

PSO Board of Directors' Meeting

March 9, 2002
Lock Haven University

The Board of Directors met on March 9, 2002, at Lock Haven University with the following members present: Doug Gross, Shonah Hunter, Katrina Knight, Linda Wagner, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Gene Zielinski, Greg Grove, and Mary Jane Seipler.

The meeting was called to order by president Doug Gross at 1:09 p.m. He thanked Shonah for providing the room and for her hospitality and for providing refreshments.

Treasurer's Report

Gene reported a balance of \$17,104.58 in the checking account as of February 14, 2002. Two-thirds of the recent income has been the result of subscriptions to *Pennsylvania Birds*. At the present time, expenses are greater than income because May is membership renewal time. The board accepted the report as given.

Gene also reported on the status of obtaining nonprofit status from the state. He said that the PSO would benefit by not having to pay sales tax when it purchases anything and would not have to collect sales tax when it sold anything. One of the remaining questions to be answered on the application is the number of volunteer hours spent each year for the organization. Doug responded by estimating 4000 hours, mainly from the SAPs which is the number that Gene will use for Doug. Other board members should respond to Gene by e-mail with their hours.

Secretary's Report

Because the minutes from the previous meeting had been distributed in February and the board members were familiar with them, Greg moved and Linda seconded the motion that the reading of the minutes be dispensed and that they be accepted as printed.

Annual Meeting

Shonah reported that she had contacted East Stroudsburg University and has made arrangements to hold the annual meeting there. All of the proceedings during the weekend will be held in the Moore Biology Hall except for the banquet, which will be held in the cafeteria. This includes the banquet speaker which will require the meeting to move back to Moore Hall after the banquet. Only drinks will be provided for the Friday social as no one has eaten the food provided in past years. Because alcohol is not permitted on state property, Shonah has to submit a special request so that alcohol may be served at the social. Also, the insurance that the PSO carries must meet the university's requirements. Gene will check our coverage. No provisions are being made for the university to provide either breakfast or lunch either day as not enough people are interested. There are a number of places to obtain breakfast and lunch in the area around the university. There will be a break during the afternoon sessions for which the university will provide drinks and cookies at a cost of \$3.30 per person.

The banquet menu will be the Deluxe Dinner Buffet which will include vegetable lasagna and roast chicken with herb stuffing, roasted red potatoes, and pralines with cream for dessert.

Anyone desiring to stay at the university suites residence hall (apartments) may do so at the following cost:

Double occupancy for 2 nights	\$73 per person
Single occupancy for 2 nights	\$83 per person
Double occupancy for 1 night	\$42 per person
Single occupancy for 1 night	\$52 per person

Anyone desiring to stay in a double occupancy room must identify his/her roommate at the time of registration. There are also 6 motels and at least 1 campground in the area for anyone who does not want to stay at the university. The Pocono area has a website that provides information on accommodations.

The registration fee will be \$25 again this year for members, \$30 for nonmembers, and \$12 for those under 18 years of age. Registration deadline is April 30. A discussion followed concerning membership in the PSO with regard to the meeting. Katrina reminded the board that membership is no longer available without the journal which would make registration and membership a total of \$53.50. Linda made a motion that if a nonmember registered, that Shonah would send them a membership form with a \$5 off sticker on the form explaining that if they joined at this time, they can become a member for only \$23.50. Shonah seconded the motion which passed.

The possibility of having vendors at the meeting was discussed. Shonah said that the university requires a 10% fee on all sales. It was decided that this was unreasonable and that vendors would not be asked to participate this year.

Doug discussed John Serrao as the possible banquet speaker this year. He is from this area and has written a book on the reptiles and amphibians of the Poconos. He has several programs, but the board seemed to agree that the one called "Our Living Forest" would be most interesting. His fee for this meeting will be \$250. He will not be able to arrive until 8:30 due to prior commitments. There was general agreement among the board members that Doug should ask Mr. Serrao to present the banquet program.

Afternoon Speakers

Doug informed the board that he had contacted several possible speakers for the afternoon sessions with the following results:

1. Bob Ross – Bird Communities Affected by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
2. Terry Masters and Jim Sheehan – Ecology of Acadian Flycatchers in the Delaware Water Gap
3. Bud Cook – Nature Conservancy's Activities in the Poconos
Doug Gross – Will supplement Bud's talk afterward with bird data for the same area

A fourth speaker has not yet been found, but Doug plans to contact either Dan Klem or Rick Wiltraut. Dan has a program on window kills, and Doug also suggested he might talk about how to put a field guide together. Rick Wiltraut could possibly talk about birds of Poconos showing some of his photographs of the Pocono area. Doug will contact one of the two of the above possible speakers to see if one of them is available and willing to speak. If the fourth speaker has not been obtained before the newsletter has been published, a note should be placed in it to inform everyone to check the website for the fourth speaker. It was decided that it is more important to locate a good speaker rather than trying to find a bird identification program.

Field Trips

The board decided to see if Alan Gregory, Terry Masters, and Chris Turn would organize the field trips. Some of the possible destinations might be:

1. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area – possibly two trips in different areas at the same time
2. Tannersville Bog
3. PEEC – Bushkill Area
4. Minsi Lake County Park (Cherry Valley) Sunday trip
5. Long Pond – possibly several different leaders – Sunday trip
6. Promised Land State Park – Sunday
7. Delaware State Forest
8. A field trip for those who want to do limited walking
9. Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

Newsletter

Margaret informed the board that a non-profit bulk mailing permit has been obtained and that the next newsletter mailing will be sent under this permit. She has received several articles and is waiting for several others for the next issue which will be out within the next two weeks.

PSO Web Page

Doug said that he thinks that the web page looks great and that Frank Haas plans to do even more. Frank may not be able to continue as webmaster as he is starting a new business. The website address is www.pabirds.org.

Poole Award

Doug will ask Alan Gregory, Dan Brauning, and Bob Ross if they will serve on a committee to select this year's recipient. The board thought it would be nice if the past presidents could serve on this committee to review the candidates.

Student Award

It was agreed that the deadline for nominations for the award should be extended until April 15. Gene made a motion that the award be termed a scholarship instead of a sponsorship. Greg seconded the motion which passed.

Officers

Doug asked the following people if they would consider retaining their positions:

Secretary – Roger Higbee

Treasurer – Gene Zielinski

Vice President – (Katrina Knight offered to retain the position if no one else was interested)

President – Passed practice has been for the vice president to move up to the president's office.

Katrina declined the position because of her involvement as the chief editor of *Pennsylvania Birds*. A new candidate will have to be found.

Directors – Anyone who is interested in becoming a director should be aware that much of the business of the society is conducted by e-mail and that it is necessary to either have an e-mail address or to obtain one if elected to the position of director.

The board would like to have the nominations committee composed of past presidents.

2003 Annual Meeting

If the society continues the custom of having the meeting move from one end of the state to the other every year, then the meeting should be held in the west in 2003. Doug suggested that the Todd Bird Club host the meeting in Indiana. Previous investigation by the TBC found that there are at least two motels that can accommodate the meeting. Shonah will contact the Indiana University of Pennsylvania to determine if they might also have facilities that the PSO could use.

Pennsylvania Birds

Katrina reported that the Transition Team meeting was very productive. Also, a new NAMC editor is needed. The Transition Team also decided that the third and fourth quarter journals should be published as one journal to get the journal closer to the time it should be published. The chief editor already has received much of the information included in these quarters. Katrina also reported that Wendy Jo Shemanski has done a good job. Katrina was insistent that an editorial board is needed for the journal. Dan Brauning is interested in being head of the board. Any person who is appointed to the editorial board must be approved by the Board of Directors. Katrina would also like to have a budget for *Pennsylvania Birds*. She and Frank Haas will meet and propose a budget.

Wild Resources Fund

Doug mentioned that the Wild Resources Fund is running out of money and may go extinct at the end of June. Anyone who can, should consider making a contribution.

The meeting ended at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary