14 will have an open house May 19 from 7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Bird hike leaders include: Bill Deininger, Dave Graskemper, Nancy Howell, Linda Sekura and Wendy Weirich. Bird hikes will be at 7:30, 8, 8:30 and 9 a.m. Western Cuyahoga Audubon will need volunteers to staff a display. Will ask at the membership program on May 1. WCAS plans a field trip to CLNP for fall. The Trip leader would like to visit the non-public areas. Will need permission from the Port Authority.

10. Wildlife Stamps: These support non-game wildlife in Ohio. WCAS paid \$13 each for 25 packets, to be sold for \$15 each. So far, have sold 5.

11. Boy Scout invasives project: Troop 319 (Brooklyn) contacted WCAS for information on removing invasive plants. Scouts will learn about invasive plants, then plan and conduct a project. They would like to earn a Hornaday award. Penny O'Connor replied with information on Weeders in the Wild, and RRNC Green Team. Also suggested Brooklyn Oxbow as a spot for a project.

12. Kiwanis Talk: Tom Romito, Scott Rush and Stan Searles spoke this month to a Kiwanis group in Parma. They sold 7 bird guides and also received a \$25. donation.

13. Next Meeting: Monday May 21, 2012 at 6 p.m. at Sandwich Delites, Berea, Ohio.