

Grand Traverse Audubon Club

Board Meeting

March 13, 2025 6:00 pm

TADL

Agenda

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call: Kathy, Kathie, Kirk, ME, John. Jenny and Jared absent.
3. Approval of February 13, 2025 Minutes
 - a. Meeting minutes from last Board member approved.
4. Consideration of the Agenda
5. Introductory Comments – John Imboden
 - a. 501c3 Committee?
 - i. Traditional officers for a 501c3 = Pres, VP, Treasurer. Assume that officers in the club will assume same role on not-for-profit. Need Jenny to affirm. John will email Jenny to follow up.
 - ii. Use same articles as club.
 - iii. Need new EIN, file 1023 EZ with IRS. Kathie knows how to file.
 - iv. Low initial fee for filing. Some annual reporting responsibilities.
6. Treasurer's and Membership Reports – Kathie. This is after all recurring donations and backpack expense.
 - a. Current main \$4727.82
 - b. Walter Hastings \$1401.02
 - c. CD (made \$82 in a year!) \$2082.96
 - d. Total \$8211.80
 - i. Kathy, Kirk move to approve.
 - e. Membership – 14 folks cancelled for non-payment. Since January, 6 new people. Total = 128. Ish.
7. Old Business
 - a. Speaker Roster for 2025
 - i. March – Piping Plover Vince Cavalieri
 - ii. April – Jenny Ecuador
 - iii. September – Kirtland Warbler Steve Roles
 - iv. October: Alison Vilag.
 - v. Nov 20 – Sharon Benjey Birds of India.
 - vi. Other Possibilities –
 - a. Friends of Whitefish Point Banding Program.
 - b. Nova and _____ up to come down in June after banding season.
 - c. June 19 = Thursday, NMC Little Theatre or Innovation Center at NMC are possible venues. Juneteenth activities on campus that day might enhance drop-ins!

- d. Fundraising pitch likely. Project Snowstorm, saw-whet owl projects, connect to things going on “down here.” ~77 capacity.
- e. Should we use this event to test ticketing?
- f. Raffle an owl box to fundraise
- vii. D Bernard (Big Year) in April 2026.
- viii. Alison Vilag available in October. Bigger room?

8. Field Trips

- ~~a. Digiscoping – TBA Jeremiah Oden cancelled~~
- ~~b. Tawas May 16-17 Kirk. State Park closed. cancelled~~
- c. Arcadia April 19 Jenny
- d. Sportsman Park East Jordan May 3rd Curt Hofer
- e. Shumsky Rd May 18th MaryEllen
- f. May 24 – BYO Kayak
- g. May 31 – Southeast GT Co led by Tim Webb
- h. June 7 – Kirtland Warbler Tim Webb -- Ticketed event?
- i. Detroit Bird Alliance Birds and Bikes June 8th
- j. Houghton Lake Sewage Ponds August 16th
- k. September – Sharon Benjey: Bug Night at her house (ask SB to pick a rain date!)

9. Other Events

- a) Maker Fest April 26 – Kathie will bring second table, and attend logistics webinar. Will provide power. ME, John and Kathie will arrive at 9am. GT Civic Center.
 - a. Prizes from GL Audubon (Kathy will ask)
 - b. John has 3 bird boxes to donate.
 - c. Shrink art birds ME
- b) May 4 – Kirk at TADL (Kirk, Kathie)
- c) May 17 – Saturday morning at Interlochen Public Library (ME + other?)
- d) No Nature Fest this year (Elk Rapids); Kathie will lead a bird walk in village June 14

10. Rough legged Hawk Project? Or Project Snowstorm? – Maryellen

- a. \$3500 max. Depends upon whether there is another transmitter. All our funding would have to go to this project. Reach out to Isabella at GL Audubon; zoom call. Board meeting? What if \$400 is all we could contribute? Kathy’s impression is \$200-300. Fahlo bracelets for wildlife support.
- b. Someone at Whitefish Bay Raptor Center is tagging saw whets. Connected to MOTUS tower system. Big hole in western MI. Project Snowstorm is an option. Participate with others to set up a western MI tower. Talk to western MI chapters. GL Audubon? Birdathon for fundraising.
- c. Kirk: let’s see what smallest meaningful donation to P Snowstorm would be.
- d. Birdweather PUC <https://www.birdweather.com/> for listening for saw whets. Loan it out? With deposit?

11. Loon Platform Update

- a. Found a trailer, no boat yet. Stored in Omena. Added one more buoy to the permit. Still in process for final approval. Kathie in touch with Peg Comfort, directed her to Steve Largent; he is not available. Don Flegel might be able to reach him. Damon

McCormick (potential loon program). Likely second week of April. Kirk will reach out on Discord for advice. ME will post on Overheard in TC, Kirk will reach out to fireworks pontoon people.

- b. \$440 in buoys.
12. Website Upgrade? NMC student? Other membership communications. Kirk: not likely a student would take it on. Nate Crane might have some ideas...
13. Conservation Committee of One? Kirk will put something out on Bird Alert.
14. Call with Indiana Audubon r.e. Youth initiatives – see Kirk’s notes attached below.
 - a. EventBrite offers 50% discount for Not-for-Profits.
 - b. Kirk – what do we really offer for cost of membership that folks can’t get somewhere else? Whom do we serve? Change program calendar March – November, try doing a few things in the summer; maybe an outing for July. Need help with social media. Develop more merch, what are the issues? Inventory, etc. Name change, away from Audubon. Needs discussion; but later. Interface with schools, National Park Service. Prioritize ideas. Ask Carleton if he has skills? See Kirk’s addendum at the bottom of this page.
15. Volunteer Opportunities at SLBD National Lakeshore – Maryellen
 - a. Piping Plover monitoring – volunteers needed, ME will put it out on Bird Alert
 - b. Shorebird Conference.
16. Young Birders Camp? Would like to hear from campers and staff to hear where the money is going.
17. Agenda and date for next Board Meeting April 8th, at Jenny Young’s Morgan Farms off 72. Kathie will send a map. 6pm. Tuesday.

Kirk’s notes on call with Indiana Audubon on enhancing youth involvement:

Agenda items for upcoming board meetings

- What do we offer for the cost of membership?
 - Connection with others thru Birdalert (Discord is free, also FB groups)
 - Opportunities to learn about birds (open to all)
- Whom do we serve: just members, or also curious general public (gateway to birding)?
- Change program calendar to March - Nov? Put out a survey first?
- Additional help for Publicist with social media #idontknowwhatimdoing
- Charge for events, tickets thru Eventbrite
 - Nominal for members, a little more for non-members (one ticket per family)
 - Try it with kayak trip May 24th?
- Merch
 - Products (t-shirts, mugs, microfiber cloths, beanies) - cost, profit margin?
 - What would we need for shipping infrastructure?

- How to handle orders - ask for volunteer?
- Website upgrades
 - Find people who know how
 - Estimate of cost

Discuss name change (workshop open to members; in spring so people can come; *pluck some lower-hanging fruit first*)