

Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone present to the meeting at 7:10 pm.
New folks attending include Michael Carlson (Vernon, our guest speaker), Ed and Sharon (Enderby), Reid (Tappen), David (Armstrong) and Lola (a long-time naturalist)

Minutes:

The minutes of the February meeting were accepted as circulated. Moved by Janet Pattinson, 2nd Pat Turner

Treasurer's Report:

Ted Hillary reported the Financial Statement for March 3, 2015

Bank Balance Feb 3			\$4979.09
Receipts:			
	Dues	240.00	
	Coffee	15.85	
	Interest	.20	\$256.05
Disbursements:			
	Room Rental	94.50	
	UPS Store	78.35	
	Postage	35.70	\$208.55
	Balance for March 3, 2015		\$5026.59
	Patronage SASCU		.14

(Nature Park - \$286.06)

(Fall AGM - \$3652.16)

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report, 2nd Mike Saul

Announcements:

- 1) Photo display (on the table) is from the FGM. Marlene will store it for future use.
- 2) Clive Bryson's mounted photos will be given as speaker gifts.
- 3) Mike Saul brought several Forestry Service magazines for members to take.
- 4) Outings: the new list is out via email and at the website. Pat Danforth thanked those who offered suggestions, and welcomes more input to the committee.
- 5) Gulls & Grebes: Sarah Weaver asked Ed to direct our attention to a recent article in the Vancouver Sun concerning "the decline in BC of glaucous-winged gulls since 1980", an indicator species re: the health of the ecology. Ed described the historic movement of gull populations from south to north in the Okanagan as their habitat changed. Today, the gulls' diet of 'junk food' lacks protein and may be affecting reproduction. Western grebes may be in "huge decline" (suggested by the same article) making them red-listed elsewhere in BC, but they have nested in Salmon Arm Bay since 1961 and find a good food supply of carp here.

Business:

1) Nest Boxes: Geoff Styles and Jeremy Ayotte were absent but will be at the April meeting to discuss this year's project. Ed and Monica Dahl will put boxes on the Fly Hills. The 2014 Baillie Birdathon profit to the Club was \$48.75.

2) Weed Pull: SABNES has met regarding the removal of woody nightshade close to the path in the Nature Sanctuary, as it is impacting the ecology of the marsh. Ed suggested mid-April on a weekday, e.g. 14th or 15th for this task. Volunteers are needed. Gloves and bags (and maybe food and money) will be provided by the Invasive Species Council. Watch your email for more information to come.

Reports:

1) Good News – Hanne MacKay was absent. Mike Saul talked about the BC Water Sustainability Act. At present, commercial water users (e.g. Nestle's) pay nothing for the water they sell. The new Act will set rates. Mike also commented that the 2010 ban on mining in the BC Flathead Valley has been echoed in the US, so now the whole valley is protected.

2) SABNES – Pat Mearns reported that priorities for 2015 have been set. They include a full-time and possibly one or more part-time students to run the Tom Brighthouse Centre; repair to the bird viewing platform with help from Rotary; seeking approval from the city and/or province regarding the location of a bird viewing platform in Peter Jannink Park; boardwalk repair; work on the Nature Trail surface once the city installs new sewer pipes; more nature signs about reptiles and amphibians; picnic table repair; encouragement to cyclists to use bells on the trail; Tom Brighthouse will label plants.
Mike Saul reports the beavers are back at work.
AGM will be held early to mid-May.

Sightings:

Helga Vrabac – 2 barred owls are hooting on Main Island (Gardom Lake)

Mike Saul – has merlins in his yard. On a recent trip to Mexico, he and Pam saw limpkin, snail kite, several species of buntings, a red warbler and an amazing number of Monarch butterflies at 11,190 feet elevation which is their wintering habitat.

Rosemarie Breymann - heard a call she believes might be an owl (Saw-whet?)

Mike Carlson – has nesting great horned owls in his yard in Vernon. He reports that Allan Brooks Nature Centre is experimenting with planting milkweed to attract Monarch butterflies.

Joyce Henderson – saw red-tailed hawks mating

Motion to adjourn by Mike Saul

Guest speaker: Mike Carlson, RPF (Ret.) shared his enthusiasm for the study of 'big trees' during and after his forestry career through photos of some giant redwoods, spruce, pine, cottonwood, black walnut and others. He has seen such trees throughout northwestern US, in BC and Haida Gwaii. Visit the BC BIG TREE website to learn more.