

Greater Akron Audubon Society
Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee
July 17, 2012

Present: Susan Jones, Louisa Kreider, Cathy Parker, Dick Parker, Joyce Pelz, Wolfgang Pelz, Claire Purdy, Mark Purdy, Clyde Witt.

- Treasurer's Report

Dick had e-mailed a copy of the treasurer's report to the committee membership five days prior to the meeting. Wolfgang made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as submitted; Clyde seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- Newsletter

Mark reported that Ann Chasar will have some of the results of the June breeding bird census for the newsletter. Clyde recommended that the chapter migrate the newsletter from paper copy to electronic format only. Claire suggested that the newsletter remain in paper format this year, but that the chapter announce the impending change to electronic format over the coming year. Joyce informed the committee of Constant Contact, a service for maintaining the list of e-mail recipients. It was generally agreed that the electronic newsletter will be published to the GAAS website, with e-mail blasts alerting the readership as the latest issue becomes available. Clyde offered to do the setup of each issue. Claire inquired whether subscribers could sign up for electronic delivery on the GAAS website, and Wolfgang responded affirmatively, via the use of the info@akronaudubon.org e-mail address; he in turn will forward those messages to Cathy, who volunteered to maintain the list of e-mail subscribers. Wolfgang recommended retaining the bulk mailing permit, as the chapter may wish to mail hard copies of the seed sale order form to the membership. Susan inquired how the chapter would utilize the money saved from no longer printing and mailing the newsletter, and Claire suggested offering scholarships to attend Audubon Camp on Hog Island, Maine and engaging speakers who command a fee. Louisa asked whether the frequency of publication would change, as the original motive for scaling back the frequency to four issues a year was the cost savings by not printing a fifth issue. After giving Louisa the evil eye, Clyde acquiesced that it would be possible to go to a monthly schedule of publication.

- Seed Sale

The date for this year's seed sale was set for November 10, 2012. Mark will contact Copley Feed & Supply to make the arrangements. The same items offered last year will be offered this year. Prices will need to be determined by the end of August if Clyde is to include an order form in the September newsletter.

- Hospitality

Mark reiterated the committee's decision from previous years to refrain from offering refreshments at the monthly meetings, and the committee maintained its stance on this decision. To date only one individual has commented negatively on this omission.

- Monthly Meeting Venue

Mark has secured the Mingo Shelter in Sand Run Metro Park through 2012. He will verify with Metro Parks the availability of the shelter for the remainder of the GAAS 2012-2013 season of monthly meetings.

- Annual Report

Mark solicited information regarding activities from the past year for inclusion in the chapter's annual report to the national organization.

- Fall Into Nature at the Bath Nature Preserve

Mark asked the committee whether the chapter should again decline a presence at this event, and the membership informally agreed. Cathy observed that if the chapter does participate, it needs to offer a children's activity, as this event is targeted toward families with children.

- Birds and Wine Event

Dick has been unsuccessful in negotiating with Vaccaro's to arrange for such an event, as has Wolfgang with the Harbor Inn. Mark suggested holding this event at the Regal Beagle, i.e., the pavilion adjacent to the field station at the Bath Nature Preserve. Ensuing discussion considered the following issues: whether the committee members would provide the wine or participants would bring their own, whether food for the event would be catered or potluck, limiting the wines to those with a bird theme and offering a program revolving around each bird represented, whether the event should be purely for entertainment or a fundraiser, whether the event should be open to the public or limited to Audubon members, and the need to obtain a permit in order to serve alcohol at the event. With more questions raised than could be answered, Mark said he would first inquire of Greg Smith as to the feasibility of holding such an event at the pavilion. The committee agreed that this event was best suited for the fall, and therefore the event is targeted for October 2012.

- Programs for 2012-2013

Potential speakers:

Keith Tarvin, Oberlin College. **Dick** will contact.

Matt Shawkey, University of Akron (coloration in mallards). **Mark** will contact.

John Szabo, University of Akron (geology). **Wolfgang** will contact.

Doug Wynn (snakes). **Louisa** will contact.

Ali Dhinojwala, University of Akron (geckos). **Wolfgang** will contact.

Akron Zoo. **Cathy** will contact.

Dan Bertsch, Medina County Parks. **Dick** will contact.

Jim McCormac, ODNR (hummingbirds). **Joyce** will contact.

Dave Sherman, ODNR (sandhill cranes). **Mark** will contact.

Judy Semroc, Cleveland Museum of Natural History (pollinators). **Louisa** will contact.

One speaker more than is required for programs was identified, in case of a negative response from another potential speaker.

Mark stressed that particular effort should be made to engage speakers for the months of September, October, and November, so that Clyde can include them in the September issue of the newsletter.

The Christmas Bird Count will take place on December 16, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Louisa J. Kreider