

BOARD MEETING 4/10/24

10 April 2024 / 6:59 PM Meeting start

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Dostal, Rob Pendergast, Susan Schuller, Willow Pingel, Joe Schulz, Bob Lane, John Munson, Jan Seiler, Brad Branwell-Zinda, Brad Baum, Ned Grossnickle

NOTES

- **Approval of Minutes** Motion by Brad B-Z., seconded by Rob P.; carried & approved

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Whooping Cranes with Alicia Ward

- April 17th, 7:00 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline

- April 26th

ACTION ITEMS

Recycling Connections Grant

- Asking for up to \$200.00 to support the Mattress Recycling Event
 - Motion by Brad B-Z., seconded by Jan S.; carried & approved
 - Susan Schuller abstained

Local Membership Campaign in May

- Increase dues from \$25.00 to \$30.00? Consider student rate?

- Motion to keep fee at \$25.00 by Brad B-Z., seconded by Ned G.; carried & approved
- Free 6 or 9 month membership cards to hand out at spring events & announcement in May newsletter
 - Match membership with monthly newsletter schedule & send reminder to renew
 - New members only
 - Need to hear back from Janet

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Upcoming Events for the May newsletter/website

- What's Up on the Bluff trip w/ Bob F.; May 11th
- Red-Shoulder Hawk trip w/ Karen D. & Brad B-Z.; June 1st
- Bison and Butterflies trip w/ Brad B.; June 15th
- Little Plover River trip w/ Karen D.; June 29th
- Jr. Audubon at Schmeeckle?
 - Susan S. doesn't yet have banding permit for Spring
 - May 25th as a tentative date?
- Bird-A-Thon? Off list?
- Moth Week at the end of July
 - Perhaps event here at Schmeeckle w/ Rob P.

Save Our Songbirds + ALAS seminar at Ruby Coffee (Brad B-Z.)

- Lisa Gaumnitz from Save Our Songbirds initiative wants to partner with us to have a seminar about what people can do to help songbirds
 - Reducing window collisions, hands on projects for window treatments, etc.
 - Thinking for fall migration, Brad hasn't heard back from Ruby Coffee
 - Lisa could also be speaker for next year

Treasurer Position

- Looking to fill position, prepare someone soon

Program Committee Chair Volunteers

- Susan, Bob, Joe 1 year
- Help needed; contacting speakers over the summer for scheduling
 - Brad B-Z possibly could help

Program Suggestions

- Raptor programs (owls, kestrel, osprey)
- Life history programs (wood duck, passenger pigeons)
- International birding (Peru banding, South African birds, Darwin's finches)
- Conservation (e-bird, save the songbirds, Wisconsin River, Avian flu, bees)
- Mammal programs (otters, black bears)
- Nature & people/pop culture (nature journaling, animal eclipse behavior, birds in lore, ornithology in movies)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Field Trips (Brad B.)

- Sunrise on the Buena Vista w/ Rob P.: April 20th in Newsletter
- Sandhill Trip needs forwarding to Lora for Newsletter, Jenny for website & Brad B-Z. for Facebook

Conservation (Ned G.)

- Nick Hylla "Remake Our Energy System" 10:00 a.m. Portage County Library, Pinery Room
 - Cosponsored by league of women voters of Point & Rapids, SP chapter citizen climate lobby, Clean Green Action
- National Geographic April Issue pg 112 "Going the Distance"
 - Whooping crane tracking; 5,000mi round trip migrations, trying to boost reproductive success

- North America's greatest conservation success stories, but are still endangered; estimate 10,000 cranes dwindled due to habitat loss & hunters to 16 migratory cranes in 1941
- Through grassroots conservation efforts, more than 800 birds today with 530 in central flyway, the rest within captivity and reproductive programs in Louisiana and Wisconsin
 - 3 main strategies to help recover: ecological and genetic stability by growing population large enough to survive catastrophes; maintain captive population to provide further insurance; provide additional self sustaining wild flocks to historic habitat

Education (Bob L.)

- Central Sands Highschool 2nd year coming to Bob's shop to build bird feeders; setting up experiment using bird houses/feeders; will have ornithology class next year (volunteers from ALAS?)
- Expanding grant program?
 - Work with members who are willing to work with kids like this
- Earth Week at UWSP
 - Keynote speaker John Francis 6:30 pm monday April 22nd
 - DUC Laird Room

Publicity (Brad B-Z.)

- Field trip info for Facebook
- Wisconsin Society of Ornithology facebook post

Jenny Christopher and John Munson leaving the board

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm