

Loess Hills Audubon Society Meeting
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
7 November 2019

Members Present: Davd H., Paul R., Randy W., Jeri W., Jerry V., Donna P., Anne S., Rex R., Jody M., John P., Dotty Z.,

Members Absent: Dawn S., Paul R.

Honored Guests: Jerry P., Bill H., Jan N., Chuck J., Bob and Phyllis N., Bill Z., Maria R., Jeanne B.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

6:15 pm

- I. Call to Order at 6:19 PM by David.
- II. Tonight is for committees, but we have some general chapter business:
 - A. Species on the brink, *Survival by Degrees*, sent to LHAS by National
 1. Same insert from the most recent *Audubon* magazine
 2. Will be distributed to members who want a copy.
 - B. Photos for Christmas Party
 1. More specific instructions will be sent later
 2. Submit photos on a flash drive prior to the general meeting
 3. All images will be loaded to Paul's MacBook for projection.
 4. About 15 to 20 images per person.
 - C. Treats for next month are a group effort since it is the Christmas party
 - D. Chili social with Northwest Iowa Sierra Club from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Sunday, 17 November at the First Unitarian Church, 2508 Jackson ST, Sioux City
- III. Please submit committee reports from tonight to the secretary
- IV. Still need a chair for projects committee
- V. Iowa Audubon report from Rex
 - A. Bird Friendly Iowa update
 1. Madrid has submitted their proposal for designation
 2. Ames is in the process
 3. Decorah and Fayette have been approved
 4. Peterson is considering
 - B. The Pelican Festival at Coralville was successful with 133 visitors. Date for next year is 13 Sep 2020
 - C. The amounts of Iowa Audubon small grant awards were increased with board approval:
 1. Two \$2600 grants to the Iowa Lakes region
 2. Three \$1300 grants from the Reynolds fund
 3. One \$1300 undesignated grant
 4. Applications are open after 1 January 2020 and will be reviewed for approval by the board at the Spring 2020 Iowa Audubon board meeting.
 - D. A proposed bike trail at Ledges State Park was fortunately blocked as it posed significant habitat destruction.
 - E. Iowa Audubon registered disapproval of the proposed opening of Yellow River State Forest to ATV use.

- F. The future of the Iowa Audubon office remains an unknown. Several options were discussed.
 - G. The Clover Hills 4H Camp adjacent to the Iowa Arboretum had been put up for sale by closed bids.
 - 1. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation subsequently purchased the tract.
 - 2. This protects a Des Moines River habitat region from further development.
 - H. National Audubon has designated an Upper Mississippi Region to include Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri.
- VI. Report from Paul for upcoming programs, see e-mail sent to board members, summarized below.
- A. Greetings from Madagascar.
 - B. I have secured a speaker/presenter for the January 9th meeting:
 - 1. Rob Schultxz began working with Audubon in May of this year out of the Saint Paul Audubon office and will be working to serve the states of Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri.
 - 2. We have schedule January 9th 2020 for Rob to introduce himself to us and talk about the focus they are taking to integrate conservation and support of chapters in these three states.
 - 3. I have also invited him to attend our board meeting that even but that has not be confirmed yet.
 - C. February 5th is the final date we need to fill for the General Meeting presentation.
 - 1. I had spoken with Bill Huser about some kind of presentation on plant progression hoping that this might be a something that Bill H, Rex R, and Bill Zales might be interested in preparing for and presenting at the February meeting.
 - 2. Bill H had some very positive and interesting thoughts. It seems to me that a topic such as this would be an excellent program involvement conservation and maybe this could stimulate ideas for project the LHAS could adopt as a service to our community.
 - 3. The point would be for us to partner with the communities in our area to engage in some kind conservation project that would benefit one or more of the habitats in our area.
 - 4. It would be very helpful if we could get a commitment on filling this date by beginning a discussion and preparation for something in this area.
 - 5. Strange as it sounds, Feb 5th is not that far away.
 - 6. We will be returning late evening November 8th so will not be available for the Board or the General Meeting.
- VII. Communications Committee Report
- A. We wish for an inexpensive site, both monetary as well as one that would be easy to maintain and be readily updated.
 - B. Jerry V. is good with modernizing the website
 - C. How to modernize
 - 1. Potential class project with Briar Cliff graphic design class?
 - 2. One example from eastern Iowa (Quad City Audubon) is the Augustana Web Guild, a student-based design class. Does Morningside/Briar Cliff have something similar?

3. Maria will check with the person who works with her website. This individual may be able to recommend someone else that would be willing to work with us.
 4. AJEndeavors, LLC works with Iowa Audubon, Bird Friendly Iowa, and Big Bluestem Audubon to produce their websites.
 5. Has anyone checked with National Audubon? Do they provide any assistance?
 6. NAS does provide some services. Information is available for requirements and costs.
- D. We may need to find a new web hosting service.
1. Security features may vary with some internet hosting sites. More features may be more expensive.
 2. How can we maintain cross-platform connectivity? From website to Facebook to Twitter to Instagram to ... the next new platform?
- E. Would Jerry V. be willing to maintain the new site? Would we need to find someone else that would be willing to maintain updates?

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

7:30 pm

- I. Call to order at 7:32 PM
- II. Announcements
 - A. Review of membership categories
 - B. Local bird sightings
 - C. Saturday 11/9 LHAS outing.
 - D. Area Christmas Bird Counts with sign up sheets available
 - E. *Survival by Degrees* NAS report available.
 - F. Northwest Iowa Sierra chili social FUNraiser on 17 November
 - G. Christmas party next month
 1. Images from friends of LHAS.
 2. Send images to Paul R. or have a flash drive available to have Paul load the images prior to the show.
 3. Sign up sheet for treats for December and beyond!
 - H. Bruce Ehresman, Bird Nests: A tour of avian architecture and hidden treasures
 - I. Adjourn at 8:45PM

Attendees: 36