

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board meeting, Monday, February 17, 2014
at Panera Bread, Tiedeman Rd., Brooklyn, OH

Present: Suzanne Aldrich, Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nora Ebie, Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles

1. Finances: Nancy Howell distributed a summary of chapter finances. There is \$28,102.45 in the treasury. Main income this month came from Annual Appeal donations. Largest expense was the quarterly newsletter.

2. Updates:

A. March 9 program at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo: Board members, please come at 1 p.m. Event starts at 2 p.m. Aramark will cater, coffee, cookies, etc. Not allowed to sell items, such as shade-grown coffee. WCAS will bring newsletters, trifolds, native plant flyer. Tom Romito will get the display board from the Rocky River Nature Center. Nancy Howell offered to notify staff at Rocky River Nature Center that there will be no "first Tuesday" Audubon program in March 2014.

B. Earthfest: Sunday April 13. WCAS will have a table and two chairs. Need to recruit volunteers and plan a fun activity. Suggestion: Newspaper peat pot with a sunflower seed. Nancy will provide sunflower seeds. Nora will do research to find directions for newspaper pots like those made at West Creek open house.

C. Newsletter Snafu: Feb-Apr 2014 came out late, mid-February after the program and two field trips had passed. Delay was about a banner. In future weigh priority, observe deadlines. Copy for the next newsletter due by April 1.

D. Fundraising committee: Tom Romito and Mark Hofelich will start working on this after March 9.

E. Other Updates:

1) Buzzard Day: Have 2 volunteers. Liz Clingman will be out of town. Have not had a large amount of public response in past years. Possibly better if WCAS were at Buzzard Roost rather than at the pancake breakfast. Will cancel if no more volunteers.

2) Science Fair: Debra Jesionowski and Penny O'Connor will represent WCAS at CSU on 3/11/2014

3) Film Festival: Dates not yet set for film showings. WCAS will sponsor a film. Will ask for volunteers when we know the dates and times.

4) Brooklyn Centre Naturalists: Tom Romito reported that Brooklyn Center Naturalists plan to remove phragmites in their area. WCAS partnership is requested. Hoping to apply for grant money. Stan Searles felt that WCAS should look at the design and plans, and will need to show linkage to conservation of avian species. Mary Anne Romito noted that Brooklyn Centre Naturalists are working to make their neighborhood a National Wildlife Federation certified community wildlife habitat, and have had success in recruiting community volunteers for conservation projects. Board decided that WCAS would be interested in partnering and in helping to develop a plan. Suzanne Aldrich and Liz Clingman will work on this project. Nora Ebie and Nancy Howell may possibly also help.

3. Photo Contest for new website: Nora has created a design around the theme of H-E-L P, Help, Enjoy, Learn, Preserve. Tom suggested that she form a committee, herself plus two other members. He will suggest some names for her to contact.

4. Elections: At April meeting, will present the current officers as a slate, but with Nora running for president. Any member may make additional nominations from the floor.

5. Nation Audubon Society Chapter Policy Draft: Nora summarized. It emphasizes collaboration, follows the "Flyway" model, in line with US Fish and Wildlife Service divisions. WCAS discussed the roles of Audubon Ohio, Marni Urso, and the Ohio Audubon Chapter leaders.

7. Next Board Meetings:

Monday, March 24, 2014 6 p.m. at Liz Clingman's home 6120 Ruple Rd.

Monday, April 21, 2014 6 p.m. at Panera Bread, Tiedeman Rd. and I-480, Brooklyn, OH