

KBC Meeting – **Wed, 9/6/23** at The Gathering Place in Beachwood, OH

27 people attending

1 – Michele Seyranian, Executive Director of The Gathering Place, and Patty Kellner, President of KBC welcomed visitors and agreed it was wonderful to partner in a lovely setting to hear from a birder who is also a cancer survivor. The evening's agenda was shared verbally with all attendees by Patty

2 – Reports:

Field Trip report was made by Paula Lozano

3 - Announcements

- Upcoming Speakers, past & future Field Trips, Special Events (Bird Quest), and the NE Ohio Bird Calendar were shared with audience members.
- Reminder that as of September 1st we are in a new membership year.

4 - Our speaker, Holly Merkel, was introduced and she spoke on the topic of Ornithery – the power of birding for health, wellness, and recovery. Her talk was well-received. She took questions afterwards and sold signed copies of her book.

- Holly Merker bio:
 - professional birding guide, author, educator, and lecturer.
 - global advocate for the practice of Mindful Birding and founder of the Mindful Birding Network.
 - Author of the award-winning book, Ornithery: For Your Mind, Body, and Soul (along with Richard Crossley and Sophie Crossley)
 - Background in Art Therapy
 - Certified Wellness Counselor
 - Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide,
 - Recipient of the ABA Conservation and Education Award given by the American Birding Association for her work in both those areas.
 - AS a volunteer
 - Senior Lead Editor and Reviewer for Pennsylvania ebird
 - Hawk counter at 2 hawk watch sites in PA, Board member at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
 - Ethics Committee for American Birding Association and helped revise The Code of Birding Ethics in 2019
 - In her free time, Holly spends every possible moment practicing Ornithery, which she credits with helping her defeat breast cancer by restoring her health mentally and physically.

5 – Final announcement: Next meeting will be Wed 10/4 at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. The speaker will be naturalist Judy Semroc and her topic will be Birds, Bugs, and Botany.

6 - Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at about 9:00 PM