

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting
Monday, September 16, 2013

Present: Suzanne Aldrich, Nora Ebie (moderator), Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Stan Searles

1. Reports of Strategic Champions:

- a) Barry Wolfe (membership) on vacation
- b) Kurt Miske (ongoing)
- c) Stan Searles (see below)

2. Finances

Nancy Howell reported \$24,723.03 in the treasury. Group discussed sending an annual appeal letter. Will offer shade-grown coffee for donations of \$50. or more. Suzanne Aldrich will pursue donated items (such as gift cards) that may be offered to donors of larger amounts. Stan Searles suggested a bird tour by noted local birder(s). Kurt suggested paying for production and mailing of the annual appeal letter. Suzanne will investigate costs.

3. Newsletter: Deadline for the next newsletter is 10/11/13. Next newsletter covers November, December and January. Topics: Christmas Bird Count, field trips, programs, annual appeal, carbon offset, new members, silent auction.

4. Status of Lost Bird film showing: Nancy Howell and Nora Ebie met with Mark Demyan (Greater Cleveland Audubon) and Lukas Padegimas (Kirtland Bird Club) This will be a "friendraiser," sometime in March, a free showing to attract a wide audience and offer networking opportunities. The group is looking into a convenient venue with good parking, able to accommodate 200 people.

5. Status of Audubon Chapters meeting.

Nora Ebie and Stan Searles traveled to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus to meet with several of the other Ohio Audubon Chapters. Nora and Stan reported on ways that the chapters hope to share expertise, resources and information. Some areas are:

Work on Important Bird Areas

Communications -- from National Audubon, how chapters can communicate with members

Social Media and marketing

Nora and Stan came back with some "to do" items for WCAS:

a) WCAS will supply 17 copies of the Rocky River IBA final report. These will go into information packets which will go to all Ohio Audubon Chapters. Will need to contact Tom Romito when he returns from vacation.

b) WCAS will offer expertise and workshops in IBA projects.

c) WCAS will offer expertise and workshops on social media. Ann Balogh of GIAC has set up a Facebook page for the chapters; Nora offered to help administer it with Ann.

6. Presentation by Stan Searles: Stan created a draft of a slide show that WCAS members can use in talks to community organizations. He would like to have more photos to round it out. Once the photos are received, Nora will put it in a professional format. Photos needed: WCAS members in action, shade-grown coffee, Pileated Woodpecker costume. Items in the slide show are:

Monthly meetings, Birding, Environmental Education, Science Fair, Christmas Bird Count, Citizen science, Sharing our passion for conservation.

7. Other business: WCAS has endorsed the upcoming Cleveland Metroparks tax levy. At the October 1 membership meeting and program we hope to have a representative to speak on the levy. Need yard signs and stickers to hand out.

8. Next meeting: Monday, October 21, 2013 at 6 p.m. at Sandwich Delites, Berea, Ohio.