

**SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON - BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 3, 2003, 7:30 PM – HELD AT CHAPPAQUA LIBRARY**

PRESENT: Richard Saravay (part-time), Jeff Pinerio, Stan Wecker, Rita Wecker, Lurline Arco, Tom McEnerney, Jim Anderson, Robert McCrillis, Jeanne Romeu, Judy Epstein, Joan Coffey, Henry Seduski, Jo Lunetta, Ilse Jorgensen, Ken Novenstern, Sophie Keyes, Karen Wells, Anne Swaim (Naturalist )

GUESTS: Sean Mahar and Robin Schlaff

MINUTES: February 3, 2003 minutes were accepted with two changes made in the Finance Committee report made by Rita Wecker: The date of Rita's report was as of 1-31-03 not 1-31-02 and the graphs and charts passed out were for Dec. 31, 2002. Stan Wecker moved to accept the minutes and Jeff Pinerio seconded. Passed unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Rita Wecker reported that the value of our portfolio as of 2-28-03 was \$681,008. Its value has gone down 1.3% since January

TREASURER'S REPORT: Henry Seduski's report covered Jan. and Feb. 2003. Over \$4000 has already been deposited from seed sales, with total revenues of \$6285.00. Expenditures so far are under \$14,992, which covers mostly salaries and benefits, and \$1200 for Pruyn expenses. The bulletin expenses are carried over from last year. Transfer made from endowment was \$5000.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION: Sen. Clinton has been invited to our 50th Anniversary press conference on Friday, April 25 and other politicians will be invited. Karen Wells introduced her guests, Sean Mahar, Legislative Asst. and Grass Roots Coordinator for the state Audubon office, and Robin Schlaff, who works with State Assemblyman Adam Bradley. Sean is helping Karen and our chapter get information on environmental affairs. Karen wants to get a message out about pesticides and natural lawn care. She suggested a demonstration area, with the press invited, at one of our sanctuaries.

Karen Wells will work with both state and national Audubon contacts and elected officials to support our environmental action efforts. She will put together a list of government people for us. The state Audubon office has alerts on issues and this year National has alerts too. You can e-mail letters to representatives or write letters to be more involved.

Sean Mahar passed out a publication about lawn pesticides produced with other organizations. This would educate people on the dangers of pesticides. This will be the biggest issues push this year.

Sean also talked about IBA (Important Bird Areas) nominations. Nominations will be extended to the 2nd week in April. Already 127 nominations from the state have come in. The IBA has to be significant in several states or areas, not just a "hot spot" and privately-owned properties are included.

Sean reported about new state Audubon efforts on golf courses and pesticides. Three pilot projects will be done around the state. Robin Schlaff would like to be on our mailing list for info from our chapter.

5000 people have signed up for the "Citizen's Campaign for the Environment." Anne Swaim

expressed concerns about National Audubon partnering with Citizens Campaign for the Environment through door to door campaigns.

Ken Novenster reported that all environmental boards within New Castle meet together once a month on the 4th Thursday to coordinate all their work. He invited us to send a representative.

**FUNDRAISING:** Robert McCrillis reminded us that we need a Fundraising Chairperson. Anne Swaim noted that a letter needs to be written for the 2003 fundraising campaign. Stan Wecker reported that the Journal is going to the printer in March and will be sent out in April. It will go out by bulk mail to all members. Commercial interests could be targeted. 2500 copies are being printed. Our goal is to raise \$50,000, which will include our yearly fundraising. If we can average a donation of \$50 per each of almost 900 SMRA members, this goal can be reached.

The Phoneathon will take place on Tues. May 20 and Wed. May 21 and Robert McCrillis has agreed to be its Chairman. Office staff will be supportive. Karen Wells suggested fundraising beyond our members. We need 100% of the Board contributing, hopefully within the next two weeks.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** Our anniversary year starts Sat. April 26 with our Pot Luck Supper and annual meeting as a kick off. The Pruyn celebration will be June 21. We will need a committee to organize each.

Jeff Pinerio reported that the Pruyn celebration will be from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Between 10:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 3:00 people will walk through the sanctuary with the help of trail walkers. The dedication of the platform will be at noon and there will be a talk, music, refreshments and a raptor program. Jeff is exploring the option for small buses to transport people around.

Stan Wecker reported that the Pot Luck Supper will be held at the United Methodist Church in Pleasantville. We will hold our 51st annual business meeting and vote for Board members. There will be a proclamation and past presidents will be recognized. Stan Lincoln and Stan Wecker will work on the program. Stan Wecker passed out a flyer regarding the Pot Luck Supper.

**BIRD SEED:** Jim Anderson would like a committee to run the bird seed sale. Jim distributed "Activities of Bird Seed Committee," a detailed outline of the work to be done.

**SANCTUARIES:** Ken Novenster spoke with Martin Smolin to get an update on the Silverman property. Martin has been in touch with Steven Greenberg of Scenic Hudson. Martin was told there was money for open land acquisition. Ken will continue to look into it. Mrs. Silverman wants \$225,000 for the property. Richard Saravay commented that we are interested in managing the property, not buying it. Ilse Jorgensen announced a meeting of the Sanctuaries Committee at Judy Epstein's on Mon. Mar. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

**NATURALIST'S REPORT:** The damaged ceiling in the office at the Pruyn house was repaired and painted in January by a painter doing community service. Concerning educational programs, Anne Swaim is doing a series at Furnace Dock School for all grades, with different topics that fit their ages. She did a senior program in White Plains and an eagle walk at George's Island where twelve eagles were seen. Anne discussed a project that will be done by a senior Scout for a Gold Award. She will develop a trail and put up a bench at the Cameron Murtfeldt property, which has six acres of swamp.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Joan Coffey volunteered to be Field Trip Chairperson. Some field trips have changed dates: May 4, Greenbrook Sanctuary; June 7, Bartlett Arboretum; Sept. 13, Jamaica Bay.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: This committee consists of two board members, Stan Wecker and Joan Coffey, and one off-board member, Midge Arnold.

New directors nominated for full terms are: Lurline Arco, Thomas McEnerney, Ken Novenster, and Karen Wells.

Officers to be proposed:   President, Richard Saravay  
                                  Vice President, Robert McCrillis  
                                  Chairman of the Board, Stan Wecker  
                                  Treasurer, Henry Seduski  
                                  Recording Secretary, Judy Epstein  
                                  Historian, Sophie Keyes

Stan Wecker distributed a list of the members of all committees and announced a meeting of the Planning Committee at his house on March 17.

NEW BUSINESS: Jeff Pinerio needs people to help with the nailing of boards in the new boardwalk at Pruyn. This will be discussed at the April meeting.

Stan Wecker mentioned that no adult scholarship applications had been received. There is one application for the Larry Light Fund. We could use one of the adult scholarships to fund the Larry Light applicant. Jeanne Romeu made a motion to that effect and Karen Wells seconded it. Unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm  
Minutes: Judy Epstein