

# Board of Directors' Meeting

## Boalsburg, PA

February 24, 2007

The board of directors of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology met on February 24, 2007. Persons present were John Fedak, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret and Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Rudy Keller, Arlene Koch, Sandy Lockerman, Flo McGuire, Mark McConaughy, and Nick Pulcinella. Rudy called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Mark moved that the minutes be accepted as provided by Carmen. Greg seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Frank provided the treasurer's report which showed a bank balance of \$10,243.29. He said that expenditures and income are basically balancing out. Mark moved and Arlene seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Frank also had a box of PSO brochures that he encouraged everyone to take to distribute at appropriate places.

Nick has announced that he will retire as chief editor to *PA Birds* in 2008. Geoff Malosh has expressed an interest in succeeding Nick in the job even after seeing the job description. Frank moved that Geoff be the new chief editor to succeed Nick. Arlene seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Rudy will contact Geoff to tell him that the board will accept his offer and have him contact Nick. It was suggested that Geoff be encouraged to come to the annual meeting or the fall board of directors meeting so that the board members can meet him. The board commended Nick for a job well done.

Margaret commented that she needs articles for the newsletter. She has received promises of several articles.

Flo announced that the Earl Poole award committee has agreed to recommend to the board that Doug Gross receive the award for 2007. The board agreed. She also said that there were no nominations for the conservation award, so none will be given. Rudy was concerned that there were no nominations for the award and asked why there were none. Several board members suggested that it is nice for the award to tie into the meeting area. Although it is nice, it was decided that it is not essential. This prompted several nominations including the Ned Smith Nature Center for the Saw-whet owl banding project, Audubon Society for the acquisition of Waggoner's Gap, and the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. Rudy said that he would like these nominations and any others to be sent to Flo for her committee to review for possibly qualifying for the award.

John commented on the Certificate of Appreciation program. Four were sent in the fall, three are ready to be sent, and there are several pending including the Scott's Oriole

which was approved by the board. John will write an article to reiterate what Arlene wrote and to list those who have received the certificates.

Board membership was briefly reviewed, and it was decided to remove Stacy Small because of her lack of attendance and response to any e-mails. Roger recommended that Jack Solomon be nominated for membership to the board. The board agreed.

Sandy said that everything is ready for the meetings at the Best Western. Vendors and exhibitors will be allowed to set up Friday night. They will have a separate room which will be open on Friday from 5 to 10 and Saturday 10 to 10. There will be 10 to 12 tables available. Deuane has set up the field trips but the final information has not yet been relayed to anyone. This information will be needed for the newsletter. The descriptions of the field trips will be presented Friday night after the meeting and sign up sheets will be available at that time. Nick will also present a summary of PORC's business.

Rudy said that 4 speakers have agreed to present programs of approximately 40 minutes each. They will be:

Dan Kunkle - Lehigh Gap Nature Club  
Dan Klem - Birds and Glass  
Jamie Zambo - Barn Owl encouragement project  
Sandy Lockerman - Ned Smith Nature Center Saw-Whet Owl  
Banding Project

Shonah will be in charge of the silent auction which will be held in the exhibitors' room. There will be an article in the newsletter requesting items for the auction. Anyone having an item should contact Shonah with a description of it.

The student scholarship was mentioned, and it was decided that the board will consider supporting any student who applies.

Frank designed the pins for the meeting, ordered them, and has them in hand. They have an outline of Dauphin County and a picture of a Great Egret on them.

It was decided that the name tags of the board members will have ribbons attached to them so that PSO members can put faces with the names of the officers and board members.

The banquet will be a buffet with chicken and fish the main course. A vegetarian meal will also be available. The banquet charge for anyone attending the meeting will be \$23 and \$26 for anyone attending only the banquet. The banquet speaker will be Scott Weidensaul, who will present a new program called "Birds of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding." The cost for the program will be \$500. As we have done in the past, PSO will pay for each speaker and significant other's travel, lodging, and meals. Registration will be \$30 for members, \$25 for spouses, and \$40 for non-members that will include a one-year membership in PSO, and \$15 for students under 18. It was

mentioned that several members have used the non-member category to re-register for the year. Frank said that he would compare the new member registrations with the current membership list and send current members a bill for the additional amount for the yearly dues.

Sandy reported that rooms will be \$79 to \$99 depending on room type and occupancy. A continental breakfast will be provided for hotel guests at 5:30 a.m. for those going on the field trips.

Next year's meeting will be in Pittsburgh and the following year, 2009, it will be in the east.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary

## Addendum

As I left the meeting before Doug Gross made his presentation about his ebird project, the following is taken from Flo's email to the board with additions by Doug:

The PA Game Commission would like to sponsor a "PA eBird" page on the existing Cornell eBird site. Vermont has a nice one now, which can be seen at <http://ebird.org/VINS/>. It would link to all the existing eBird data for PA, and also be one-stop shopping for Birding News in PA – we could have links to the BBA, the PABIRDS listserve, the PSO home page, etc.

The Game Commission is willing to pay the set-up fee and annual charge; they are asking only for our endorsement. Our logo will appear on the page. Rudy agreed to draft a letter to offer PSO support, and Frank has agreed to serve on Doug's committee.

As you probably know, eBird is a database of bird sightings open to anyone to enter and/or browse the sightings. In the future we will probably need a few volunteers to commit some time weekly to verify the data. This may be a half dozen regional reviewers.

Doug also added that through his discussions with the Vermont coordinator he has learned that some of the "odd reports" have been verified so that reports will have to be checked out.