

**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, February 23, 2017

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: John Harris √  
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Cindy Albright  
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Nancy McAllister (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.)  
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √  
John McKitterick √  
Robin Todd √  
Past President: Robin Todd

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Jane Geuder  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
**Others:** Sue Muller √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of Bob & Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was twelve. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 9 was 36 people. Rachel Joiner, Major Gifts Officer, The Conservation Fund gave a program entitled “Making Conservation Work for America.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Albright): Cindy was not present. In an email she reported there had been very limited activity in January and she would prepare a joint Jan/Feb report prior to our next Board meeting.

**President’s Remarks** (Harris): John remarked that the slate of officers was ready for announcement at the March meeting. John had brought a box of the rack cards that he had and we agreed that there were enough that we need not get any printed in the near term. It was agreed that Cindy should work on recreating the file for cards but that for now we would simply manually correct the meeting time on the existing cards.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Clark): No remarks.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe had sent an email asking for leaders for walks in May. David Sandler agreed to lead one. Howard reminded us that the “leaderless” walks held last May worked well and we might want to do the same again. John H. stated that he could lead a “Woodpecker Walk” for RNC as our fourth event for the year. Joe Hanfman had asked not to have his name included in the RNC MOU as the POC for the events we are responsible for providing. We agreed that the MOU will list John Harris as the POC.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo reported that the latest deliberations of the state Records committee included no new Howard records.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was not present having gone to the Howard County Conservancy to hear Dave Brinker speak on owls. In an email he had reported on his testimony before the Howard County Council on CB16-2017 that proposes to change the zoning of several Tier IV parcels and permit more dense development. The Board was unanimous in expressing our thanks to Kurt for his actions representing MOS and the club in opposing this bill.

Kurt also reported that the Pollinator Habitat Bill Amendment has passed the Senate Environment Committee and will need support going forward. His email also pointed out the MOS and the Talbot and Frederick Chapters have signed a petition calling for a ban on fracking in Maryland.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard reported that the timeline for the next issue is tighter than normal as he will need to finish the issue before April 9 when he and several other club members are going on a tour for grouse in Colorado.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob commented that the response to his email asking whether recipients would prefer to have the email sending the Goldfinch include a link to the document or include the file as an attachment. Over 39% of the recipients responded. Only 23 people said they would prefer the attachment, 9 had no preference, and the rest expressed desire for the link. Given that the file is nearly 2 Mbytes he will continue to send the much smaller email with a link to all recipients.

On February 14, Bob sent an email to the Board requesting an emergency board meeting to address a problem that had arisen with the ability to email the club membership using eHost, our ISP for the club web site. Initial indications were that our non-profit account was not able to email more than 50 addresses at a time. It appeared we would need to purchase a mailbox from eHost for \$60 a year. Bob moved that the Board approve this additional expense. Via email the Board seconded and approved this motion. However at this meeting Bob reported that since then he has heard from eHost and it appears that if we have a mailbox there should not be a limit of 50 addressees, and that our account should include one free mailbox. Accordingly Bob has not had to shell out the \$60 and may not have to.

**Potluck** (Lillie): Plans are proceeding for the pot luck on Saturday, March 25. Jo has provided a number of Marty Chestem's knickknacks that will be available on a "free" table.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): The next meeting is Saturday March 4 at the College Park Airport.

## Old Business

Robinson Nature Center memorandum of understanding (MOU) – John and Mary Lou summarized the meeting they had with RNC staff discussing the draft MOU. The major change they asked for was to have specific names for who was our POC for various activities. In discussing this we agreed that the only additional name still missing from the MOU was Karen, who we had originally designated as our primary contact to RNC. The staff also made the point that they have had their budgets reduced so they wanted to be very specific in identifying the times for our activities. For example we need to be aware that saying we would be done by 10 PM means that the parking lot should be emptied by then so the staff can lock the gates and leave. We may need to remind attendees of this when our program runs late but normally don't think this should be an issue. Lastly they will need an updated list of club members authorized to check out specimens for educational programs. John H. will delete the names Jo had proposed and add the names we discussed (John H, Mary Lou, & Sue Muller). After we sign the MOU it will need to work through a formal review by Recreation and Parks. When Chuck pointed out that he did not have a signed version of the prior MOU amendment, Robin replied that he didn't think he ever received a copy. We should follow-up and request a copy of the signed agreement after the county has time to review and sign it. John will make the minor changes we discussed and then distribute it to the board for a final vote on approving the MOU. *Sec. Note – The MOU draft was distributed and approved by the Board on February 27. The approved MOU and list of HCBC specimen users that were forwarded to RNC for signature are attached.*

SkyWatch Signage – In talking to the Conservancy staff Woody learned that they have contracted with Adler Display for the design, production, and installation of signage and displays both interior at the Gudelsky Center expansion as well as exterior signs on the property. They would hope that we would use the same firm for signage at the SkyWatch for consistency in appearance and quality. They are well along in this process as they hope to have at minimum the signage for the Center ready by the reopening in late May. We will need to coordinate our purchase with Tabby Fique when we have decided on what signs we want. The next step is for Mike Kerwin and his committee to work on detailed sign content. Woody also spoke to Meg Schumacher Boyd about the proposal to

name the sign in Chan's honor and felt the question would not need to go to the main Conservancy board but should be presented to the Grounds Committee for their concurrence. Woody, as chair of that committee, will put the proposal on their next agenda not later than this spring.

In a related matter Jo raised the issue of content for the SkyWatch report we are to provide the Conservancy annually in accordance with the MOU. The report that Mike Kerwin submitted was just a list of the birds seen at Mt. Pleasant during 2016 extracted from eBird. Although this was a partial year and was serving as a prototype Jo felt that we should take steps to ensure we can provide a report more focused and complete regarding the SkyWatch. She asked for ideas on how we could collect sightings limited to the site, including all birds (not just raptors), butterflies, participants, visitors, official club events, etc. Earlier the consensus was to reject a separate eBird hotspot interior to the Mt. Pleasant hotspot. One idea would be to solicit volunteers qualified to serve as official hawk counters as is done at other hawk watch sites and try to schedule manning of the site during migration seasons. Another idea proposed by John Harris, which seemed promising, was to create an eBird account for the SkyWatch that would be added as a share whenever someone created an eBird list using the Mt. Pleasant hotspot but limited to the sighting while at the SkyWatch site. Comments could be added for such things as butterflies sighted, the number of observers, and if others were present and the list was shared with them their names would be listed. Another idea would be to provide a "sign in book" where visitors would sign in and could list unusual sightings. John H agreed to contact Mike Kerwin and Joe Hanfman to discuss the idea of a special eBird account and related issues. He will also speak to Mike about signage status.

## **New Business**

Jug Bay trip – During Greg Kearn's recent program for the club he mentioned the potential of having the club attend a field/boat trip to Jug Bay for Ospreys that he would lead. Mary Maxey had taken the initiative and contacted Greg about a trip potentially to be held on June 30. Sue Muller said the last she had heard about the trip was that we would have to commit soon to having the trip with a reasonably firm list of attendees (there would be a small fee). Sue agreed to contact Mary and determine the status and then ensure John H, Joe Hanfman and Bob are informed of the status, assuming they would be involved in planning and publishing the trip.

Meeting with the Photographers Guild? – There have been several recent reports of photographers harassing the Barred Owl on Gwyn Acres path. In an attempt to remedy this situation it had been suggested we might want to meet with or attend a meeting of the Photographer's Guild. Sue Muller had identified another approach which was to call the Park Ranger duty phone number and report whenever someone is observed harassing the owls. She had sent out the number and this recommendation to her extended email list. She reported that the rangers had already responded to a call about the owls on the past weekend. We may still want to pursue meeting with the photographers but our first step will be to have Bob include the phone number in an upcoming Newsgram. It should include a recommendation to store it on your cell phone so you can report any park violation to the ranger on duty.

Presentation to the Howard County Garden Club – John H had received an email request asking if we could supply a speaker to present a program on birds to their club. Jo explained that she believes they have a requirement to have one program not specifically about gardening each year and she has presented for them in the past. It was agreed that a program on butterflies and attracting them might be an excellent topic. John H agreed to ask Linda Hunt if she would like to speak to them and if so he will put her in contact with them.

Marty Chestem items – Jo had the remaining knickknacks from Marty on display seeking to either have someone ask for one or for suggestions on how to dispose of them. Initially we thought the MOS Conference silent auction was a possibility. However Robin and John H reported that there will not be a silent auction at this year's conference. Perhaps some of the items are nice enough to be included as raffle prizes at the conference. Items include a set of bookends, 2 music boxes, 2 small Inuit ivory carvings and an oil lamp, all with a bird theme or connection.

## Around the Room –

Mary Lou and Sue reported that while attending the recent MOS retreat there was considerable discussion on how to recruit and maintain members. They mentioned such ideas as using Citizen Science, holding family programs, and kid programs. Many reported that other chapters reported that they experience the recruitment being followed by just a one year membership and then dropping out. There was a general consensus that the most effective approach

was a one-on-one invitation when you meet someone who shows interest when encountered out birding. Another idea proposed during our discussion was to co-sponsor events with the Howard County Conservancy.

Jo reported that the interest in butterflies by club members continues to increase. Linda Hunt hosted a planning meeting to discuss how to proceed with the butterfly initiative over the next couple of years. They agreed to continue the 5 year survey through 2018. Linda has nearly 200 people on her butterfly email list. Woody and Sue Muller were also attendees. Someone suggested that Linda should be encouraged to put together butterfly images for the potluck “slide show.”

Bob stated that it was unclear why the email capability was lost in the first place. See Webmaster report above.

Sue commented that she had wanted to include an invitation to attend the showing of “Messenger” at Greenfest in the MOS Yellowthroat, but was informed she had missed the deadline.

John M stated that he still had the club’s Kodak Carousel slide projector and wanted to know if he could dispose of it. Based on the number of other board members who chimed in they still have one that isn’t being used, it would appear it is not necessary to keep it.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Coordinate and give a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Woody/John H.
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou
- Ask Wes Earp to prepare material on “Eagles” for club display – John H. - CLOSE
- Discuss status of signage with HCC and ask about proposed naming of SkyWatch – Woody - DONE
- Assess need to reprint membership “rack cards” & prepare updated version as needed – Cindy - POSTPONE
- Contact Cheryl Farfaras and issue check for MPEA grant – Cindy - DONE
- Coordinate updated list of members approved for use of bird skins/specimens – Jo/John H

### **New/Continuing Action Items**

- Coordinate and give a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Woody/John H.
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou/John H
- Conduct an email vote on Board acceptance of amended MOU – John Harris
- Coordinate updated list of members approved for use of bird skins/specimens – Jo/John H
- Talk to Mike Kerwin about SkyWatch signage – John Harris
- Talk to Mike Kerwin and Joe Hanfman about the idea of a SkyWatch eBird account – John Harris
- Contact Mary Maxey and assess status of plans for Jug Bay trip – Sue Muller
- Ask Linda Hunt if she would be willing to give a program on butterflies to the Garden Club – John H
- After Sue sends him the number for Park Ranger include it in an upcoming NEWSGRAM – Sue/Bob

### **Board Meeting Schedule**

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

**Attachments** (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- HCBC BOD Agenda – February 23, 2017
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- List of approved Howard County Bird Club specimen users

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Agenda**

**February 23, 2017 - 7:30 PM**

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Cindy Albright (will not be present)
4. President's Remarks                      John Harris
  - Slate of nominees - complete
  
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Lou Clark
  
6.     Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
    - CB16-2017 Testimony
    - Pollinator Habitat Bill Amendment
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Web Master                                  Bob Solem
  
7.     Old Business
  - Robinson Nature Center memorandum of understanding (MOU)
  - Skywatch signage
  
8.     New Business
  - Jug Bay trip
  - Meeting with Photographers Guild?
  - Presentation to Howard County Garden Club
  - Marty Chestem items
  
9. Action Items                              Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Bob & Jo Solem

10617 Graeloch Road  
Laurel MD 20723  
(301) 725-5037

## 2ND AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**THIS SECOND AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** (“this Amendment”) is entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, by and between the **Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks** (the “Department”), the **James and Anne Robinson Nature Center** (the Nature Center) and the **Howard County Bird Club a Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.** (the “Society”).

### RECITALS

- A. The Department and the Society are parties to a Memorandum of Understanding entered into on February 15, 2000, as amended on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014 (“the First Amendment”) collectively, (“the Prior Agreement”) which established certain responsibilities of the Department and the Society for a mounted bird collection owned by the Society.

The Department and the Society wish to amend the Prior Agreement in order to change certain sections of the Prior Agreement, and to add sections establishing a system for coordinating certain events at the Department’s James and Anne Robinson Nature Center, and to recognize the Society as a community partner of the Department’s James and Anne Robinson Nature Center (the “Nature Center”).

### AGREEMENT

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the premises and the mutual promises and covenants contained in this Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Department, the Nature Center and the Society agree to amend the Prior Agreement as follows:

#### **Section IV, paragraphs D and E are replaced with the following:**

- D. Partnership Term. The term of this Section IV of this Agreement shall be from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018. The parties may renew this Section IV of this Agreement for an unlimited number of additional two year terms. Renewal is effective when the Director of the Department, the Director of the Nature Center and the President of the Society, or their authorized representatives, have both indicated in writing (which may be by letter or email) that they wish to renew.
- E. The Department Commitments. The Department, through the Nature Center, commits to take the following actions:

#### *Provide After-Hour Meeting Space and Staff*

- The Nature Center will provide a room in which the Society can conduct monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month. The Nature Center will provide an after-hours staff person to facilitate the after-hours operation

and closing of the building on the second Thursday of each month for each Society meeting. Meetings will be held between the hours of 6:45 PM and 10:00 PM and for members of the club to set up and provide a hospitality session. If there is a need to adjust this time, the Society will provide notification in writing to the Nature Center no less than two weeks in advance of the meeting date so that staff can accommodate the request. The Nature Center contact is Kevin Costin, 410-313-0400, [kcostin@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kcostin@howardcountymd.gov). The contact information for the Society is Bob Solem, 301.725.5037, [odenata@msn.com](mailto:odenata@msn.com)

- The Nature Center will host the Bird Club's annual potluck dinner in the auditorium from 6:00pm until 10:00pm on Saturday, March 25 2017 and a date TBD in March 2018 which will be provided free of charge with kitchen access. The Nature Center will provide an after-hours staff person to facilitate the after-hours operation and closing of the building for the Society's annual potluck dinner. The Nature Center contact is Kevin Costin, 410-313-0400, [kcostin@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kcostin@howardcountymd.gov). The Bird Club's contact for the Potluck is Kathie Lillie, 301.807.3785, [klillie12@verizon.net](mailto:klillie12@verizon.net) or Karen Heffernan, 410 857 1789, [Khdarcy4@aol.com](mailto:Khdarcy4@aol.com)

#### Event Coordination

- Communicate with the Society on logistical/programming details for four programs each year. These programs will run between September 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>, as well as for the Nature Center's annual Wild for Water Day on July 9 2017 and annual Anniversary Open House on September 17 2017. Dates for 2018 TBD.
- Provide assistance in set-up for the Society (tables/chairs/audio-visual equipment) if requested by Society members for the programs and events at which they will participate.
- The Nature Center contact for public programs is Meagan Downey, 410-313-0405, [mdowney@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mdowney@howardcountymd.gov). The Nature Center contact for the Anniversary Open House event and Wild for Water Day is Brian Campbell, 410-313-0406, [bcampbell@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:bcampbell@howardcountymd.gov).

#### Cross-Promotion of the Society

Acknowledge the Society as a community partner to further increase the Society's visibility in the community.

- Include a link to the Howard County Bird Club's website on Nature Center's "Community Partners" web page.
- Cross-promote through Facebook by "Liking" the Society's Facebook page.
- Recognize the Society in the Nature Center's public relations materials for days/events when the Society is participating in Nature Center programming.

F. Society Commitments. The Society commits to take the following actions:

Participation in the Nature Center Annual Anniversary Event and Insect Extravaganza.

- Provide outreach and activities at the Nature Center's annual Anniversary Open House event on September 17, 2017 and Wild for Water Day on July 9, 2017, dates for both events in 2018 TBD, while promoting the Society to new audiences. These activities can include bird watching on the center's green roof, bird crafts or bird presentations. The Wild for Water event will be held on July 9, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a set-up time of 10:30 a.m. The Anniversary event will be held on the September 17, 2017 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., with a set-up time of 10 a.m. The contact for coordinating participation is President John Harris, 240-755-0183, [jaybee.harris@gmail.com](mailto:jaybee.harris@gmail.com)

Provide leaders for the Nature Center Seasonal Programs.

- Provide four seasonal programs as part of public programming at the Nature Center. These programs will run between September 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>, program dates will be selected and agreed upon prior to each season by the Nature Center Program Manager and Society President or Representative. The Society will commit to leading four programs a year with flexibility on the season in which they are held. Club members may lead two programs in one season and no programs in another. Programs will be based on the best timing for the program rather than a per-season basis. Program dates will be selected approximately 6 to 8 months in advance of programs to allow for marketing and recruitment of Society members to provide said programs. The society representative will fill out the Field Trip Planner form, see attached example. The contact for coordinating participation is President John Harris, 240-755-0183, [jaybee.harris@gmail.com](mailto:jaybee.harris@gmail.com)

Cross-Promotion of the Nature Center

Acknowledge Nature Center as a community partner to further increase Nature Center's visibility in the community

- Include a link to the Nature Center website on the Society web page.
- Cross-promote through Facebook by "Liking" the Nature Center's Facebook page.
- Share Robinson link with information about upcoming Nature Center programs with members through Goldfinch newsletter, word of mouth or by including program flyers/brochures on a table of printed materials at meetings.

- Share Nature Center link in Goldfinch newsletter advertising the Club's Potluck Dinner

*Use of mounts for educational outreach*

- The Club will provide a list of any members approved and authorized to borrow mounts from the Nature Center.

G. Legal Effect. This Section IV serves only as a written record of the arrangement of cooperation between the Society, the Department and the Nature Center, and is not intended to impose any legal or financial obligations on or create any legal rights or remedies for or between the Society, the Nature Center, and the Department.

**[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]**

February 27, 2017

The following is the updated list of individuals from the Howard County Bird Club, a Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, who may give educational presentations using mounted bird specimens.

- 1) Jane Geuder
- 2) Ralph Geuder
- 3) John Harris
- 4) Mike Kerwin
- 5) Mary Lou Clark
- 6) Woody Merkle
- 7) Sue Muller
- 8) Bonnie Ott
- 9) Joanne Solem
- 10) Eva Sunell