



Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm.

Isobel Anderson was in a car accident near Armstrong. Bruised, but otherwise OK.

Minutes:

The March 2015 minutes were accepted as circulated; moved by Marlene McDonald, 2nd Janet Pattinson.

Treasurer's report:

Ted Hillary presented the following for March 2015:

Bank balance on March 3, 2015 **\$5,026.59**

Revenue:

Coffee	\$14.65
Dues	\$170.00
Baillie Birdathon	\$48.75
Interest	\$0.22
Total:	\$233.62

Disbursements:

Pictures	\$50.00
Total:	\$50.00

Bank balance on April 7, 2015 **\$5,210.21**

Patronage **\$0.14**

For Nature Park: \$286.06

Fall AGM: \$3652.16

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report, 2nd Alandra Nayre.

Announcements:

1. Member Peigi Macmillan passed away suddenly in Ecuador of a heart attack. The club has sent a sympathy card.
2. Two club projects:
 - A. Tree planting with SABNES on Apr 24, in honour of Earth Day on Apr 22. Meet at 10 am at the Brighthouse Nature Centre.
 - B. May 27: weed pull along the foreshore with the members of the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society.

3. Bats: The white nose syndrome is a fungus that has killed about 6 million bats since 2006. Refer to email from Jeremy Ayotte which has a phone number to call – please report if you know the location of a colony.
4. Outings:
Thursday is the first outing of the season. Meet at 10 am at the Brighthouse Nature Centre for a walk along the foreshore.
Apr 23: Swan Lake – meet at Swan Lake Nurseryland.

Business:

1. Everything Shuswap, by Jim Cooperman:
We as a club should help sponsor the use of this book, which may be used in the schools. The district is supporting Jim Cooperman, and a percentage of profits go to outdoor education.
MOTION: Gillian Richardson moves that the club support Everything Shuswap for \$500. Second Clive Bryson.
2. Nest boxes:
Geoff Styles reported that it has been a good first year, with over 60 boxes monitored. Questions that could be asked are: 1. Are swallows and other similar birds (aerial insectivores) declining in this area, and 2. Are the hatch rates similar over different areas within the Shuswap?
3. Show and Tell
Ed brought a beaver skull, from a whole set of bones found at the mouth of the river. This animal likely died of old age.
The teeth are self-sharpening chisels, and are orange because they have iron in them. They also never stop growing. Beaver lifespan is approx 24 years, and the female is larger than the male, getting up to 55 lbs. The largest known beaver dam is in Wood Buffalo National Park, and is 850m long.

Reports

1. SABNES:
Pat Mearns reported that Norm Embree attended the last meeting.
Part-time student grants did not go through, but a full-time student grant has been received.
On Apr 24th there will be a tree planting session, for 60 willow and cottonwood.
Please come and help! Bring gloves and pliers if you have them. The bridge dedication done at that time as well.
May 22 is the SABNES AGM. Venue has not been chosen yet.
2. Good news (Hanne MacKay):
 1. Good news here at the meeting, about the Environmental Committee and the Young Naturalists Club.
 2. Conversion of old railways, powerline ways, etc, into butterfly ways, including the initiative by Tyler Flockheart to plant milkweed in corridors for monarch butterflies.
 3. On March 26, the Nature Conservancy of Canada purchased the Kit Carr property

near Osoyoos for \$750,000, adding 320 acres to the Sage & Sparrow Conservation Area.

4. There are four new babies in the orca J pod.

5. Earth Day suggestion: scatter materials for birds to make their nests with.

3. Young Naturalists Club:

Geoff Styles reported on a couple of outings: North Fork Wild outing in February. (recent grants for learning foundation to build outdoor learning structure).

and birdhouse building in March with Jim Hoskins, who did a stellar job preparing and organizing the pieces and hardware – many thanks to Jim! Then Geoff took the kids on a walk to look for salamanders, with no success.

This month, Art Borkent will do a bug survey along the foreshore with the kids.

For Earth Day, Ceren and Geoff will be taking the kids down to the bay (Apr 22). Invited any club members to join in.

4. Environment:

Janet Pattinson – Sherry Bowlby, Ed Dahl and Janet Pattinson go to the meetings. Tim Lavery is the new chair. Recent talks about the study on water quality. Changes in bylaws for subdivisions are being proposed (eg storm sewers, etc).

As a director of BC Nature, Janet Pattinson also reported that there is a new strategic plan for the organization, to incorporate an increase in the involvement with young naturalists, and also to be a knowledgeable presence in communities. They want measurable results, so it's important to keep track of everything.

Sightings:

- Geoff Styles: Jeremy Ayotte reported sandhill cranes flying over his property.

Also: during the owl survey, a few owls were heard/spotted.

- Sharon Lawless: heard a great horned owl recently. A trumpeter swan was spotted with a purple band on its neck. Ted Hillary also spotted it, but couldn't read the number on its band with his scope.

- Greg Wiebe: saw swallows north of Grindrod.

- Mike Saul: saw a Townsend solitaire near the lake; a Harris sparrow down at Riefel Bird Sanctuary, as well as a pair of bush tits building their nest.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm, moved by Mike Saul.

After the break, Harriet Hanna gave a presentation on gardening.