



Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2023

Attendance [In-person presence indicated by (√), virtual attendance by (#), Voting Member by (*)]

2023-2024 Club Officers:

President:* Gregg Petersen √
Vice-president:* Val Swan √
Secretary:* Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer:* Tim Thompson √
Chap. Directors:* Loren McDougle (1st yr.) √
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.) #
State Directors:* Donna Carollo
John McKitterick √
David Sandler #
Sherry Tomlinson #
Past President:* Mary Maxey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips:* Joe Hanfman
Programs:* Mary Lou Clark
Conservation:* Robin Todd #
Newsletter:* Megan Bolcar
Records:* Jo Solem #
Webmaster: Bob Solem #
Publicity/Outreach:* Kelsey Wellons
Butterflies:* Kevin Heffernan
BBA3: Sue Muller #

Others:

General Notes

The meeting was held in a hybrid format with the in-person portion held at the home of Gregg Petersen. The total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 14 was ~55 people. Peter Kaestner gave a program entitled “Zero to 9900 – A Lifetime of Birding.”

The first order of business was to conduct a special election of officers due to the receipt of Kristin Trouton’s resignation for personal reasons (attached). Chuck presided over the election with the following slate: President – Gregg Petersen, Vice President – Val Swan, and Past President – Mary Maxey. In addition to those present in-person (6) or via Zoom (6), six board members who could not attend had provided their proxy in the affirmative to the Secretary. The slate was elected unanimously.

The club’s Constitution and By-laws were approved as amended at the regular meeting held on September 14, 2023. The amended document was signed by the President and Secretary on September 28. *Sec. Note: A PDF of the signed copy is available on the club’s web site and in the secretary’s archives.*

Officer’s Reports

President’s Remarks (Petersen): Gregg began by thanking the Board for the trust placed in him with his election. He then made several points regarding conduct of our meetings:

- Goal is to end by 9 pm (tabling undeveloped issues to committees to stay on time)
- Listed what he sees as board responsibilities
 - Votes are critical to keep the club running
 - Please RSVP to Board related messages (especially calls to vote on motions)
- Please no politics (“Advocate for the birds and their habitats.”)
 - “Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office.”

Gregg mentioned several other items:

- He is focused on increasing the club membership with a goal of 347 (40 more than our current 307).
- He is very pleased with our continuing emphasis and success with offering classes and workshops such as the “How to use Merlin” class, and the intermediate and beginner classes and workshop development
- He mentioned that although the number of responses we got to sending the membership survey was low, the content in those received has been very good feedback.

- He mentioned that he wants to start a new Group Me discussion group that is open to everything related to birds and the natural world, except politics and personal attacks. He mused about eliminating the Listers email group that is hosted on Harry Fink's personal server, but no action was proposed.

He briefly touched on some of the Board activities that were accomplished during the summer break. (See the summary presented under Old Business below.) Specifically, he mentioned attendance at the Robinson Nature Center Open House that had over 500 attendees. At the open house Val presented Shannon Davis an HCBC Appreciation Coin for her assistance in getting the RNC MOU approved (almost). He also shared the attached coin update of who has received one so far (see attached).

Vice-President's Remarks (Swan): Val expressed her happiness to be on-board. She used the term that she has thrown herself "Headfirst" into the club activities. She is especially eager to continue working with the new training opportunities. She mentioned that members who have signed up for beginner trips have been offered a "bonus" opportunity to go birding with a "mentor." This program is showing great success. John McKitterick asked us to see if we can share what is working in this regard with other MOS chapters.

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Only one minor editorial change was received. Minutes were approved with that minor correction incorporated. *Sec. Note: The cumulative Minutes "searchable PDF" on the website has been updated through May 2023.*

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Thompson): Tim provided the attached Treasurer Report that has monthly reports for May, June, July, and August. He reported that as of the end of August the club's total assets were just over \$489,000. In another matter it has been determined that we should be able to use the MOS state sales tax exemption certificate when making purchases. Tim is investigating what phone number we should use if the vendor requires us to provide one as part of validation. Lastly, he reported that we had experienced some difficulties in finding an accounting firm to assist with filing federal tax forms for tax-exempt organizations. The receipt of the Ponce Estate has mandated that we need to file more complicated forms than we have done in the past. After several false starts we now have a new CPA firm that is helping us file the correct forms at a significantly lower estimate (\$800) than the prior estimate. The goal is to file the form for our tax year 2021-2022 by late October, and then address the next year's form for which we have requested an extension.

Field Trips (Hanfman): Report attached. This includes several leaderless trips that were not included in the September Goldfinch, but these additional trips have been added to the website calendar.

Records (Jo Solem): See attached report that covers May 1 through September 25th. The extensive mudflats at Triadelphia Reservoir have resulted in an amazing set of shorebird records. Unfortunately, the difficult trek that visiting this section of the reservoir presented has limited the number of members who got to experience the bonanza.

Conservation (Todd): See attached report. He mentioned that a couple of recent encounters have reinforced the truth that personal meetings with politicians have much more impact than multiple letters and emails.

Newsletter (Bolcar): On travel, not present.

Webmaster (Bob Solem): Bob reported that it has been an exciting year for the website. Changes include the addition of a new calendar, reformatted the bird gallery, updated the Beginner Birder section, and added a section to Conservation that lists a variety of resources that you can use to promote conservation in the county. In his role as Membership Manager Bob provided a September 1 update on how we are doing. *Sec. Note – Bob provided the October 1 status update after the meeting – 279 memberships received with 90 who have not yet renewed.* Later in October he will send out a reminder to renew to those who have not done so, and then after receiving the November update from MOS he will provide the list of non-renewals to Nancy and Loren for them to make a final personal appeal to renew.

Potluck (Tomlinson): Sherry reported that the next potluck is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2023. She was pleased to announce that Meghaan Lane has volunteered to be a Co-chair for the potluck working group.

Butterflies (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin was unable to attend but indicated in advance that he had nothing to report.

Safe Skies (Sue Muller): Sue reported that at the recent RNC Open House she had a table next to the window where a bird had obviously hit the window and had left feathers plastered on the window. When the County Executive stopped at her table, she was able to point out the feathers, and inform him of the club's strong interest in getting the windows bird-proofed, including our offer to assist with funding. He expressed interest and posed for a picture with Sue.

Breeding Bird Atlas 3 (Sue Muller): Sue said that the atlas year is almost over, except for a few late nesting species. She also mentioned that effort on finding owls would be starting before the end of the year.

Publicity/Outreach (Wellons): Kelsey urged people to feed her photos for use on our Facebook page. She also wants to have all club events posted on Facebook.

Programs (Mary Lou Clark): On travel. Not present.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Petersen, Sandler, Carollo, Tomlinson, McKitterick, etc.): Donna, David & John attended the September 9 meeting. Donna provided a written set of notes (attached). John added a few observations. The position of Executive Secretary (in by-laws but not active) is expected to be re-vitalized as an IT position. John expects to be appointed to this position. He will provide real-time IT support for MOS meetings, manage the Google Workspace (100 TB) [if we need storage, we might get access], and MOS has discounts on IT hardware and software if we need any. A Work-weekend is going to be held at the Irish Grove Sanctuary on November 3-5. The hemlock woolly adelgid is attacking the hemlocks at Carey Run Sanctuary. The state has agreed to treat the infestation for free and a group at Allegany College will monitor the infestation and results of treatment. The salt marsh at Irish Grove is threatened by rising water levels. Bob asked John about the fact that the MOS Board minutes have not been updated on the MOS website since 2020. John said that Tom Strikwerda, webmaster, has no help and is overworked but John volunteered to talk to Tom about trying to update the archived minutes.

Old Business

Waterford Flats – Gregg asked Val to provide us with an update.

The plans for the club to pay for seeding the buffer area (small plot – $\frac{3}{4}$ acre) and the nearby larger plot (~ 6 acres) that the club approved last August had been dragging out. Val was asked to try and move the process along while Wes was on his fall hawk-watching trip. Val reported that several items came together and plans now call for the seeding to be done by October 7. She described the negotiations regarding what seed mixes and contents had been agreed to by all the parties including government organizations (Chuck Sharp is seeking a federal grant). The buffer will be seeded by hand with a seed mix supplemented by legumes such as white clover upon the advice of Kristal McCormick with the Howard Soil Conservation District. The larger plot will be seeded by a less expensive mix of 75% Bromegrass and 25% white clover, Estimates are the small plot seed will cost ~\$600, and the larger plot will be ~\$1200. There is a potential that a cover crop may be needed. *Sec. Note: Val reports that the seeding of the two permanent herbaceous buffers did take place successfully on Oct. 6. The cost of seed for the large plot was significantly less than the estimate.*

Gregg then reported that the Waterford Flats committee plans to install the platform over the water control structure is scheduled for the coming Friday afternoon. If we complete that part of the project, we will have fulfilled our commitment to Chuck Sharp on that part of the project. Once that is checked off, Gregg plans to approach Chuck about extending the access rules from just the HCBC to all MOS members as we were able to do with the WSSC access rules.

Robinson Nature Center MOU/Safe Skies – Gregg reported that working with Shannon Davis, RNC Director, the Memorandum of Understanding between the club and RNC has been finalized, pending final signatures. He also reported that Shannon is pushing the bird-proofing of the windows forward. She is leaning toward a treatment using photo appliques of birds and butterflies all over the windows. Gregg has volunteered we have a large collection of bird and butterfly photos that could be provided for the project. *Sec. Note: At her request Gregg is coordinating the*

donation of birds, butterflies, herps, insects, and flower/plant pictures. He is working with a number of club photographers with a due date of Oct. 14.

Committee Structure & Voting Board Positions – Gregg reported that he had named a work group to address the issue of the by-laws mandating that the board must have more elected officers than appointed positions as voting members. The group met in June and consulted by email to arrive at a proposed organizational structure consistent with this requirement. The attached draft of a structure, with eleven elected positions and eight Standing Committees whose chairperson would be a voting member of the board, was approved as the sense of the board. Gregg has confirmed appointments of seven of the committee chairs but is looking for someone to chair the Habitat Committee. The Draft HCBC Org Char document that was distributed with the agenda is only a preliminary working version that was used by the group in brainstorming a more detailed structure and staffing. Gregg will lead an effort to arrive at a final implementation.

In another habitat issue, Gregg commented that he would like to find some way to influence the mowing at the Alpha Ridge Landfill and the New Cut site in a manner that would provide better grassland habitat for birds. He was reminded that these sites are managed by government departments different than Recreation and Parks, and probably must comply with many other restrictions as past landfill sites.

Education Update – Val reported that there has been a “rapacious” interest in the Beginner field trips with them filling up very quickly. We have implemented a “special” opportunity as a reward for participating. Members who attend are given an opportunity to sign up for a “mentor” walk with an experienced birder (9 volunteers have signed up as mentors). A significant portion of participants have been taking advantage of the offer.

Gregg reported on plans for offering a class on the use of the Merlin app. One reason to offer the class is to continue the education effort attempting to improve the accuracy of eBird reports. Expand on the rationale for not relying solely on Merlin to identify a species, e.g., not sufficient to use the “confirmed by Merlin” as justification for an ID. Steve Luke has developed the course and it is now scheduled to be offered at RNC on October 21 and at HCC next April 24. In addition to the classroom portion, participants will use Merlin in a 30-minute field trip following the class. Lastly since the classes are being co-sponsored, we will need to ensure the class announcements are made in an equitable manner. After the class content has been refined, we may choose to record a video that can be offered on the website. Gregg commented that he believes the “eBird quality” paper urging better eBird descriptions on rarities would benefit from being shortened.

Hosts for Board Meetings – Gregg reminded the board that we still need volunteers to host the board meetings in February through May. See the Board Meeting Schedule of dates at the end of the minutes. Volunteers should inform Chuck so he can add your name to the schedule.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

- June 19 - Officer subcommittee work group met to discuss and propose changes to constitution, bylaws and amended committee structure.
- July 3 – Approved purchase of Purple Martin Pole Guard for Mt. Pleasant pole in response to predation. Email vote 18 Yes 1 Abstention.
- July 12 – Gregg proposed the board adopt a program of HCBC “appreciation coins” to be awarded in recognition of significant contributions to the club. By email vote the board approved expenditure of up to \$1500 for 300 coins (actual \$1294.26). Use of Mountjoy funds seems appropriate. (See a detailed description of the adopted program attached.)
- July 12 - When the club was notified that our membership level now entitled us to have four State Directors, Gregg proposed the club elect John McKitterick to the new position for the term effective September 1. The board voted by email to approve his election.
- July 14 Gregg obtained WSSC permission for MOS access to greater Triadelphia areas outside of the recreation areas.
- August 12 – Held a dedication of the Waterford Flats in memory of Marty Chestem. Revealed a sign at the sign-in location recognizing her estate gift which funded the project.
- August 27 - Approved two proposals from Waterford Flats Committee:

- 1) Authorized up to around \$4500 for seed purchase from the Chestem bequest for Chuck Sharp's use planting pollinator buffers proximate to Waterford Flats.
- 2) Authorized a follow-on \$200 a year buffer and flats maintenance payment to cover some of Chuck Sharp's operations and maintenance cost for mowing the pollinator buffer, chisel plowing, and controlled burning as needed.
- August 31- Gregg coordinated with Shannon Davis of Robinson Nature Center on final MOA approval by Howard County
- September 14 - General membership voted to approve amended constitution and bylaws.
- Over the summer -Website improvements to add events calendar, place a larger central "Join Us" button, and group media files
- Development, review, and scheduling of Merlin class
 - Scheduled April HCC class
 - Scheduled Robinson Nature Center Oct 21 class

New Business

State Director Task Review – Gregg had shared a list labeled as "Duties as MOS Board member/chapter representative" that Mary Maxey had provided him (presumably developed by someone at MOS and shared with other chapters). This is not part of the MOS by-laws and is only meant to provide guidance as to duties that a chapter might ask their representatives to the MOS Board to assume. This working document is not attached. In fact, several of the tasks listed have been delegated to other HCBC officers and members. Gregg assigned an action item to the four State Directors and Bob, Chuck, and Joe Hanfman to review the list and identify those tasks already being performed by others for HCBC. Then the State Directors were asked to review the remaining duties and establish a "division of labor" for accomplishing them.

Club Information Card Update – Gregg proposed that we need to edit and update the club's information card that is used as a handout at a variety of locations, e.g., libraries, nature stores, and outreach events. For example, changes needed include removing reference to seed sale. He will send the Board a copy of the current card for their review and editing. After a revised card is approved, we will need to print replacements.

Sustainability Day table support for Mary Lou - Gregg stated that we need to find volunteers to staff our table at the Sustainability Day at Howard Community College on Friday, October 20 from 11 am to 2 pm. We should check with Kevin Heffernan to see if there will be someone to man a Butterfly display. Sue will be out of town so there will not be a BBA3 table. It was recommended that someone go through the surveys and contact the people who indicated interest in helping with such events. Lastly, a call for volunteers should be drafted and included in the next NewsGram.

Equipment Needs – Kelsey reported that there were audio problems recording a video (outdoors) at the dedication of Waterford Flats. She has proposed exploring the purchase of a microphone mountable on a DSLR camera might improve this problem for future events. She agreed to investigate the options and provide a formal recommendation by the October board meeting.

Chuck had suggested we should investigate a conference speaker/microphone for use in hybrid board meetings and events such as count tallies. Gregg purchased a low-cost multi-direction microphone, but it had no speaker, and it was difficult for those to hear Zoom participants relying on the computer speakers only. John reported that he had a conference speaker/microphone that he will bring to the October meeting to see if that works better.

Minimizing One's Carbon Footprint as a Birder – In response to a preliminary discussion with some board members, Robin Todd drafted a preliminary paper (not attached) on this subject as the chair of the Conservation Committee. Gregg directed those interested in addressing this issue to work with Robin as a workgroup charged with developing a formal proposal on this topic for future consideration by the board.

YMOS – Gregg noted that although we have a couple of youth interested in participating in YMOS, we don't have a formal program to support them. The current YMOS effort is focused on the Eastern Shore since George Radcliff lives there. It would be highly desirable to form a Central Maryland "chapter" of YMOS, but the only way this can

be realized is for one or two adult volunteers willing to put in a significant amount of time and effort agreeing to lead it. We could inform our members of this opportunity to work with youth, but we may want to explore other less demanding ways to involve youth in our existing events as well.

Items Tabled - Gregg had a few other topics on the agenda that we chose to table and not address at this meeting including:

- Reordering magnets, window clings
- Exploring Swag such as ball caps, polo shirts, other
- Service Awards
- MOTUS Tower

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Coordinate finding volunteers for the rescheduled Earth Day at Clarksville Commons – Kristin DONE
- Organize initial plans for the Event Tabling committee as Chairman – Mary Lou DONE
- Design, procure, and mount two signs for Waterford Flats – Waterford Flats Committee DONE
- Track status of MOU with RNC periodically and motivate its signing - Gregg DONE
- Contact Brian Campbell in October to check status of RNC window treatment funding – Gregg DONE
- Check with Kathie Lillie on her interest in formally supporting Sherry on Potluck – Mary Lou DONE
- Appoint committee to address committee structure and voting board positions – Gregg DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the “Duties” document and establish a “division of labor” – State Directors, Bob, Chuck, Joe
- Review and edit the club information card when it is sent to the board – All
- Recruit help for the Community College Sustainability Day and include in NewsGram – Mary Lou, Bob
- Research and propose the purchase of a microphone for video recording – Kelsey
- Bring & test a conference speaker/microphone to the October Board meeting – John
- Prepare a formal proposal on “Carbon footprint as a Birder” for consideration – Conservation Committee
- Continue to develop a detailed implementation of the restructured organization - Gregg

Around the Room

- Nancy reported that she is teaching full-time this year with 365 students.

Board Meeting Schedule

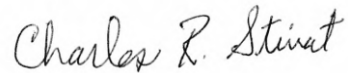
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM (hybrid)

September 28, 2023	- Gregg Petersen	
October 26, 2023	- Mary Maxey	
November 2023	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid
December 7, 2023	- Val Swan (Gregg absent)	Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings
January 25, 2024	- Mary Lou Clark	
February 22, 2024	-	
March 28, 2024	-	
April 25, 2024	-	
May 23, 2024	-	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – Sept. 28, 2023
- Treasurer Reports – May, June, July, & August monthly reports
- Kristin Trouton Resignation
- Appreciation Coin Update
- Description of HCBC Appreciation Coin Program as approved by board
- November to December Field Trip Report - Joe Hanfman
- Records Committee Report, September 28, 2023 – Jo Solem
- Conservation Committee Notes for HCBC Board Meeting of 9/28/23 – Robin Todd
- State Board Meeting - Sept. 9, 2023 Notes – Donna Carollo
- Proposed Organization Chart

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Agenda – HCBC Board Meeting – Sept. 28, 2023

- Election of President, Vice President, and Past President – Chuck Stirrat
 - Kristin Trouton resignation enclosed
- (Acting) President’s Remarks – Gregg Petersen
 - Summary of Board Activity between meetings
 - Robinson Open House 500+ attendees
 - Appreciation Coin Update (Record attached)
- (Acting) Vice President’s Remarks – Val Swan
- Review of Minutes-Chuck Stirrat (minutes enclosed)
- Treasurer’s Report-Tim Thompson (report enclosed)
 - Tax exemption
 - 2021/2022 Filing correction
- Chapter Committee Reports
 - Field Trips – Joe Hanfman (report enclosed)
 - Conservation-Robin Todd (report enclosed)
 - Newsletter-Megan Bolcar (Nothing to report-newsletter in process)
 - Webmaster – Bob Solem
 - Potluck-Sherry Tomlinson
 - Publicity-Kelsey Wellons
 - Butterflies-Heffernan (Nothing to report-recent summary sent)
 - Safe Skies-Sue Muller
 - Breeding Bird Atlas 3-Sue Muller
 - Programs-Mary Lou Clark (on travel)
 - State Board Reports-(Donna Carollo notes enclosed)
- Old Business
 - Waterford Flats-Petersen
 - Seed buy and planting Val Swan
 - Deck install Friday Russ Ruffing
 - Robinson Nature Center MOU/Safe Skies-Petersen
 - Committee Structure & Voting Board Positions-Petersen
 - Education Update-Swan/Petersen
 - WSSC Access-Petersen
 - Hosts for Board Meetings-Petersen
- New Business
 - State Director Task Review-State Directors
 - Club Information Card Update
 - Sustainability Day table support for Mary Lou
 - Equipment needs-Kelsey Wellons
 - Microphone buy @ \$200
 - Speaker/Table mike for board zooms \$23.99
 - Minimizing One’s Carbon Footprint as a Birder - Robin Todd
 - Reorder
 - Clings
 - Magnets?

- Swag?
 - Baseball hats
 - Polo shirts
 - Other?
- YMOS?
- Habitat Committee?
 - Grasslands-Alpha Ridge & New Cut issues
- Service Awards?
- MOTUS Tower?
- Review of Prior Action Items
- New/Continuing Action Items
- Around the Room
- Upcoming Schedule
 - Sep 30, Safe skies event HCC on Saturday – Gregg, Val, & Kurt Schwarz attend
 - Oct 18 Beginner Trip Skywatch Bonnie Ott
 - Oct 20 Howard Community College Sustainability Day 11am – 2pm, need assist for Mary Lou
 - Oct 21 Merlin Class for 30 at Robinson Nature Center Steve Luke
 - Oct 27 Beginner Trip Centennial Val
 - October 26 Board Meeting-Mary Maxey host
 - Need hosts for Board Meetings
 - (No November meeting)
 - December 7, 2023-Val Swan host (Petersen absent)
 - January 25, 2024
 - February 22, 2024
 - March 28, 2024
 - April 25, 2024
 - May 23, 2024 (Swan absent)

Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

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Financial information for period

Starting:

1-May-2023

Ending: 31-May-2023

Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
PNC Bank	\$3,564.41	\$200.23	See sheet below	5/31
Vanguard	\$466,605.06	(\$9,675.02)	See Notes 3 & 4	5/31
Current Total	\$470,169.47	(\$9,474.79)		

Virtual Fund Balances

Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
5/31/23	Operations Fund (O)	\$7,112.78	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
5/15/23	Habitat Fund (H)	\$7,846.92	Kestrel Box / April Honorarium donated
10/21/21	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
5/31/23	Unrealized Vanguard Market Change (U)	\$25,337.56	virtual fund tracked in the right most columns of Vanguard tab

Gift Funds

3/6/23	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$4,362.74	no activity
4/16/23	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,769.47	no activity
1/1/23	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$410,000.00	no activity

Income Activity

1-May-2023

to

31-May-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY Income as of Prior Report			\$0.00	FYTD
MOS Dues	Membership dues Jan thru Apr	ATM	\$360.00	O
Honorarium Donation	Donation of Honorarium	ATM	\$100.00	H
Income for this Period			\$460.00	
Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date			\$460.00	FYTD

Expense Activity

1-May-2023

to

31-May-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY expenses as of prior report			\$0.00	FYTD
Member reimbursement	Pot Luck reimbursement	CK	\$134.77	O
Honorarium	Speaker Honorarium May Program	CK	\$100.00	O
Member reimbursement (Paid MOS dues)	(5) Junior Membership fees - Pack essay contest (Educ/Outreach/Promotion)	CK	\$25.00	O
Expenses for this Period			\$259.77	
Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date			\$259.77	FYTD
				SEE note 2
Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year		5/1/23 - 4/30/2024	\$200.23	FYTD

Additional Remarks/Comments:

1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, and Butterfly Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.
2. Note that the FY runs from May 1 - Apr 30. Hence reinitialize FYTD calculations
3. Net change of Vanguard account is net of:
 - o No dividend for VESGX
 - o Month dividend from VMFXX \$171.71
 - o Month **decrease** in market value of VESGX (Global ESG Select Admiral Fund **(\$9846.72)**).

note 2 is updated with May data

Gift Funds Activity

1-May-2023

to

31-May-2023

Mountjoy Fund Transactions

No Activity

Chestem Fund Transactions

No Activity

Ponce Fund Transactions

No Activity.

Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

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Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Jun-2023

Ending: 30-Jun-2023

Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
PNC Bank	\$3,373.62	(\$190.79)	See sheet below	6/30
Vanguard	\$491,442.56	\$24,837.50	See Notes 3	6/30
Current Total	\$494,816.18	\$24,646.71		

Virtual Fund Balances

Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
6/30/23	Operations Fund (O)	\$7,281.04	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
5/15/23	Habitat Fund (H)	\$7,846.92	Kestrel Box / April Honorarium donated
10/21/21	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
6/30/23	Unrealized Vanguard Market Change (U)	\$50,006.80	virtual fund tracked in the right most columns of Vanguard tab

Gift Funds

3/6/23	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$4,362.74	no activity
6/12/23	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,578.68	Waterford Flats supplies
1/1/23	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$410,000.00	no activity

Income Activity

1-Jun-2023

to

30-Jun-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY Income as of Prior Report			\$460.00	FYTD
Income for this Period			\$0.00	
Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date			\$460.00	FYTD

Expense Activity

1-Jun-2023

to

30-Jun-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY expenses as of prior report			\$259.77	FYTD
Member reimbursement	Waterford Sign Purchase	CK	\$190.79	C
Expenses for this Period			\$190.79	
Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date			\$450.56	FYTD
SEE note 2				
Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year		5/1/23 - 4/30/24	\$9.44	FYTD

Additional Remarks/Comments:

1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, and Butterfly Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.
2. Club Fiscal Year is May 1 - Apr 30.
3. Net change of Vanguard account is net of
 - o No dividend for VESGX
 - o Month dividend from VMFXX \$168.26
 - o Month **increase** in market value of VESGX (Global ESG Select Admiral Fund \$24,699.24.

Note 3 is updated with June data

Gift Funds Activity

1-Jun-2023

to

30-Jun-2023

Mountjoy Fund Transactions

No Activity

Chestem Fund Transactions

Sign Purchased for Waterford

\$190.79

Ponce Fund Transactions

No Activity.

Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 9/27/23 5:43 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Jul-2023

Ending: 31-Jul-2023

Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
PNC Bank	\$2,014.36	(\$1,359.26)	See sheet below	7/31
Vanguard	\$497,641.28	\$6,198.73	See Notes 3	7/31
Current Total	\$499,655.64	\$4,839.47		

Virtual Fund Balances

Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
7/31/23	Operations Fund (O)	\$7,392.22	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
5/15/23	Habitat Fund (H)	\$7,846.92	no activity
10/21/21	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
7/31/23	Unrealized Vanguard Market Change (U)	\$56,029.34	virtual fund tracked in the right most columns of Vanguard tab

Gift Funds

7/17/23	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$3,068.48	no activity
6/12/23	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,578.68	no activity
1/1/23	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$410,000.00	no activity

Income Activity

1-Jul-2023

to

31-Jul-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY Income as of Prior Report			\$460.00	FYTD
Income for this Period			\$0.00	
Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date			\$460.00	FYTD

Expense Activity

1-Jul-2023

to

31-Jul-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY expenses as of prior report			\$450.56	FYTD
Gregg Petersen	reimburse for 300 HCBC appreciation coins	CK	\$1,294.26	M
Brown & Associates	March/April newsletter printing	CK	\$65.00	O
Expenses for this Period			\$1,359.26	
Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date			\$1,809.82	FYTD
SEE note 2				
Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year		5/1/23 - 4/30/24	(\$1,349.82)	FYTD

Additional Remarks/Comments:

1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, and Butterfly Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.
2. Club Fiscal Year is May 1 - Apr 30.
3. Net change of Vanguard account is net of
 - o No dividend for VESGX
 - o Month dividend from VMFXX \$176.19
 - o Month **increase** in market value of VESGX (Global ESG Select Admiral Fund \$6022.54.

Note 3 is updated with July data

Gift Funds Activity

1-Jul-2023

to

31-Jul-2023

Mountjoy Fund Transactions

Purchased 300 HCBC Appreciation Coins

\$1,294.26

Chestem Fund Transactions

No Activity.

Ponce Fund Transactions

No Activity.

Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 9/27/23 5:28 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Aug-2023

Ending: 31-Aug-2023

Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
PNC Bank	\$1,917.36	(\$97.00)	See sheet below	8/31
Vanguard	\$487,285.08	(\$10,356.20)	See Notes 3	8/31
Current Total	\$489,202.44	(\$10,453.20)		

Virtual Fund Balances

Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
8/31/23	Operations Fund (O)	\$7,478.46	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
5/15/23	Habitat Fund (H)	\$7,846.92	no activity
10/21/21	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
8/31/23	Unrealized Vanguard Market Change (U)	\$45,489.90	virtual fund tracked in the right most columns of Vanguard tab

Gift Funds

7/17/23	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$3,068.48	no activity
6/12/23	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,578.68	no activity
1/1/23	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$410,000.00	no activity

Income Activity

1-Aug-2023

to

31-Aug-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY Income as of Prior Report			\$460.00	FYTD
Income for this Period			\$0.00	
Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date			\$460.00	FYTD

Expense Activity

1-Aug-2023

to

31-Aug-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY expenses as of prior report			\$1,809.82	FYTD
PO Box	Payment for PO box for 6 months	Debit	\$97.00	O
Expenses for this Period			\$97.00	
Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date			\$1,906.82	FYTD
SEE note 2				
Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year		5/1/23 - 4/30/24	(\$1,446.82)	FYTD

Additional Remarks/Comments:

- 1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, and Butterfly Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.
- 2. Club Fiscal Year is May 1 - Apr 30.
- 3. Net change of Vanguard account is net of
 - o No dividend for VESGX
 - o Month dividend from VMFXX \$183.24
 - o Month **decrease** in market value of VESGX (Global ESG Select Admiral Fund) **-\$10,539.44**
- 4. **Vanguard Performance To Date**
 - o Total Deposits since established \$ 440,000.00
 - o Total Account Balance as of 8/31/2023 \$ 487,285.00 (including unrealized market changes)

Note 3 is updated with August data

Gift Funds Activity

1-Aug-2023

to

31-Aug-2023

Mountjoy Fund Transactions

No Activity

Chestem Fund Transactions

No Activity

Ponce Fund Transactions

No Activity.

Kristin Trouton Resignation: effective September 25, 2023

On 9/25/23, 8:53 PM, "Kristin Trouton" <kristing4420@gmail.com> wrote:

Please accept this email as my resignation from HCBC president, as of today, September 25, 2023.

I've enjoyed my time with the club and am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such brilliant minds. For personal reasons, I am taking a step back, and know that Gregg Petersen and Val Swan will do great things for the club in the coming years.

I certainly hope to attend some upcoming programs and field trips, and see you all soon.

Best wishes,
Kristin

Howard County Bird Club Coin Award Record

1. Chuck Sharp 8/12/23 Chestem Ceremony by Gregg
2. Wes Earp 8/12/23 Chestem Ceremony by Gregg
3. Jo Solem 8/12/23 Chestem Ceremony by Gregg
4. Russ Ruffing 8/12/23 Chestem Ceremony by Gregg
5. John Harris 8/31/23 Bird walk by Chuck
6. Meg Harris 8/31/23 Bird walk by Chuck
7. Dave Ziolkowski 9/2/23 Nighthawk watch by Gregg
8. Mary Lou Clark 9/9/23 Bird Walk by Chuck
9. Roshan Vignarajah 9/14/23 by Gregg
10. Peter Kaestner 9/14/23 Club Meeting by Gregg
11. Kimberly Kaestner 9/14/23 Club Meeting by Gregg
12. Kate Tufts 9/15/23 Home Visit by Gregg
13. Chuck Stirrat 9/16/23 Fall Count Potluck by Gregg
14. Sue Probst 9/16/23 by Fall Count Potluck by Gregg
15. Shannon Davis 9/24/23 Robinson Nature Center Open House by Val
- 16.

Description of HCBC Appreciation Coin Program

I am requesting approval of the enclosed 2" HCBC appreciation coin for use explained below and for \$1500 funding for an initial purchase of 300 coins.

Background: In my past leadership positions I have always strived for a simple but material way to convey thanks to those in or those who supported my respective organization. In 1980, I wrote Letters of Appreciation. The letters took time to draft, so were not presented on the spot, and eventually most likely ended up in the recipient's filing drawer. In 1989, I discovered the Challenge Coin concept and since then have used organizational coins in my follow on leadership jobs to great effect. They can be given on the spot and are a material way to say thanks without delay. It is important to note, the coins are about service to or support of the organization, not a specific person or position. I have intended to design and provide a similar coin for HCBC prior to September.

Design: Please review the enclosure. It is quite simply our HCBC logo on one side and the MOS logo on the other side with the exception of one modification that I added to each side. I have added the respective organization establishment date to each logo design. For the use of and modification of the Mos logo on our coin, I obtained MOS President Bonnie Borsa's permission.

Use/Award of the Coin: Qualification for award of the coins is essentially to say thanks to a club member or supporter. In general, any HCBC officer (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) can make an award of a coin. That said, any HCBC Board member or member could make a recommendation for award of a coin to someone deserving thanks. The coins can be given in a group or person to person depending on the circumstances. There is no formal record-keeping requirement—it is intended to be a timely recognition. Examples of uses of the coin: to our speakers, for bird walk & count leaders, perhaps someone who recruits others into the club, for HoCo, HCC, WSSC, and RNC leaders/key contacts—hopefully this gives you a general sense of its intended use. In general, multiple coins would not be given to the same person but this will not be strictly regulated. If approved, I expect the coin use to transcend the next 2 years to become a tradition for the HCBC.

Motion submitted by Gregg Petersen – Vice President

Approved by board in an email ballot on July 12, 2023



November to December Field Trip Report

Submitted by Joe Hanfman

Here are the November - December field trips plus a few more if there is space.

Gregg,

I added a couple more leaderless trips at the Skywatch after our success this past Monday. It was nice that we had three new people who wanted to join the club (one already did) and three newer members plus several others.

Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch

October 30, Monday, Half day.

Meet at the parking lot or go directly to the Skywatch site. This trip will be a skywatch for migrating raptors and other potential flybys.

Leader – open to whoever shows up

Centennial Park

November 1, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Beginners Trip- Birds of the Lake. Bonnie and Val will explain the basics of binoculars and field guides. Easy walking along the open side of Centennial Lake. Meet at Boat ramp. Limit 10

Leaders – Bonnie Ott, sparrowdamsel@gmail.com; Val Swan, valnjeff55@gmail.com

Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch

November 4, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Half day.

Meet at the parking lot. This trip will be strictly a sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Our main target will be Golden Eagle; while not expected, early November is the best time to catch one flying over Howard County. We will watch the skies and tally the birds as long as conditions are productive. Hope for a north wind! Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sunglasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binoculars, scope, and camera if you like. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if sky-watching proves non-productive. Facilities available.

Leader – Russ Ruffing, russruffing@gmail.com

Centennial Park

November 5, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. (Daylight Saving Time ends)

West end parking lot.

Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely.

Facilities available

Leader – Russell Kovach, Russell.kovach@gmail.com

Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch

November 6, Monday, Half day.

Meet at the parking lot or go directly to the Skywatch site. This trip will be a skywatch for migrating raptors and other potential flybys.

Leader – open to whoever shows up

Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm

November 8, Wednesday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours

This is an impromptu leaderless walk for an opportunity to bird with any friends who show up.

Centennial Park

November 12, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours.

West end parking lot.

Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers.

Facilities available

Leader – Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org

Centennial Park

November 19, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours.

West end parking lot.

Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers.

Facilities available

Leaders – David Holmes, musiclbndr@gmail.com

Centennial Park

November 26, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours.

West end parking lot.

Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers

Facilities available

Leaders – David Ziolkowski, dziolkowski@usgs.gov

Start Your Year List

January 1, 2024, Start at 8:00 (half day)

Meet at the Howard Conservancy – Mount Pleasant Farm.

Easy walking on woodland trails. May plan to bird several different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new!

Facilities available

Leader – Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

January 6, Saturday, All Day Trip

Plan to stop at the Choptank River Bridge for ducks and coffee.

Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly, Entrance fee or Duck Stamp required.

Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details. We will carpool.

Facilities at some spots

Leader – Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net

Records Committee Report, September 28, 2023 (May 30 – Sept. 25) – Joanne Solem

This report contains a summary of the summer season (June and July) and the first half of autumn (August and most of September).

Summer (June 1 – July 31)

Summer swans are unusual in the county, but not unknown. One flying across US 29 on 6/15 was seen from a moving vehicle so could not be identified as to species. A Caspian Tern at Centennial Park 6/9 – 6/11 was the county's first-ever June record. Wood Ducks and Green Herons both had excellent breeding seasons. The small heron has increasingly benefited from shrubs and small trees along lake and stormwater pond edges.

For the first time in the 65+ years of club records, three active nests of Red-headed Woodpeckers were confirmed in a single breeding season (details in Nov/Dec *Goldfinch*).

The HCBC's Purple Martin installation at Mt. Pleasant appeared successful after just one year. Five pairs of martins and one pair of Tree Swallows built in the compartments of the large box. Unfortunately, because there was no predator guard on the supporting pole, black rat snakes predated all eggs and nestlings. A predator guard has now been installed. Also at Mt. Pleasant, a pair of Tree Swallow nested successfully in a stub in the Davis Branch area. It was a rare natural location for this box-loving species.

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Mt. Pleasant 6/26 was the first-ever county summer record.

Sadly, it appears that the Dickcissel colony, at Underwood Rd since 2017, has almost disappeared. One male sang on territory consistently—although apparently in vain—from late May to late July. Val Swan received permission from the Jones family to access the location regularly. She made more than a dozen trips to the site but never observed a female or what could be interpreted as successful nesting.

Autumn (August 1 – September 25) partial season

We already know this will be a season to remember! The first half of autumn was noteworthy in two respects: 1) a site at Triadelphia Reservoir proved to be the best single site for shorebirds ever recorded in the county in a single season; 2) Broad-winged Hawk peak flights were caught on three days, each tallying more than 1,000 birds.

First, the shorebirds. This year's low water levels to allow dredging at Triadelphia produced prime habitat at the mouth of a tributary between Pigtail and Big Branch. Reaching the site from either parking lot required a lengthy and relatively challenging hike. In addition to the vagaries of migration, two Peregrine Falcons, a Merlin, and multiple Bald Eagles patrolled the site intermittently, which meant that one never knew what shorebirds would be present. Unusual species documented, with record numbers for some, included Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher.

To understand how infrequent this grouping of shorebirds is for this county, it is necessary to go back to 2012, when a similar assortment appeared, but they were scattered at Brown's Bridge, Fulton, and multiple sites in both counties at Triadelphia. In the 2000s, a pond near the

entrance to Western Regional Park produced an excellent variety of species, but those rarities were spread over multiple dates and mostly stayed no more than one or two days. Some of the current species have been present for weeks. Twenty-five White-rumped Sandpipers and 81 Pectorals are many times the previous recorded highs of four and 15 respectively. I believe the current numbers and variety at a single site is without precedent in Howard County.

The second major seasonal highlight was three peak days of Broad-winged Hawk flights. Although the county lacks the topographic features that habitually produce high daily counts in autumn, birders annually tally Broad-wing numbers in the low to mid hundreds on at least ONE mid-September day. A few times each decade there is likely to be a day with numbers close to 1,000. At least twice in 65+ years, 2,000 have been recorded (the high was 2,500). This season was particularly rewarding with THREE days over 1,000; one of them reached 2,000 and another was close.

Fall Count, on 9/16, marked the first significant flight with multiple parties notching dozens of birds topped by Bonnie Ott's count of a minimum of 770 at Rockburn Branch Park. Succeeding days produced only modest numbers (mostly under 50). With favorable north or northeast winds, the dam broke again on 9/21. Luckily, Lynn Gregg, Joe Hanfman, and David Cummings spent a little over three hours in the morning scanning at the Robbins' SkyWatch (SW). They logged 2,007 Broad-wings which Joe noted was most certainly an undercount. A few miles away, at Alpha Ridge Landfill, Ralph Cullison caught 1,014 streaming southwest in barely 45 minutes (probably many of the SkyWatch birds). The following day, 9/22 beginning at 9:30 a.m., Lisa Colangelo counted ~300 in less than 30 minutes over her West Friendship yard. That same morning Lynn tallied 1,490 at the SW. One wonders what the totals for those two days might have been had the SW been covered during the entire day. Although the three days were within the normal peak migration period for this species, (9/15 – 9/25), was it simply a coincidence that this mass movement of Broad-wings flowing southwest was taking place on 9/21 - 9/22 just ahead of tropical storm Ophelia's arrival along the East Coast?

Other noteworthy species during this first half of autumn included Caspian Tern, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Gray-cheeked Thrush, American Pipit, Clay-colored Sparrow, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Dickcissel.

With two months remaining, what other surprises does the autumn season hold?

Conservation Committee Notes for HCBC Board Meeting of 9/28/23

ESA@50

Kurt and I attended a 2-day celebration and lobbying event of and for the Endangered Species Act in DC. It was held in Washington DC and included meetings with congressional members and their staffs. We also lobbied for the establishment of a National Biodiversity Strategy and for a reduced harvest of Horseshoe Crabs (to allow more of their eggs for Red Knots). One suggestion was that the permits for harvesting horseshoe crabs for bait in Maryland and Delaware waters. DNR issued 10 permits for Maryland and Delaware's DNREC(?) issued 31. The next step is to obtain estimates of the revenues that these permits yield.

A fuller report will be in in the Conservation Corner section of the November Yellowthroat.

New Bridge at Swallow Falls

The bridge over the Youghiogheny at Swallow Falls is scheduled to be replaced. The planned new bridge would require the felling a little under 3 acres of trees; 222 in all, including a few majestic old growth hemlocks. As a tiny remnant of the once vast swathe of old growth forest, this area was recently classified as an Irreplaceable Natural Area (INA) and lies within the state park. An alternative plan would put the new bridge at the same site as the present one, but would require a 3-month road closure (which would not be required for the forest-clearing one). DNR and others argue that such a road closure would present a hazard to public safety as well as an inconvenience. There is opposition to the plan from area residents as well as the Old-Growth Forest Network. There is evidence that a road closure would not cause the problems which the plan's proponents allege. Audubon Mid Atlantic is joining the opposition.

We will be sending a letter of opposition to Governor, Lt Governor, Comptroller and the MD Board of Public Works.

Plastic Bags Ban in PG County

We signed on to a proposal to make the paper bags which PG County supermarkets will hand out instead of plastic ones, free to low-income customers. Single-use plastic bags are banned in the County.

BLM On Shore Oil & Gas Leases

We submitted a letter by George Alderson's commenting on BLM's proposed rule for on shore oil and gas leases. The letter opposed the granting of such leases.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin G. Todd

Conservation Chair for HCBC and MOS

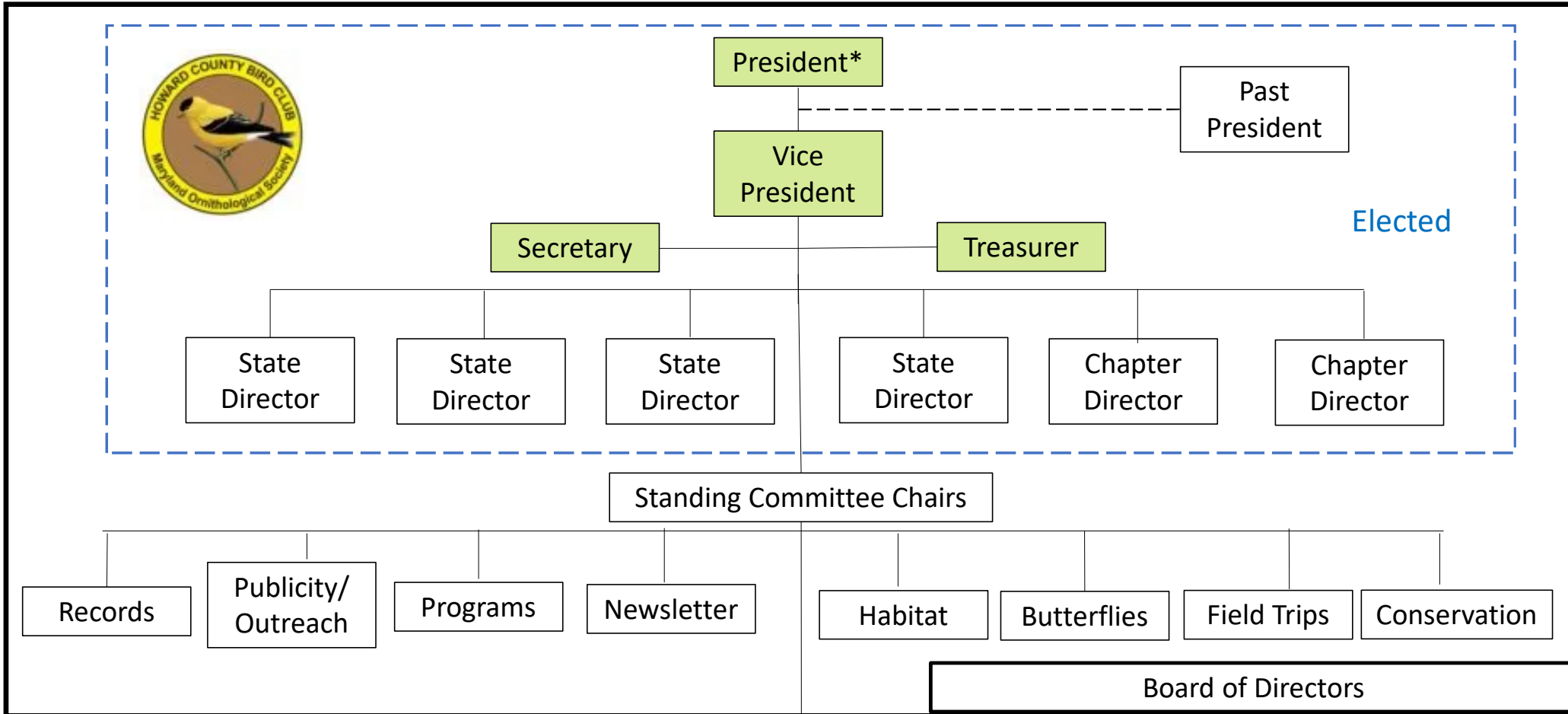
Sept. 27, 2023

MOS board meeting: Donna Carollo, Attended virtually Sept 9th, 10am-12:15pm

1. MOS storage room-cleaned out and will get smaller shed as costs \$4,600/yr. Lots of documents to inventory.
2. Insurance-Nationwide dropped last year so looking at options. All MOS and chapter activities covered.
3. Review minutes-accepted
4. Treasurer- summary
 - a. May-Aug membership \$13,700 collected.
 - b. \$18,000 operations expenses
 - c. \$10,000 MD CC
 - d. \$5,000 Biodiversity project at Turkey Point
 - e. \$1,100 Baltimore Youth Program- 12 from kid's inner city introduced to birding.
 - f. \$1,500 Washington College internship
 - g. Vanguard Funds- \$15,000 dividends. Still assets down \$2,400
5. Advisors-Betty Mackie leaving and Janet Matenson joining she was past president.
6. Membership and state directors- 2023 have 2,270 members.
 - a. Traditionally each chapter has 1 state director per 100 members.
 - b. Needs to be a manual regarding state directors.
 - c. If only 99 members, then need to be lenient and allow a director if a few member low and if 700 members do they really need 7 state directors? Maybe a cap on # of state directors for each chapter.
 - d. How do we find State Directors and what is their responsibility? – traditionally they are liaison between MOS and chapter.
 - e. A lot of members don't know what MOS does, so state director should be involved in education.
7. Appoint an Executive Secretary for Technology-
 - a. Set up hybrid meetings and google.
 - b. President appoints and board approves- John McKitterick (I think) appointed.
 - c. Evelyn takes over as new President and can appoint her own.
 - d. Get paid \$1/year.
 - e. Paul Zucker was the last Executive Secretary when still done as mail-most documents lost. Therefore Google drive is better since stores everything.
 - f. Needs new title.
 - g. Google gives MOS 100TB and each chapter gets 30GB
 - h. Back up of website needs to be included.
 - i. December finalized and manual of operations updated.
8. Reappoint committee chairs September- no one stepping down so the same.
9. Need Vice President for next year-no one volunteered.
 - a. Issue maybe- 6 year term and change to 4 years
10. MOS business card- Took from Howard County Gregg Petersen
 - a. Chapters to have own business cards and MOS separate.
 - b. Looked at one card with chapter and MOS on the back but difficult to get 2 QR codes.

11. Money for chapters next year budget-
 - a. Smaller chapters need more money for speakers and pavilion rentals- \$2K set aside for this.
 - b. How Disperse? - make a request for what they need for each chapter under 100 members.
12. Sanctuary Projects-Jeremy manager
 - a. Carey Run treatment- MD Dept of AG paying (I think that's what was said) and Allegany College students help with beetle monitoring.
 - b. Irish Grove-Audubon sanctuary study-
 - i. Need trench to prevent water flowing into wetlands.
 - ii. Water levels and Surveying diversity needed.
 - iii. Current health of marsh is good but salt marsh sparrows declining.
13. MOS Convention was May 16th-21st- Wisp
 - a. 175 attended.
 - b. The estimated cost was \$8,985 but only cost \$2,000! Tradition is to break even on costs.
 - c. 150 attended Solomon last year.
 - d. For next year's convention- Wisp again but it needs renovations. Possible St Mary's College.
14. Turkey Point summary-Speaker at MOS convention
 - a. MOS supported project for 2 years.
 - b. Paid for housing \$12,000 each counter and 2 so about \$24,000/year- Counters require special skills and get paid well.
 - c. Visitors can come and observe- Aug 1st – Nov 30th.
 - d. Last week 2 Brown Boobies flew over.
15. Need to increase communication and documentation of officer responsibilities.
16. Committee and Project Reports-
 - a. Bird Records- state records were accepted.
 - b. Taxonomy updates- changed order of wrens and want Western Fly Catcher back as separate.
 - c. Charts on Records-
 - i. Chan Robbins- since 1945-2017 there are 120 boxes of data.
 - ii. Stored at Patuxent but transfer to National Audubon archives in Sheppardstown.
 - iii. Organized his records of 3 ½ boxes of Christmas bird counts- but Audubon may not take these. MOS members to store. Seasonal reports, rarities and atlas.
 - iv. Dedication to Chan- Sat Oct 14th with a feature and walking trail funded by Friends Patuxent.
 - v. Chan banded Albatross in 1950's.
 - vi. Chan created a network of citizen science and field guides.
17. Committee Reports-
 - a. Atlas- MOS sponsored to go to American Ornithological Conference- NORAC to standardize the way of atlasing methods for analysis.
 - i. Less participation this year.
 - ii. Marsh birds priority next year.
 - iii. Go through incomplete blocks and update review codes in ebird.

- b. Awards- if chapter wants to make an award goes to review.
 - c. Conservation-
 - i. Sign on pleas for Federal legislation-make a personal letter.
 - ii. 5th year of Endangered species act celebration in D.C. with lobbying-6 environmental groups to attend.
 - iii. No state level legislation. But, SOPC is state as well.
 - d. EDI- no comments.
 - e. Investments- slowly going towards 80% equities instead of stocks.
 - f. Long Range Planning-no comments.
 - g. Birding Guides- new google maps with 4 regional maps instead of one.
 - h. Birdlife Fall issue-working on it and will be out in time.
 - i. Yellow Throat-will get out Nov 1st. Last day for submission Oct 15th.
 - j. Scholarships- garbled and couldn't hear anything.
 - k. YMOS- DE meeting costing \$500 donation from MOS.
 - l. MVPE-people up for consideration to run.
18. Final Comments-
- a. Better way to communicate- need input.
 - b. State directors- responsibilities need to be established. Should be able to participate more and involved in committees. Needs to be more important role.
 - c. EDI- on agenda Oct meeting maybe.



Legend:

Officer

*also a State Director

** Revised as needed

As of Sep 28, 2023