



**Outreach and Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2015**

Attendees

Darlene Sillick (Chair), Amanda Duren (OBCI), Kim High (MetroParks of the Toledo Area), Heather Bokman (Ohio Division of Wildlife), Deb Oexmann (Brukner Nature Center), Marne Titchenell (OSU Extension), Paula Ziebarth (Ohio Bluebird Society)

1. White Paper on Feral and Unattended Outdoor Cats
 - a. OBCI will be releasing a white paper on outdoor cats next month. View the white paper here: <http://obcinet.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/White-Paper-on-Feral-and-Unattended-Domestic-Cats-Outdoors.pdf>
 - i. The committee made some suggestions about edits that could be made to the statement:
 1. Add the need for research into the impacts of cat colonies
 2. Add concerns for health risks to humans in recommendations
 - b. The committee discussed ways that OBCI can provide resources to its partners in discussing the issue of outdoor cats with their stakeholders. Some of the suggested resources are:
 - i. Talking points for outreach and communications staff.
 - ii. Example posts for Facebook pages/Twitter
 1. Especially highlighting health risks to humans
 - iii. Separate resources focused on barn cats, as they are often seen as essential to rodent control and not considered harmful to birds
 - iv. Simplified version of the white paper (bullet points) for government officials, policy makers, etc.
 - v. A conference call to follow up the webinar that is a Q&A session
 - c. Kim High asked for links to additional information on the positions of those who support TNR and would oppose our white paper so that we can better understand their side of the issue:
 - i. <http://www.colonycats.org/>

- ii. <http://www.humaneohio.org/outdoorcats.htm>
 - iii. <http://www.ohioalleycat.org/about-feral-cats/>
- 2. “Lunch with the Birds” Webinar Series
 - a. Please help add new ideas to our webinar spreadsheet (topic ideas tab):
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Up6jzGyVag6XHNoDtohHsy9Ls6RAUZf8cv-uaQXu5ow/edit?usp=sharing>
- 3. Forest Management for Birds
 - a. OBCI is working with promote forest management for birds based on research by OSU and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. We are currently developing a new management guide to address BMPs for small patches of forest.
 - i. Paula suggested that the guide should include ideas for landscape planning to ensure that early successional habitat is represented in smaller parks.
- 4. Sharing Ideas to Involve Youth and Individuals with Disabilities in Conservation Projects
 - a. We would like to develop resources for those seeking to involve youth and individuals with disabilities in conservation projects. These resources would be posted online at the OBCI website. Ideally, we’d like these resources to not only include project ideas, but be a guide with tools for project planning and volunteer management.
 - i. National Audubon Society’s IBA Cookbook offers an example of how this resource could be structured:
https://d2vv0elwkd9lnk.cloudfront.net/resource_files/IBA_CookingUpConservationSuccess_0.pdf
- 5. Next Steps
 - a. Contact Amanda with ideas for other resources we could offer to partners about outdoor cats
 - b. Visit our webinar spreadsheet and enter ideas for new webinar topics
(<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Up6jzGyVag6XHNoDtohHsy9Ls6RAUZf8cv-uaQXu5ow/edit?usp=sharing>)
 - i. (Topic Ideas tab)
 - ii. Select a topic that you will organize this year (Topic Ideas tab)
 - iii. Select a month and enter the speaker for your topic on the Webinar Calendar tab