

# Board of Directors' Meeting

## Boalsburg, PA

November 8, 2003

The meeting was called to order by president Doug Gross at 11:00 a.m. Persons present were directors Rob Blye, Nick Bolgiano, Doug Gross, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Mark McConaughy, Flo McGuire, Nick Pucinella, Carmen Santasania, and Linda Wagner. Also present was Jon Beam of Montour Preserve to present information concerning the 2004 annual meeting. Gene Zielinski arrived late due to another commitment.

Because the minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting, Mark moved and Carmen seconded that the minutes be approved as distributed. The motion passed.

The board approved the appointment of Frank Haas as a director of PSO as the Publication Manager.

Frank informed the board that the membership now stands at 405 members as compared to 454 in 2002. There are 303 individual, 50 family, and 24 sustaining memberships and 33 reciprocals. Frank requested that the board appoint a membership committee to increase membership. Rob volunteered and was immediately approved. Some suggestions for increasing membership were:

- ◆ See what other clubs do.
- ◆ Send a mailing to Pennsylvania Audubon membership.
- ◆ Send letters to Audubon chapter heads.
- ◆ Contact non-Audubon bird clubs.
- ◆ Sponsor more beginning birder events.
- ◆ Provide a beginning birder page in *PA Birds*.
- ◆ Write an editorial stating that PSO wants anyone interested in birds.
- ◆ Show beginners how to use *PA Birds*.
- ◆ Use the list serve to advertise on a quarterly basis.
- ◆ Produce a series of articles on birding.
- ◆ Publish the information in the newsletter rather than *PA Birds*.
- ◆ Post the newsletter on the web site.
- ◆ Hand out free newsletters once a year; preferably the issue after the annual meeting.

Doug discussed the need for a mailing address other than Hawk Mountain since we have not always received mail in a timely manner. Carmen suggested obtaining a post office box in State College. He will check into the cost and sizes available. Rob moved and Mark seconded a motion to proceed with obtaining the box. The motion passed. (See note later in minutes regarding this motion)

Doug asked for a suggestion for a location to keep back issues of *PA Birds*. Shonah volunteered to keep them at Lock Haven. The offer was accepted.

Doug then informed the board of the unfortunate situation with regard to the payment made to the Indiana Holiday Inn for the expenses for the annual meeting. Gene had used Mellon Bank checks to pay them in May which he thought were good but were not since Mellon is now Citizens Bank. Whenever this was discovered, he immediately wrote a new Citizens check, also in May, to cover the bill and sent it to them. They received the new check but thought that the old ones had cleared so they apparently did not cash the new one. Doug received a notice from the Indiana County DA's office, bad check division, dated 10/24/03, informing him that Holiday Inn had filed a "Crime Report" alleging that PSO had written a bad check. Doug talked to a case coordinator in the DA's office and was told how to resolve the problem. Gene will hopefully resolve the problem on Monday (11/10/03).

Annual Meeting May 14-16, 2004

The annual meeting will be held at Montour Preserve owned by PPL. Jon Beam, the naturalist at the reserve, has made many of the arrangements for the meeting already. The Day's Inn at Danville, 9.6 miles from the preserve, is the nearest motel that has available banquet facilities. Jon has reserved the open courtyard for the banquet on May 15 at a cost of \$150. The motel has agreed to hold a block of rooms until April 30 at the cost of \$65 per night. Anyone making reservations must tell the motel that they are attending the PPL event to get the rate because of the way the motel wrote the contract. Jon will include a list of other motels in the area.

The registration fee will remain the same at \$25. Registration will be at the preserve starting at 5:00. The business meeting will be held at the Montour Preserve Friday night. Vendors will be there Friday and Saturday. Field trips on Saturday will start from the preserve and return to the preserve for a catered lunch of soup and sandwiches. Cost will be about \$7. Saturday breakfast is uncertain as the motel may serve a continental breakfast. If not, breakfast will be at Montour Preserve served by a caterer. The Saturday afternoon papers will also be presented at the preserve. The banquet will be held at the motel Saturday night. Field trips on Sunday will leave from the motel. Breakfast will be on your own on Sunday. Doug and Jon have tentatively scheduled 12 field trips for the weekend with the possibility of some Atlas blockbusting.

The menu for the banquet was discussed. It was decided that a buffet would be best. The menu will be prime rib, chicken cordon bleu, baked potato, spring vegetable blend, tossed salad, fruit salad, pasta salad, and a desert buffet. Jon will inquire if a vegetarian meal can be added to the above selection and what the cost will be.

Doug then discussed the possibility of having a beginning birder short course and field trips presented through the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (PICE). PICE would supply the materials and instructor and hold the course at Montour Preserve on Friday. This course counts as credit so there is the possibility that teachers would attend. The cost is \$40, and this registration fee would be sent to Shonah and then forwarded to PICE. The thought is that this might get new birders to attend PSO as the PSO registration form will also be included with the PICE mailing. The board agreed that this would be a good idea and to have PICE plan for this event.

Doug has asked Bob Mulvihill to speak on Saturday afternoon on the breeding bird atlas. This will be a workshop, so 2 hours will be allotted for his presentation. Doug and Jon will find 2 other speakers. Bob Curry was suggested as a possibility. Other suggestions were short presentations by PORC and SAP. Frank mentioned that he would like to see the bird ID program reinstated to the afternoon programs. Several banquet speakers were suggested. They included Jerry McWilliams, Scott Weidensaul, Bill Evans, Paul Kerlinger, and Kenn Kaufman.

Doug suggested that Bob Ross be asked to find a recipient for the Poole award and that former presidents might be asked to help.

Shonah reminded the board of the young birder scholarship. Margaret will find the form from previous years and e-mail it to her. This will include the application and release form that an adult must sign that state that the adult will be responsible for the young birder.

Doug mentioned that Bartramian Audubon donated \$500 to PSO for the SAP project. Doug has already sent them a letter of thanks. Also the Pennsylvania Game Commission would like to sign a contract with PSO to publish certain data in *PA Birds*. The contract is for \$2600 for 2004. The board agreed that PSO should sign the PGC contract.

Frank and Nick Pulcinella met and discussed adding color to *PA Birds*. The board agreed and decided that the sample cover with a white border would be the best for the cost and involve the least waste. Frank also would like to have a person who would find advertisers for *PA Birds*. This could help add color to the magazine by having the advertiser sponsor a color page. It was suggested that an ad be placed in both the journal and the newsletter to find a volunteer. Frank and Nick would also like to have an active Publication Committee which would help with review of articles, etc. Frank is looking into using a plastic cover for shipping *PA Birds*. Carmen said that his experience with plastic covers is that people do not like them because the plastic is not recyclable.

Carmen agreed to be the Nominations Committee chairperson to find nominees for vacant positions on the board. Roger will send him a list of the current members with their terms.

Linda said that more T-shirts have been ordered because she sold all the larger sizes. She also said that people have requested other colors, especially green. Frank made a motion that Linda can make the necessary decisions with regard to the PSO line of clothing. Rob seconded the motion which passed.

Gene said that the company that he works for wants to transfer him out of state. If this occurs, Carmen said that he will take the treasurer's position. Because of this potential change in the officers, it was suggested that the PSO not change its address until Gene knows more about his possible transfer. He said that he should know by the end of the year.

Gene's treasurer's report is from June 15 until the present.

Income	\$5,102.50
Expenses	\$9,585.23
Checkbook Balance	\$20,904.77

Rob made a motion to accept the report and Frank seconded it. The motion passed.

Doug gave a brief SAP report. There have been 6,470 trips entered into the database. He still has a couple of thousand dollars for data entry. He has also applied for a grant to print checklists for state parks and natural areas. There is still SAP data coming in.

Rob suggested that a small committee be formed to suggest where the annual meetings should be held during the next 5 years in relation to the needs of the atlas project. The usual alternating of eastern and western halves of the state would be followed. Doug, Greg, and Mark agreed to make recommendations to the board.

Frank made a motion to adjourn, and Mark seconded it. The motion passed at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary