

Wabash Valley Audubon Society board meeting
Grand Traverse Pie Company

February 7, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Members present were Lucinda Berry, Shelley Arvin, Carissa Lovett, Joe Dickson, Helen Vermillion, Phil Cox, and Ellen Lunsford. Larry Owen was a guest. He is running for an open position on the Soil and Water Conservation Board. The annual board meeting was February 20th at the Girl Scout Building. Larry feels that currently there is more of an emphasis on agriculture than forestry, and he would like to help balance it.

The minutes were approved as corrected. Carissa motioned, Helen seconded.

Membership report - we have 295 members. Welcome letters were sent to seven new members.

Phil gave the Conservation report. WVAS signed on to a letter from the American Bird Conservancy calling for more study for the Merricourt Wind Power Project.

Year of the River - Lucinda said there is interest in a 'Birds of the Wabashiki' presentation for next year.

The Bloomington Audubon Society is interested in what programs the WVAS is doing. They will be referred to our website with our newsletter and information.

Education report - Carissa reported that a home-school group is interested in a bird field trip, and a Christian school is also interested. An education/work day for invasive plants was February 23rd, and there is a work day on March 21st.

The NNN lists the March 20th meeting as being at the Vigo County Public Library, and it should be at Dobbs. It was discussed how to correct it - maybe by sending out a short publication. Phil will work with Marty to correct it.

Recently completed events:

Sullivan Christmas Bird Count, January 5th - six people present and 95 species counted.

WVAS Turtle Rescue - presented at the January meeting and have met with the parks department to discuss future plans.

Upcoming events/meetings:

February 20th - Diana Hews presents on reptile research in Mexico

March 20th - Matt Williams - The Nature Conservancy, Wabash River Initiative

April 17th - Spring Banquet at Kleptz, Brendan Kearns is the speaker. There were concerns over access to the upstairs room for older members. Phil will look into moving the location.

May Bird Count - May 11th

Earth Day - ISU, April 17th; Union Hospital, April 19th; St. Mary of the Woods, April 20th

May 11th - Herb Fair @ Fairbanks Park - will discuss fundraising ideas at a later date

Upcoming member meeting dates are February 20th, March 20th, and the banquet on April 17th. Bird ID dates at Dobbs are February 16th, March 16th, and April 13th. The Backyard Bird Count is February 15th-18th.

Shelley is checking on Dobbs species study report from the 1970s. According to Ron Helms, the checklist may be at the nature center. (At the February member meeting, it was reported that the list had been located.)

Fundraising ideas were discussed, including bird seed sales and calendars. For the calendars, we would need to find sponsors, find a printer, and have a photo contest to obtain photos. Phil will e-mail Friends of Goose Pond for information, since they have done this before.

We have 132 likes on Facebook.

It was suggested that the Raptor Center at Hardy Lake would be a good presenter for one of our member meetings. The cost is \$150. The board will look into booking the program for the November member meeting if possible and getting extra room at the library. Joe made a motion, Ellen seconded.

Information was shared on Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine for 14-17 year-olds, as well as other programs they offer. This might be an idea for next year; we could provide a scholarship if a student is interested.

Indiana American Water sent us information on a grant application. Ellen will take it to the Parks Department. It could perhaps be used to help fund Wabashiki projects.

New business – a photographer is needed for the spring banquet as Joe will not be there. Carissa will contact Jim Sullivan. Nominations for the James Mason award are currently needed.

It was decided that Ellen, Carissa, and Nick will make up the nominating committee to find board members.

Helen motioned to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.