

## Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Janet Pattinson welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm, including James Bowlby, doing well after a long stretch of medical issues, and our guest speaker, Michelle Walsh.

### Minutes:

Ted Hilary moved the March 7, 2017 minutes be accepted as circulated. Pat Mearns seconded.

### Treasurer's Report:

Ted Hilary presented the following Financial Statement for April 4, 2017:

Bank Balance March, 2017	\$3611.88
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#### Receipts

Dues	110.00	
Coffee	12.00	
Donation	10.00	
Interest	.16	\$132.16

#### Disbursements

None

Bank Balance April 4, 2017	\$3744.04
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Patronage	\$ .62
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Ted Hilary moved acceptance of this report. Mike Saul seconded.

### Business:

1. SOS Songbird Committee – Janet Aitken showed brochures produced by the Stewardship Centre for BC to educate cat owners about responsible care, including keeping them indoors for their own safety and health as well as to protect birds they may hunt. The Committee will be distributing the brochures to vets, pet shops, SPCA, and other locations to target the intended audience. Janet Pattinson suggested offering them at Seniors Resource Centre Mall Days, to be held in the Piccadilly Mall, June 2 and 3.

2. Tree planting on the foreshore – Janet Aitken reported that 2600 trees arrived on Monday, April 3. They were moved to the hummocks and placed according to flags marking planting location for each type of tree. Planting will begin Wednesday morning with help from students and scouts. Jim Hoskins built and installed several bat houses and duck boxes.

### Announcements:

1. Outings – the list has been sent out to members for spring outings. The first outing is April 13, to explore the wharf area. On April 20, meet at Greer Road to check the small lake for birds.

2. Environmental Advisory Committee – Janet Pattinson reported a discussion of alternate energy choices that are available from services in the local area.

3. BC Nature – several concerns will be topics of discussion at the spring AGM in Lillooet. Mike and Pam Saul will be our representatives for voting.

a. Pink Mountain (on Alaska Highway, 180 km north of Fort St John) has amazing diversity in its population of red and blue listed plants. However it is a target of resource development and needs to be protected. More info at [www.pinkmountain.ca](http://www.pinkmountain.ca)

b. Mountain caribou – a species of particular interest to SNC members, we have been urged to sign a petition to preserve habitat crucial to survival of this unique species (eats hair lichen on old growth trees). Logging in the Clearwater Valley near Wells Gray Park threatens remaining habitat and should stop. Richard “Dick” Cannings (MP, South Okanagan-West Kootenay) will present the petition in parliament.

c. Resolutions will be discussed at the AGM concerning highway brushing during nesting season; preserving BC’s fossil heritage; banning unencapsulated polystyrene used as flotation; the need for a climate change policy statement; need to restore passenger rail service between Vancouver and Prince George; maintenance of trails in the Lillooet area; a 10-year moratorium on the cull of grey wolves that are blamed for caribou predation; need for clear policy for solar installations that may impact wildlife habitat, restored areas and agricultural land.

### **Reports:**

**Good News** – Hanne MacKay reported that the Nature Conservancy has secured a wetland in the Oliver area to save species such as curlews and salamanders; the Monarch butterfly population has increased three-fold to 140 million in a survey of its Mexican wintering habitat; a new bat bridge in the Netherlands offers roosting underneath while people use the top for cycling. Tom Brighthouse reported that the BC government plans to give \$2.17 million to develop the abandoned rail corridor between Sicamous and Armstrong as a multi-use, non-motorized trail.

### **Sightings:**

Mike Saul – a weasel near Henderson’s house

Ed McDonald – Glynn Green saw 30 mountain bluebirds at the mouth of the Salmon River

Roger Beardmore – 40 eagles over the lake

Hanna McKay – a bobcat has been living in her Raven yard since Feb

Pat Turner – a pair of great horned owls nesting a couple of blocks northwest of SASS, and turtles seen at McGuire Lake.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55: Mike Saul

1. **Guest speaker**, Michelle Walsh, Tribal Fisheries biologist, Secwepemc Fisheries Commission, talked about her Masters research on the Deadman River west of Savona. She’s studying threats to salmon habitat from climate change, especially temperature, and looking for ways to mitigate this with stream restoration to enhance ideal areas. For more info, email her at [walshm15@mytru.ca](mailto:walshm15@mytru.ca) Michelle received \$500 in financial support last year from the Club to help fund her project. See the SNC Newsletter, September 2016 for more details.