



**MINUTES OF
COAC ANNUAL MEETING AND 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
OF 06-02-2019**

1. **CONVENING.** The Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) met at 1:30 p.m. on June 2, 2019 at the The Ohio State University at Lima, 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, Ohio, 45804. Attending were Marnie Urso of Audubon Great Lakes (AGL); Liz Woedl, Mark T Gilmore, and Linda Williams of Audubon Miami Valley (AMV); Mark J Demyan of Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland (ASGC); Paul Sherwood of Black River Audubon Society (BRAS); Linda Chen of Canton Audubon Society (CAS); Bill Heck of Columbus Audubon Society and Audubon Great Lakes (AGL); Sherilyn Burns of Greater Akron Audubon Society (GAAS); Jackie Augustine, Carol and Bob Bertrand, Eric Broughton, Priscilla West of Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS); Nancy Howell of Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS); and affiliates David Kriska, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Elissa Yoder Mann of Sierra Club Ohio; Sarah Winnicki, Kansas State University; Imani Smith, Birders of Miami University (Student Chapter); and Betsey O'Hagan, COAC Administrator.

2. **MORNING AND AFTERNOON BIRD WALKS.** Two Bird Walks were scheduled for Sun June 2, 2019. The morning walk from 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. was led by Anne Smedley, JAMPD Land Steward, at the Lippincott Bird Sanctuary, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District, 3093 Bellefontaine Rd, Lima, OH 45804. The afternoon walk was held at the Tecumseh Natural Area, with Leaders Jackie Augustine and Eric Juterbock. Target Species were Acadian Flycatchers, Wood Thrush, small Great Blue Heron Rookery.

3. **WELCOME.** At 11:00 a.m. Welcome by host Jackie Augustine, COAC President and Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS); Liz Woedl, COAC Vice-President and Audubon Miami Valley (AMV). Attending chapters, members, and affiliates are invited to share a success story and one thing they would like to improve.
 - a. Jackie Augustine: Pollinator Grant; Training volunteer leadership.
 - b. Paul Sherwood: Meeting well attended; Volunteer recruitment.
 - c. Mark Demyan: ASGC obtained 150 acre land parcel; Volunteer recruitment, 1100 national members, goal 170 members. Set up exhibits at 5 area colleges. Board members have 20+ years experience, need new board members.
 - d. Nancy Howell: Volunteer recruitment, fundraising.
 - e. Linda Chen: Pollinator Garden; Volunteer recruitment.
 - f. Sherilyn Burns: Christmas Bird Count; Average age of membership is 80; 10-20 attending meetings; no Board President or Treasurer.
 - g. Imani Smith: Campus Student Group; Keep students interested, and recruit more students.
 - h. Liz Woedl: Invasive plant removal, Big Woods Trail, Heuston Woods; Volunteers, getting people to return calls.
 - i. Mark Gilmore: Focus on conservation environment and connection to campus; getting volunteers.
 - j. A Williams: City Committee on making Oxford a "Pollinator City", sign with a QR link, Pollinator Grant; Getting younger volunteers.
 - k. Bill Heck: COAC Membership in NAS; Getting younger volunteers.
4. **KEYNOTE.** 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Habitat Improvement and Conservation. "Mentor Marsh: History, Tragedy, Recovery" with David J. Kriska, Ph.D., Restoration Ecologist, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.
5. **LUNCH.** 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Attendees enjoyed a catered or brown bag lunch.
6. **COAC BUSINESS MEETING.** 1:30 PM - 2:30 p.m. SECTION 1A. COAC Board of Directors. Discussion of membership, finances, and unifying goals.
7. **INCREASING MEMBERSHIP.** (10-15 min. presentation and 45 min. Q&A). 1:30 p.m - 2:30 p.m. SECTION 1B. Presenter: Karen Meyer, M.S.Ed, Coordinator for Disability Services, Academic Advisor, Buckeye Wellness Innovator, The Ohio State University at Lima.

8. **UTILIZING SOCIAL MEDIA.** 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. SECTION 2A. “Social Media Platforms for Education and Science Communication” with Sarah Winnicki, Avian Ecologist, Master's Student, Kansas State University, Dr. Alice Boyle Laboratory. (*virtual*) (10-15 min. presentation and 45 min. Q&A.)

9. **STATEWIDE ADVOCACY.** 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. SECTION 2B. (10-15 min. presentation and 45 min. Q&A.)
 - a. National Audubon Plans and Priorities with Marnie Urso, Policy Director, Audubon Great Lakes (*virtual*), and William (Bill) Heck of Columbus, Ohio, Regional Director for National Audubon Society's Mississippi-North Region.
 - b. Sierra Club - Ohio Chapter with Elissa Yoder Mann, Conservation Program Manager, Clean Water Campaign for Ohio, Sierra Club Ohio Chapter. Update on plastic pollution legislation in Ohio.

10. **WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS.** Jackie Augustine and Liz Woedl closed the meeting. Jackie thanked members and affiliates for attending and encouraged them to continue to be engaged. The COAC Participant Feedback Survey was distributed and attendees asked to return completed surveys to registration before departing. The meeting had 23 attendees including members, 6 affiliates, presenters, and 7 chapters. This survey was completed by 10 attendees. Survey results are summarized below:
 - a. How likely is it that you would recommend COAC Meetings & Quarterly Workshops to a friend or colleague?
 - i. Not at all likely to Extremely likely
 1. 1-0
 2. 2-0
 3. 3-1
 4. 4-0
 5. 5-0
 6. 6-1
 7. 7-0
 8. 8-2
 9. 9-3
 10. 10-2
 - b. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with COAC meeting activities? Very satisfied 3; Somewhat satisfied 7.
 - c. Which of the following words would you use to describe meeting sessions and field activities? Select all that apply. High quality 2; Useful 9; Unique 2; Good value for the money 1; Impactful 2; Ineffective 1; Poor quality 1; Unreliable 1.

- d. How well do meeting topics meet your needs? Extremely well 1; Very well 7; Somewhat well 2.
- e. How would you rate the quality of the meeting? Very high quality 1; High quality 6; Neither high nor low quality 2.
- f. How would you rate the value for money of the meeting? Excellent 3; Above average 5; Average 2.
- g. How responsive have we been to your questions or concerns about COAC planning? Very responsive 2; Somewhat responsive 6; Not at all responsive 1.
- h. How long have you been engaged in COAC activities? This is my first workshop 2; Less than 6 months 0; Six months to a year -; 1-2 years 6; 3 or more years 2.
- i. How likely are you to attend a COAC activity again? Extremely likely 5; Very likely 2; Somewhat likely 3.
- j. Participant comments:
 - Let's figure out a less awkward way to schedule the business meeting.
 - I don't like 2 informative meetings at the same time.
 - I felt there were too many topics covered simultaneously and was a bit confusing. Fewer topics could be covered with more in depth details.
 - Bad timing-maybe COAC should do 3 workshops a year.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted by Betsey O'Hagan, Administrator, COAC, June 23, 2019.