

**Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society**  
**Board meeting, Monday, October 21, 2013**  
**Sandwich Delites, Berea, Ohio**

**Present:** Suzanne Aldrich, Nora Ebie (presiding) Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Stan Searles

1. Reports from Strategic Champions (Membership, Leadership, Outreach)

Stan Searles, Outreach: Has added more photos to the slide show he is preparing for outreach, and will put into Nora Ebie's hands for polishing.

Leadership and Membership champions Kurt Miske and Barry Wolfe, were absent.

2. Finances: Nancy Howell reported \$26,368.02 in the treasury. Upcoming expenses are the newsletter and fee for preparation of IRS Form 990. Nancy reported that several members have requested e-mail only for the newsletter. Nora advised on how to set up the spreadsheet to handle the different delivery plans.

3. Lost Bird Project film "Friendraiser"

Program will be in early March. Nancy and Nora, with representatives of Kirtland Bird Club and Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, are selecting a venue with seating for 200. Introductory talk and panel discussion at the end will be moderated by Harvey Webster of Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Possible sites are the Zoo, Tri-C Metro Campus, John Carroll. Stan will inquire about using the Zoo (familiar location, centrally located, with free parking, and catering on-site).

4. Christmas Bird Count dinner: Christmas Bird Count will be on Sunday, December 29, 2013. Birders will gather to tally results and to enjoy a relaxing catered buffet dinner at 6 p.m. instead of a chili lunch at Rocky River Nature Center, This will allow a day of uninterrupted birding. Restaurants or the Rocky River Nature Center are possible choices. Nancy is exploring the options. Stan will check on options with Aramark, and Nora will check on options with Tri-C for catering. The upcoming newsletter will go out with a reference to the dinner, but advising to check e-mail, website or Christmas Bird Count leader for final plans.

5. December meeting, potluck and silent auction: December 3, silent auction and potluck will precede the program. WCAS will provide ham, turkey, coffee and soft drinks. Penny O'Connor will check with Liz Clingman on the amount of ham and turkey, and where to acquire, and if Liz will be able to help with this. Last year we used GFS in North Olmsted. Need more turkey and less ham than last year. Will ask Kit Birch about table covers.

6. Annual Appeal: Board has agreed on shade-grown coffee as a premium for donors of \$50 or more. Still looking at options for larger donors. Stan will make inquiries for a "celebrity" birding experience. Penny will write a draft letter. Board will need to assemble the letters in mid-November. November 18 board meeting or a separate day?

7. NEOSEF. Penny requested that the Board authorize cash prizes for WCAS special science fair award winners at the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair. Judging is Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at Cleveland State University. Board members suggested upping the amount from last year to two \$75. awards. Will table this until the November Board Meeting, due to a lack of quorum

8. Membership in Earth Day Coalition: Nancy reported that the Earth Day Coalition has requested that WCAS join, \$100 membership. Board members present today are generally in favor, but will table until the November Board Meeting.

9. Direction of WCAS: Nora led a discussion. Would like to focus on Rocky River Important Bird Area, Lakefront, or on bird surveys. Possibilities include West Creek boxes and further surveys in Cleveland Metroparks. Terri Martincic and Tim Krynak might have some surveys in the works. WCAS might want to survey other types of habitat in the IBA, as past survey focused on forest-breeding birds. Stan suggested petitioning National Audubon Society to include the West Branch of the Rocky River in the IBA. Stan also favors a conservation project. Tom Romito had e-mailed to suggest involvement in reforestation efforts in the Rocky River IBA. WCAS might also mentor another Audubon Chapter interested in launching an IBA project in their area. Nancy suggested looking into bird trails or surveys that might be done at Stearns Farm in Parma. Penny and Nancy brought up "lights out" efforts, where building owners would be asked to take part in an effort to keep tall buildings dark at night, especially during bird migration. All agreed that the project should be in an area convenient for WCAS volunteers who may be called upon to carry it out.

10. Other WCAS business: Penny reported that Bev Walborn attended the Canalway field trip on Saturday, October 19, and she with others is organizing a young birders group for the Akron/Cleveland area. Bev is now at Rocky River Nature Center part-time.

11. Next Board Meeting: Monday, November 18, 2013.