

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 19, 2012, Sandwich Delites, Berea, OH

Present:

Gayle Albers, Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito

1. Finances: Nancy Howell reported \$12,828.55 in the treasury. The next large expense will be the May-July newsletter. Field trip participants at our March 10 Killdeer Plains field trip were invited to donate to a Carbon Offset fund. So far we have \$136.16. We will tally until the end of the week. Lisa Rock and Paul Baicich, who have lodging near Magee Marsh, offered a stay to the largest Carbon Offset donor at the Killdeer Plains Field trip. Lisa and Paul have been active with the Ohio Ornithological Society's Carbon Offset Bird Project.
2. Combined Federal Campaign: Tom Romito reported that WCAS received \$258. minus an administrative fee, for a net of \$222.23 from federal employees.
3. Picnic: WCAS 2012 June 5 picnic will be at Cottonwood Picnic Area, Rocky River Reservation.
4. Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamps: Nancy has received a supply. Cost to WCAS is \$13, and they sell for \$15. These stamps support non-game wildlife in Ohio. The stamps are in year 3, this year the stamp bears a Spotted Salamander, comes with a pin and a card.
5. Cleveland International Film Festival. WCAS will sponsor People of a Feather. Tom and Mary Anne Romito will see the film Tuesday, March 27 and Stan and Vicki Searles on Wednesday, March 28. Tom and Stan will speak.
6. Buzzer Board: Gayle Albers has contacted Scoutmaster Jay Ryan. Scouts would be interested. He will get back to us about technology. We would like something generic, to use for different types of quiz or demo. Gayle for e suggested that we might help with a birding badge. Gayle will look up the requirements. Tom suggested that WCAS could have a "counselor" role for scouts working on this badge.
7. Elephant Crossing Tour: Gayle reported that the top donors to the WCAS 2011 Annual Appeal will tour with Andi Kornack, Zoo's animal curator. She is working out dates with the donors.
8. Medina Raptor Center: Requested a donation. WCAS will give \$100.
9. Newsletter: Board members went through some of the items to be included in the May-July newsletter. Ultrabird article (Penny), Picnic (Nancy), May Open House for Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, Thank yous to volunteers for representing WCAS at the Science Fair, Science Olympiad, Buzzard Day, Great Backyard Bird Count at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.
10. Ultrawalk - Who will do what?
 - Stan will solicit political representatives
 - Need volunteers to staff a table at Park Ops
 - "Bannermeister" to take the banner from place to place on Ultrawalk Day
 - Volunteer at the Marina to greet visitors and meet walkers

11. Western Reserve Land Conservancy Spring Migration Survey: WCAS has skilled observers, but we would like to know what areas are to be surveyed, and what procedures.

12. Buzzard Sunday, March 18: Tom Romito worked in the morning and Nancy Howell in the afternoon. Each reported steady visits, but no one after the Buzzard left. Nancy had a craft project for youngsters: tiaras. Afterward, Tom visited Riverwoods Preserve in Hinckley. It ..was wild before, but now there is a grassy path, a kiosk, benches, parking for 4 cars. It is located at River Road and Route 303. WCAS did bird surveys before it was established by the township.

13. Kiwanis talk: Tom and Stan will speak to the Parma Heights Kiwanis on April 4 at 7:30 a.m.

14. Wind Turbine at Berea Fairgrounds: Will start operating at the end of March. We discussed some issues surrounding surveys of birds and bats which may be killed. Interns or university students?

15. Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative: Relates to "Lights Out" in downtown buildings. Being done in Columbus. Two of the principals are Julie Shieldcastle and Paul Rodewald.

16. Next Board meeting: Monday, April 23, 2012, 6 p.m. at Sandwich Delites in Berea.