

**Minutes of the MOS Board Meeting
September 10, 2011**

President: Mark Johnson
Vice-President: Maureen Harvey
Treasurer: David Webb
Secretary: Janet Shields
Past President: Wayne Bell

Alternative Energy: Chris Toscano
Awards: John Malcolm
Conference: Janet Shields
Investments: David Webb
Piscataway: Don Messersmith
Scholarship: Tom Strikwerda
Statewide Education Activities: Maryanne Dolan
Yellowthroat: *not represented*
Youth Programs: George Radcliffe

Allegany/Garrett: *not represented*
Anne Arundel: Phil Davis, Stacy Epperson, David Gillum
Baltimore: Brent Byers, Joan Cwi, Kevin Graff, Peter Lev, Karen Morley, Carol Schreter
Caroline: *not represented*
Carroll: Bob Ringler
Cecil: Maryanne Dolan, John Taylor
Frederick: Helen Horrocks, Bob Schaefer
Harford: Dennis Kirkwood, Randy Robertson
Howard: Jane Coskren, Ward Ebert, Tom Strikwerda, Chris Toscano, Kate Tufts
Kent: *not represented*
Montgomery: Joy Aso, Chris Barnard, John Malcolm, Don Messersmith, Steve Pretl, Chris Wright
Patuxent: Fred Fallon
Talbot: George Radcliffe
Tri-County: *not represented*
Washington: *not represented*

President Mark Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Baltimore Bird Club hosted the meeting at Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore Maryland. Mark thanked Baltimore members for hosting the meeting and Carol Schreter for leading the bird walk.

Minutes of the March meeting were accepted by the Board with the following correction made by Karen Morley on page 4, 1st paragraph, 4 lines from the bottom to the following sentence: These journals are historically correct but they could also give us some important information about the early connections. This was changed as follows. These journals are historically important and they give important information about the early collections.

Marsh Bird Survey

Mark Johnson was pleased to introduce Jacquelyn Bonomo and David Curson from Maryland Audubon. Jacquelyn Bonomo, Executive Director of Audubon Maryland and DC. This is one of 26 state-wide programs of the National Audubon Society. They have environmental centers at Patterson Park in Baltimore and Pickering Creek on the Eastern Shore. They also have five chapters in their jurisdiction. Many MOS members are familiar with the work of Dave Curson, Audubon's Director of Bird Conservation.

Dave Curson spoke about Audubon's Marsh Bird Survey. This is the first salt marsh survey for the lower Eastern Shore including Virginia and New Jersey. This survey is important because of basic significant threats to salt marsh birds; the major one is the sea level rise. It is predicted the sea level will rise about 3 feet in the Chesapeake Bay. It has been predicted we could lose the majority of the salt marshes in these areas by the end of the century. This is significant because they represent a large share of the United State's salt marshes. So this is of globally significant to salt marsh bird here in Maryland. Not much is known about birds in the salt marshes and that is why this survey is necessary. Region wide the most important objective of the survey was to fill gaps in the population distribution of salt marsh birds. Audubon, in conjunction with the Conservation Fund, has already started the planning for surveys in Dorchester County, where some of our largest marshes exist. They need to come up with a plan to allow the marshes in Dorchester County to persist in the face of sea level rise. In order to do this they need to identify the best areas for salt marsh birds in this area and try to maintain them. They are planning a breeding survey in 2012 which will help obtain the data needed for this project.

Treasurer's Report: It was Mark Johnson's great pleasure to introduce our new Treasurer, Dave Webb. The Treasurer's Report was provided by our past Treasurer, Emmalyn Holdridge, and presented by Dave Webb. Mark pointed out to Dave an apparent discrepancy in actual amounts in expenses for awards \$1,286 versus \$400 budgeted. John Malcolm said the budget is dependent on how many awards are given each year and he is never sure how many will be given. Dave is going to check to see if the \$400 amount was raised later in the year to reflect a large number of awards.

Dave Webb explained that Birds of North America Online edition is available to MOS members under an organizational agreement. It is annually renewed in spring. Currently, there are only four MOS members taking advantage of this. A one-year subscription to BNA Online is available to MOS members for \$25 as opposed to the regular \$42. Dave will be promoting this by getting information out to the chapters and Yellowthroat.

Chapter Reports

- **Frederick:** Frederick President Bob Schaefer announced they recently signed up for the meetup.com and almost immediately received responses.
- **Baltimore:** Joan Cwi, Baltimore President, said the Lights Out Baltimore Program has had two successes. As a result of a letter sent to them, the new nature center being built at Blackwater NWR will be using Ornilux glass. Also, the Vollmer Center at Cylburn has had some problems in the past with bird strikes. Lights Out Baltimore is working with the city to pick a film to use over the worst strike areas. It is expensive and there are a lot of things to consider but they are working towards this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Alternative Energy** Chris Toscano noted the MOS Policy Statement on Alternative Energy is on the website. Chris has recently sent to the committee drafts on wind power that were drafted over the last few years. They will try to come up with a consensus on which draft to use as a policy statement. They still hope to have this completed by the end of the year. Chris mentioned that Kurt Schwarz has written a lot of letters for them regarding building wind power facilities. They will use those letters and their drafts to formulate a statement.
- Chris passed out a handout which provides an opportunity for MOS to put our money where our mouth is regarding our Statement on Alternative Energy. In that statement we stated that we support the installation of solar panels that would not have an impact on our health or habitat. Chris recently discovered an opportunity for non-profits like us to make money on the installation of solar panels. Essentially we would have to partner with Sungevity, a group based out of California. Their main product is solar leases. If the upfront \$18,000 - \$30,000 cost is prohibitory, you can go much cheaper and get a 15 year lease for solar panels. If MOS partnered with Sungevity, for each referral that turned into an installation MOS would receive \$500 and the

person signing the lease would receive \$500 from Sungevity. Chris thinks MOS only has to be a 501(c) (3) in order to participate. The company would provide us with a website to send out emails to our membership. If any of those emails signed up and installed solar panels, MOS would receive the \$500. Chris was hoping to get the Board's approval to partner with this company. He thinks it's important for us to become more proactive trying to get alternative energy to play in Maryland and this is one way of doing so.

- Mark Johnson mentioned he looked into this for himself and found the company to be reputable. Mark looked into leasing for his own house and found it would cost him about \$30/month for 20 years. It is supposed to decrease his electricity usage by about 1/3. It seems like a good way to go. Mark urges each person to check it out. It was decided to send information out to the chapters for discussion.
- **Awards/MOS Merchandise:** John Malcolm asked that the Board approve his proposal to use Custom Print LLC to set up a custom imprint website for MOS linked to our website to be used by the Board and Chapters as desired to purchase t-shirts, coffee mugs, etc. imprinted with their logos, slogans, etc. The cost to MOS to set this up would be \$200. The Board voted to approve this. John reminded chapter presidents that he is willing and eager to help create awards for their volunteers.
- **Atlas:** Jane Coskren thanked Mark Johnson for all the Atlas awards and thanked John Malcolm and Joy Aso for the fantastic work they did producing the awards. Jane was very glad to recognize the County Atlas Coordinates because they were the backbone of the project. Johns Hopkins University Press won 1st place at the New York book show for their design of our 2nd Atlas. Jane acknowledged that Karen Morley basically designed the Atlas and sent it to JHU. Of course it was edited by Walter Ellison.
- **Conference:** Janet Shields reported they are working on the conference registration brochure now and hope to have it in the mail by the 1st week in November. We are not having conference t-shirts. They have not sold well in recent years; last year we lost money. It is time for her to arrange conference insurance similar to trip insurance to cover the possibility of conference cancellation due to weather. She has been in touch with Paul Guis regarding having a pelagic trip out of Ocean City. Paul is very interested in doing this and is checking out options of boats he can use. What is needed now is help obtaining field trip leaders; please contact Kathy Calvert, kathycalvert1@comcast if you can help. Maryanne Dolan, maryane.dolan@gmail.com, has again agreed to handle the Silent Auction and Raffle. She desperately needs people to help and items for the auction and raffle.
- **Piscataway:** Don Messersmith noted funds were given in memory of Bill Kulp with the idea of putting signs at the new Piscataway Sanctuary. One of Don's ideas is to have a sign saying Piscataway Sanctuary and the MOS logo, which John Malcolm has designed. The sign at the entrance would read "A wildlife sanctuary maintained by the Maryland Ornithological Society. This sign erected in memory of Bill Kulp, past president of Montgomery Bird Club and a member of MOS, and the many volunteers who over the years have contributed their efforts to preserving birds, other forms of wildlife, plants and their habitats in the state of Maryland." There is really only one side trail, which Don calls the Stream Trail. The Stream Trail would have a sign with the MOS logo and would say "This sign erected in memory of Bill Kulp, past president of the Montgomery Bird Club, and the many MOS Volunteers who have created other sanctuaries in Maryland." So two signs will be needed. Don checked with Fast Signs; they will charge \$35 for each sign and \$40 for each pole. Mark Johnson noted this project was approved at a previous Board meeting and Don has a budget to do whatever he wishes. Don said the budget is over \$1,200 and only about \$150 would be needed for the signs. After this is complete, Don would like to come back to the Board with the idea of using the remaining money to build a shelter. He will go ahead with ordering the signs and let the Board know when they are in place.

- **Investment:** Mark Johnson noted we do not have an Investment chair and asked for comments from Investment Committee members. Ward Ebert commented he had been looking at our investment performance. Ward said it seems to be tracking the TIAA-CREF Social Choice mutual fund, a long-standing fund having some of the same social concerns that we do. He feels we are doing pretty well. We have been operating under this new guidance for about six months.
- **MD/DC Records:** At their annual meeting Phil Davis announced that Paul O'Brien retired as chair after many years and the new chair is Bill Hubick. Phil said they recently accepted Brown Booby for the Maryland list. They are reopening the White-tailed Kite seen in Allegany County a number of years ago. They are reviewing Barnacle Goose; Phil thinks it will be accepted on the Maryland list. Also in review is the Golden-crowned Sparrow in Kent County. The next big problem they will address is Trumpeter Swans. Meanwhile he is continuing work on his historical canvass.
- **Statewide Education:** Maryanne Dolan has arranged for two workshops at the conference. One is on Ducks and Waterfowl done by Derek Stoner on Friday. Saturday afternoon, Scott Smith will update us on the Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas. Maryanne is thinking of having a spring workshop and would like suggestions on who to have and where to have it.
- **Yellowthroat:** Lydia Schindler is looking for replacements for herself and Suzanne Probst. Mark Johnson asks the Board to go back to their chapters and see if they can find someone to fill the editor and designer positions.
- **Youth Programs:** George Radcliffe said they will be doing backpacks again this year. They will be pretty much the same with binoculars from Eagle Optics.
- George and Wayne Bell ran a program in June at Washington College which was very successful with 8 students and 5 teachers. They are getting good representation from around the state with people from Carroll, Charles, Harford, Queen Anne, Baltimore, and Montgomery. They will be running the program again June 24-29, 2012 at Washington College. Tom Strikwerda, Scholarship Committee chair, has agreed to help get information out to teachers.
- They are starting to get interest in World Series of Birding. It looks like they already have a middle school team representing three chapters. They could handle another middle school team and would like to have a high school team. If you have someone in your area interested, contact George, radclifg@gmail.com.
- What is starting to evolve is chapters around the state having youth contacts. Currently, the four chapters with youth contacts are Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, and Howard. George would like to see a youth coordinator at each of the chapters. George is looking for coordinator contacts in the other chapters.
- Mark Johnson noted that the broader issue of membership is it has been declining. He thinks one possible way to increase membership is to encourage chapter field trip committees to interact with their local nature centers. They are looking for trips at their facilities and we're looking for younger folks to join our society.
- **Sanctuary:** Brent Byers is having a fall workday at Irish Grove November 12-13.
- **Scholarship:** Tom Strikwerda is getting scholarship announcements out to the schools in October. Because his schedule has changed and is now earlier, Tom asks the chapter presidents to help write recommendations for the teachers that apply and send them to Tom with the applications. This will be happening before Christmas instead of in January. Once Tom has the new schedule with definite dates, he will email it to chapter presidents.

OLD BUSINESS

Chapter Web Site Contest

Deferred to next Board meeting.

MOS/Baltimore Bird Club Collection

Karen Morley held a meeting this morning and delegated tasks. People are going to inventory the kinds of collections they have. Brent Byers is going to have an inventory of the collections at the sanctuaries. A mission statement and policy development statement are being developed. Someone else is looking into the kinds of organizations to which they might wish to make donations. Everyone on the committee has a general idea of what they are working with. They have two kinds of collections. One is educational items and the other is research items. They are trying to come up with a policy of how to best conserve, preserve, and use the collections in the future. They hope to have recommendations by the next Board Meeting for the Board.

Vacant Committees

Mark Johnson noted we still have a lot of committee vacancies. We need someone to take over Norm Saunders' Annual List Reports. We have a great Investment Committee but need a chair.

Development/Outreach is to encourage membership but also to encourage funding to allow us to do more of the kinds of things we want to do.

Someone is needed to run our Earthshare group which involves going to state-wide fairs where other nonprofits get together. Since many of these fairs are in the DC metro area, the best person would live in or close to this area. Briefly, it requires that an individual take MOS materials there to answer questions about our organization. In the past we've gotten approximately \$5,500 a year, not an insignificant source of funds. This year it was roughly half. That's the kind of difference a person can make to bring more funds to our organization. We are also a member of Maryland Nonprofits. If any of the chapters have questions about how to raise money or legal questions, etc. Maryland Nonprofits is there to help. Mark Johnson can give you contact information.

Mark has already mentioned *Yellowthroat*. George Radcliffe mentioned the World Series of Birding; someone is needed to help raise funds for WSB so we can send kids and adults to that event.

NEW BUSINESS

Manual of Operations Change

Everyone should have a copy of the page where a change was recommended after a meeting by the Investment Committee and the Budget Committee. Mark Johnson explained that we struggled with this, particularly during these hard times. Funds in the past were limited to the earnings made by the fund. The committees agreed we don't want to manage these funds for growth. It's for the society to promote conservation and the benefit of the birds. Under the advisement of the Investment Committee we thought a 4% draw would not hurt the principal and allow us to do more in the areas of research, conservation, to preserve our sanctuaries, etc. and so it was proposed the lines in red in the top paragraph be stricken and in the bottom paragraph be replaced by the lines in blue. This language also allows for the Investment Committee to change the value (i.e. 4%) if the fund cannot be maintained at this level. At the Board meeting it was noted the second paragraph states "Half the non-earmarked budget for Education will be allocated the limit for the statewide Educational Activities Committee." It was agreed to cross out "the limit" in this statement. It was moved and seconded to accept the changes as proposed and passed by the Board.

Policy on the Use of Audio Lures

Mark said there has been concern about the policy on the use of audio lures. The first time he heard about it was at the last conference where not only leaders were using audio lures, which was to be expected, but some of the participants in the group were using audio lures at the same time. It is not helpful to have people other than the leader using audio lures. This goes beyond just leading trips. What is the responsible way to use audio lures? Maybe we need a policy on this. Mark is looking for a couple of people to form a small committee to explore a policy that we can adopt on the responsible use of audio lures. Maryanne Dolan offered to be on the committee; anyone else interested should let Mark know.

Yellowbooks

We are out of Yellowbooks and need more. Bob Ringler indicated it will be some time before the updated version is ready. We got a quote on 8/1/11 for printing the current Yellowbook. For 1,000 books the cost is \$1,536; for 500 it would be \$1,235. Mark Johnson proposes we get another 1,000. There was a motion, which was seconded, to buy 1,000. This was approved by the Board.

Orville Crowder

Orville Crowder was the 2nd MOS President. He was good friends with Don Messersmith. When he died Don had been working with him with the World Nature Association, and Orville left everything he owned to Don. One of the things done was an education fund called the Crowder Messersmith Fund administrated by ANS. Among the things Don inherited was a cemetery lot located at the Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore. Don thought if anyone wants to buy it there are three plots left. There is a tombstone with the name Crowder on one side. If someone wants to buy it contact Don and he will donate the money to the Sanctuary fund.

Announcements

Future Meeting Dates

December 3, 2011 – hosted by Harford Bird Club at Swan Harbor Farm

March 3, 2012 – hosted by Howard Bird Club (location TBD)

June 2, 2012 – hosted by Washington Bird Club at Greenbrier State Park

September 8, 2012 – hosted by Allegany/Garrett Bird Club (location TBD)

December 1, 2012 – host and location TBD

President Mark Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Shields, Secretary

**MOS Board of Directors Meeting
September 10, 2011**

ACTION ITEMS

* = New at this meeting; unmarked action items come from previous meetings.

PRESIDENT and EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Mark Johnson to work with John Malcolm and Lydia Schindler on developing selection criteria for a chapter website contest.

COMMITTEES

- Committee Chairs submit **Annual Committee Reports** by 7/14/2011 to Mark Johnson (mark.steven.johnson@comcast.net). Also, submit **contact information for all committee members** to Janet Shields (janetbill@prodigy.net) as soon as available.
- Awards and Merchandise Chair John Malcolm to arrange for Custom Print to offer a multitude of MOS logo items via a link from our website; they'll handle all preparation and shipping and send a percentage of each sale to MOS. He is to provide information to all chapter presidents.
- Alternative Energy Chair (Chris Toscano) to provide information to the board regarding solar companies willing to provide non-profits with a small donation before the next board meeting.

CHAPTERS and INDIVIDUALS: Chapter Presidents take action or announce to members.

- Volunteers needed for open MOS positions. Periodic flurries of e-mail comprise the norm for most committee chairs. Committee chairs needed for ***Annual List Reports** (Norm Saunders will provide guidance), **Development/Outreach** (continue longstanding participation in Earthshare by encouraging donations through workplace giving campaigns), **Investments** (quarterly review of statements with other committee members), **Long-range Planning** (lead discussions on MOS's future direction), ***The Maryland Yellowthroat** (seeking new staff interested in producing the electronic version), and **World Series of Birding** (support the MOS team). Send nominations to any MOS officer or Mark Johnson (mark.steven.johnson@comcast.net or 410-692-5978).
- *Sanctuary Committee Chair Brent Byers (baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294) is soliciting members' **ideas and thoughts on what to include in the hunting policy for MOS properties**. His initial thoughts are that our policy should be site specific, enhance habitat, and enhance monitoring of sites, with no Sunday hunting. He especially needs to hear from those familiar with the properties. Irish Grove work days are November 12-13.
- The Maryland Yellowthroat* is now online and in color, including photographs. Members can help reduce MOS publication costs by viewing, downloading, or printing from the MOS website. An e-mail notice will be sent when the latest newsletter is available. Chapters compile and provide members' e-mail addresses to Helen Horrocks (hlh_37@yahoo.com)

and/or each chapter have their own e-list manager to maintain their chapter listing; then only the e-list manager needs to be notified when a *Yellowthroat* edition is available to download.

- Statewide Education Activities Chair Maryanne Dolan (Maryanne.dolan@gmail.com or 410-398-7567) wants your ideas.
- The YMOS Website (<http://www.ymos.org>) needs chapters to **provide information on youth-oriented activities** to George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) for inclusion.
- YMOS World Series of Birding team** is seeking another member (with supportive parents); contact George Radcliffe.
- Submit **contact information for donated chapter memberships** to youth or other members (e-mail and/or street address) to Helen Horrocks (hlh_37@yahoo.com or 301-831-6315) for welcome packets and inclusion in publication mailing and e-mail lists.
- Chapters with no logos or poor quality logos**, contact John Malcolm (smudgie@comcast.net r 301-977-5788) for help. In addition to chapter publications and activities, the logos are needed for the MOS website and for chapter awards. Also, John is eager to prepare attractive chapter recognition awards (such as certificates or plaques) to show appreciation for volunteer efforts by your members, officers, or outside community endeavors.