

Board of Directors' Meeting

Boalsburg, PA

November 19, 2005

The board of directors of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology met on November 19, 2005. Persons present were Rob Blye, John Fedak, Doug Gross, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret and Roger Higbee, Deuane Hoffman, Shonah Hunter, Rudy Keller, Arlene Koch, Sandy Lockerman, Flo McGuire, Mark McConaughy, Carmen Santasania, and Linda Wagner. Greg called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Mark made a motion that the minutes be accepted as received from Roger via the internet and Rob seconded the motion which passed.

Frank gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$14,056.48 in the checkbook as of today. Frank also presented a membership report which showed membership to be declining slightly during the last two years. The publication cost of the last two issues of *Pennsylvania Birds* has been under \$5 per copy.

Carmen reported that he has not yet been able to update the PSO brochure because he has been unable to open the CD that Alan Gregory gave him. If he cannot open it, then he will have to create a new brochure.

2006 Annual Meeting - May 19, 20, and 21

Registration and the Friday evening business meeting will be at the Ramada Inn in Ligonier to avoid unnecessary travel. The banquet will be held at the Ramada Inn. We will ask to have 30 rooms held for members. They must be reserved by April 29, 2006. Rates are standard \$79, queen \$84, and king \$99 per night. We need to check for other motels in the area. The banquet will be a buffet for \$19.95 which will include roast beef, scrod, chicken, vegetables, and dessert. There will be a vegetarian option on the registration form. There will be a cash bar. The board decided that hors d'oeuvres are not necessary. The Ramada Inn is willing to provide a breakfast buffet for \$7.99 both mornings but a minimum of 25 people will be necessary. This will need to be publicized to the attendees.

The Saturday programs will be at Powdermill. Theresa Rohall will be in charge of snacks for both the Friday evening business meeting and the Saturday programs. Lunch will be on your own. Bob Mulvihill will organize the field trips through the Westmoreland Bird Club. We would also like a Friday afternoon field trip if possible.

Rudy will be responsible for the Poole award. Anyone with a nomination should contact him.

The possibility of having vendors was discussed. There is some question whether there is room for them at Powdermill. It was suggested that possibly tents could be rented. Theresa should be contacted to determine if there is space. Linda Hess volunteered to help in any way that she can. Shonah will take care of the young birder award. Linda will try to reduce the cost of the insurance. The registration fee for nonmembers will be increased to \$35 to include membership and publications. The registration for members will remain at \$25. A pin for the

meeting will again be designed by Nancy Dennis. It will be a Louisiana Waterthrush. Shonah is willing to organize the silent auction again possibly with the help of Linda Hess. An article requesting items needs to be placed in the newsletter. There will be no banquet speaker this year. It was also agreed that there will be no speakers on Friday night.

There should be four speakers. One of them should be a featured speaker to take the place of the banquet speaker. Bob Mulvihill should be asked to present a talk on Powdermill history or something similar but not the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

We should provide name tags and indicate on them who are board members. There are four members whose terms expire this year. They are Flo, Linda, Rob, and Deuane. All have agreed to remain on the board for another term with Flo being nominated for vice president and Stacey Small taking her position on the board. The slate of officers to be presented will be Rudy, president; Flo, vice president; Roger, secretary; and Frank, treasurer.

Future meetings will be in Harrisburg in 2007 and Pittsburgh in 2008 hosted by the Three Rivers Bird Club.

Newsletter

Rudy will write an article about the Poole award; Shonah, about the young birder scholarship; Carmen, about the avian flu; Greg, a president's article; Stacey Small, about the international shorebird survey at Conejohela Flats; and Deuane, about extra birding equipment for birders who were victims of the recent hurricanes.

Deuane explained that there is an effort to collect extra birding equipment for birders who lost everything in the hurricanes. These items includes publications, optics, etc. Rob moved and Sandy seconded the motion that PSO support this effort and pay the shipping costs of any equipment collected. The motion passed unanimously.

John suggested that a certificate of appreciation be presented to landowners who open their land to birders. The presentation of any certificate must be approved by the board. John and Arlene will design the certificate. An article should be written for the newsletter to publicize this effort.

Greg is writing a letter on PSO's position on the placement of wind turbines. It will encourage monitoring and reasonable siting requirements with monitoring after they are installed. Cell towers should also be included. Arlene made a motion seconded by Mark that the letter be sent. The motion passed unanimously. The letter should be sent to the board members for review before it is mailed.

With all business concluded, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary