

Outreach and Education Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date, Time and Duration

Friday March 8th, 2013 from 12-1 pm

Objective

To test the anymeeting.com webinar software by discussing OBCI's current projects and reviewing the Committee's action items.

Meeting Attendees

Amanda Conover (Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative), Darlene Sillick (Ohio Bluebird Society, Columbus Audubon), Marne Titchenell (OSU Extension), Lisa Brohl (Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy), Paula Ziebarth (Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy, Ohio Bluebird Society), Deb Oexmann (Brukner Nature Center), Kim High (MetroParks of Toledo), Heather Clagett (Ohio Division of Wildlife)

A full recording of the meeting is available online at:

<http://www.anymeeting.com/obci/ED54DE82864F>

A) Presentation of OBCI's current projects

Amanda presented a summary of OBCI's current projects and suggested some ways that the Outreach Committee could support these projects.

- Western Lake Erie Basin habitats
 - No immediate need. In the future, assistance with developing a plan to educate the public on the economic benefits of conservation
- Lights Out programs in Ohio
 - Volunteers needed for collision surveys, register online
 - Project endorsement
 - Publicity and educational programming
- Best management of SE Ohio forests
 - Publicize forest guide
 - Educational programs
- Grassland and shrubland habitats
 - AMKE nest box trail: Interested in installing and monitoring boxes next year?
 - Publicize crowd-funding campaign
 - Grant opportunities for invasive species removal efforts

B) Review of the Committee's goals and objectives

Amanda presented a brief review of the goals and objectives developed by the committee (see Committee webpage for a complete listing).

C) Getting Started with Priority Action Items

Amanda led a discussion of how to get started on some of the Committee's priority objectives.

1) Host a webinar series on a variety of bird-related topics.

2) Develop a clearinghouse for existing educational materials and presentations

The committee decided to combine these two action items. The following steps will be employed to accomplish them:

- Committee members choose topic from list
- Develop a webinar or find a speaker to host a webinar on the topic
- Gather links to existing educational materials on topic to be shared after webinar and posted on website
- Will create a database of information on a variety of bird-related topics on obcinet.org

Current Webinar Topic List

- Shade-grown coffee and other conservation-minded products (organic produce): Kim (share outreach materials), Darlene (WBU)
- Benefits of native plants for birds: Lisa
- Gardening for birds: Marne
- Life histories of various bird families
 - Woodpeckers: Marne
- Installing nest boxes responsibly: Paula Ziebarth
- Optics: GIAC (March 23rd workshop): Deb, Darlene (WBU)
- Photography: Heather (Tim Daniel), Kim (Nature Photography Center)
- Citizen science projects
 - CBC/CBC4Kids: Mary Warren
- Best practices for herbicides, insecticides
- Responsible bird feeding: Paula Ziebarth
- Lights Out Columbus: Amanda Conover

Discussion points about the webinar series:

-The webinars should follow the same schedule each month (ex. 2nd Tuesday)

-The lunch hour may be a time that most people are available whether working in the field or not

-Paula suggested the name "Lunch with the Birds" for the seminar series

-Paula and Darlene volunteered to present in the first months

3) Create a centralized listing of IMBD events across Ohio on obcinet.org

4) Host an educational activity at an IMBD event

Amanda asked for assistance from the committee in accomplishing these action items.

- Please send Amanda info on IMBD events in your area or that your organization is hosting
- She asked who would be willing to promote OBCI at their IMBD event. She can provide outreach materials.

5) Host a statewide education and outreach conference or workshop

Discussion points about a conference or workshop

-The committee would like the event to be part of another conference or event

-Kim suggested that the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Conference (Toledo, April 26, 2014) could be a possible conference to partner with

-Other suggested potential facilities: Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Brukner Nature Center, Deer Haven (Preservation Parks of Delaware County), Oak Openings Lodge

D) Next Steps

1) If you haven't already, please respond as to which topic you would like to work on for the webinar/educational material gathering. Keep an eye out for an email of a tentative webinar schedule in the next week or so.

2) Please send info on IMBD events in your area or that your organization is hosting to be posted on the OBCI website

3) Continue thinking about potential topics or themes for a conference or workshop that would be beneficial for environmental educators and outreach professionals.