

# Board of Directors' Meeting

## Boalsburg, PA

March 6, 2004

The meeting was called to order by president Doug Gross at 11:45 a.m. Persons present were directors Nick Bolgiano, Doug Gross, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Mark McConaughy, Flo McGuire, Nick Pulcinella, Carmen Santasania, and Linda Wagner.

Because the minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting, Frank moved and Mark seconded that the minutes be approved as distributed with the correction that the registration for the PICE class will be coordinated through Jon Beam. The motion passed.

The board approved the appointment of Frank Haas as the new treasurer of PSO due to the resignation of Gene Zelinski. Gene was transferred by his employer to an office in Georgia.

Frank has the checkbook but no other records. Gene will send these when he finds them. Frank distributed a sheet with his best guess of the current financial position of PSO. He thinks that there should be about \$14,114.37 in the checking account as of March 5, 2004. He remarked that there should be an increase in funds in the near future due to membership renewals. He would like to have a fiscal year of May 1 to April 30. The board agreed. Frank also mentioned that he will be moving the checking account to another bank within the next 6 months.

Frank also discussed the checklists which PSO sells. Currently, about half of the last printing has been sold. He wanted to know how the board felt about getting new checklists printed to reflect the changes in the AOU order before selling all the old lists. It was decided to offer the current checklists at a discount at the upcoming annual meeting and then reevaluate the need to have new checklists printed using the new order.

Frank reviewed the current membership numbers and remarked that overall membership is down due to the loss of non-PSO membership. Otherwise the general membership is up in comparison to last year.

On April 3, the editorial staff will meet to consider ways to reduce the size of the magazine and therefore the cost of publication. Frank suggested that we might contact a university press to see if they could print the magazine more economically. It was further suggested that any board member who wanted to, should contact printers to determine the cost of printing 500 copies of the current issue. We can then compare costs. The magazine will be supplied to the printer as a PDF file on disk.

Nick P. said that the fall issue of the magazine might be out this month. The board commended Nick for the excellent job that he has done getting back to the expected publication schedule.

Dan Brauning informed Doug that the Pennsylvania Game Commission contract has been fulfilled with the acceptance of his article on the Peregrine Falcon which will be published in the next issue of the magazine. Doug and Frank will prepare an invoice to submit to the Game Commission for payment.

Margaret said that she hopes to mail the newsletter this week if she gets all the information for the annual meeting. Currently she needs the final registration form, field trip descriptions, and final details of the meeting. These should be available in the next few days. It was decided to publish the June issue on the website to see if we can increase interest in PSO by including details of the annual meeting. Pictures of the meeting may also be included. To try to determine approximately how many members are on line, a note will be placed in the newsletter asking any member subscribing to the internet to e-mail Frank.

Carmen reported that Arlene Koch is willing to serve on the board again for the next 3 years. The slate of officers will be as follows:

President - Greg Grove  
Vice-president - no candidate  
Treasurer - Frank Haas  
Secretary - Roger Higbee

Carmen would like suggestions for VP.

### **Annual Meeting**

Shonah has completed the registration form except that the specific time to return for lunch needs to be added so that participants will be back for the catered lunch. Lunch will be noted on the form from 12:00 to 1:00. The banquet still needs a vegetarian option. It was decided that a vegetarian check box will be placed on the registration form, and Shonah will contact the caterer to see if vegetarian meals could be provided separately from the buffet. Because of the extra cost, the dessert bar was eliminated from the menu. The sundae bar will be sufficient. This will keep the cost to \$20.

Liability insurance must be obtained for the meeting. Linda agreed to check for the insurance and to see if a liability waiver that each participant would have to sign is worth the trouble. Doug mentioned that PICE obtains liability insurance and that we could possibly be covered under their policy or contact their insurance company.

Shonah has designed the form for the youth scholarship application. So far, there have been no inquiries.

On Friday afternoon there will be a butterfly field trip for those who wish to participate. Registration will begin at 6:00 at Montour Preserve. Refreshments will be provided by PSO for the Friday night social. The Friday night business meeting will start at 8:00. Participants should be made aware that there is no food available at the preserve. Doug will have the local committee handle the registration on Saturday. It will be between 11:00 and 1:00.

The field trips have been arranged. All field trips will leave from the Days Inn. A canoe trip on the Susquehanna River is being planned. There will probably be 2 canoes holding 12 people each so that a maximum of 20 people each day can participate. The cost will be at most \$25 per person. This will be placed on the registration form for anyone on a first-come, first-served basis. Other field trips planned are:

Montour Preserve for beginners  
Montour County  
Rose Valley and Rider State Park  
Ricketts Glen and State Game Lands  
Dale's Ridge Trail  
R. B. Winter State Park  
Millville State Game Lands  
Pine Creek Valley  
SGL 252 - Ordinance  
Roaring Creek Watershed  
Tall Timbers  
Nescopeck State Park  
Susquehanna Riverlands

Allen Schweinsberg will have a feather collection and present a quiz. His book *The Birds of the Central Susquehanna Valley* will be included as part of the registration packet that participants will receive.

Vendors to be present include Aden Troyer, artist Ron Beech and another artist, and a local bird store. There will also be tables for several organizations.

The afternoon sessions will be

1. The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas - Bob Mulvihill - he will explain the concepts of the atlas project.
2. The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas - Workshop - Training, How to be an Atlaser.
3. Butterflies of Northeast Pennsylvania - Alan Gregory.
4. Montour County Natural Area Inventory.
5. PORC Report - If someone will do it.

The banquet speaker will be Bill Evans. His program is "The Flight Calls of Migrating Birds."

Doug will ask Bob Ross to select the Poole award recipient with the help of his usual committee of past presidents and recipients.

A silent auction will be held if the local committee wishes to have one. PSO will not have one this year but will resume it again next year.

The possibility of having a pin for the annual meeting was discussed. The board decided that it would approve it with the following conditions:

1. Nancy Dennis would have to give PSO a commitment to provide designs for the next 5 annual meetings at no cost.
2. The board has to approve the design. The pin should be ½ or ¾ inch in size.

The pin, this year, would be a trial to see if the membership is interested in having one for each meeting the following years. The pin would be given to all participants at no additional cost. Shonah said that the cost of the pin, approximately \$3, could be covered by the registration fee without an increase.

The possibility of having a PSO patch was discussed. The consensus was that it is a good idea, and Margaret will check with McCormick's, who now supply the T-shirts, to see if they can make the patches and how much they will cost. If possible, the board would like to have 200 for the annual meeting in May. They would have the PSO logo on them with Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology around the border possibly on a light blue background.

The PSO T-shirts were discussed. The board would like Linda and Margaret to decide on a new color, possibly light blue or green, and have these available for the meeting along with the cream colored shirts.

Doug brought up the possibility of having hats made for PSO. The board felt that with the other new items that we should wait until next year to have them made.

The 2005 meeting will be at Clarion and hosted by the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society. It will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May, the 20, 21, and 22. The 2006 meeting will be at Powdermill.

The possibility of paying for part of the rehabilitation for an injured Peregrine Falcon was discussed. This bird was injured in Pennsylvania and treated at Cornell. The PGC asked for help paying the \$500 bill. Frank made a motion to pay up \$200 to complete the payment of any outstanding monies owed. Greg seconded the motion. After much discussion, the motion was tabled until further information is obtained on the status of the bill. Has it all been paid or is there still some outstanding amount owed? Once this is determined, the board will vote by e-mail.

The need to change the address of the PSO was mentioned because of the change of the treasurer. Frank said that his address should be used since most of the mail relates to the treasurer. The board decided to change the official address of the PSO to

2469 Hammertown Road  
Narvon, PA 17555-9730

which is Frank's address.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary