



Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm.

Minutes:

The February 2017 minutes were accepted as circulated; moved by Blaine Carson, 2nd Pat Mearns.

Treasurer's report:

Ted Hillary reported the following for February 2017:

Bank balance February 7, 2017	\$4,018.06
Revenue	
Coffee	19.75
Dues	130.00
Interest	0.15
	\$149.90
Expenditures	
Newsletter	56.08
BC Tomorrow Society	500.00
	\$556.08
Bank balance March 7, 2017	\$3,611.88
Patronage	\$0.62

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report. 2nd Margaret Filiatrault.

Announcements:

1. Five year club member Leslie Stoddart passed away two weeks ago. She had Lou Gehrig's disease. She gave a \$1000 donation to the Foundation for our education award.

MOTION: Ed McDonald moved that we give the award this year in her honour. 2nd Jim Hoskins.

2. The club donated \$500 to BC Tomorrow Society, inspired by Barry Wilson's presentation. He wrote a thank you note to the club.

Business:

1. Pat Mearns emailed Ed to ask where all the songbirds have gone. Ted Hillary reports very few songbirds at his feeders. The Save Our Songbirds committee is educating the community on how we can help in a small way to help save the songbirds.
Possible causes: modern farming practices, and fewer insects.

2. April 4–9: 2600 trees and shrubs will be planted on the hummocks along the foreshore. Have arranged for 282 students to come over that time period. They are looking for adults to help as well (to oversee the students). Ceren Caner reported that his class of elementary students are contributing. The Invasive Species Society will have a booth there as well, and will be promoting shoe cleaning.

3. Show and Tell: Ed McDonald brought in a Common Goldeneye, found by Glynne Green at the mouth of the river. It breeds here occasionally, but mostly in the taiga/boreal forest. It's a cavity nester, producing a clutch of 8-12 eggs. Ducklings need to drop out of the nest before they will eat.

Reports:

Young Naturalists: (Geoff Styles): next outing will be to Eagle River Nature trails.

Sightings:

1. Jeremy Ayotte: saw a flock of grey birds exit a burned-out cedar tree. He thought they might have been bats, but more likely birds. Ted Hillary thought they might be evening grosbeaks. Other suggestion: nuthatches.
2. Blaine Carson: spotted soaring turkey vultures while skiing the rail trail. Could also have been eagles.
3. Roger Beardmore: his brother in Parksville reported a huge herring spawn in the Strait of Georgia. Lots of birds there!

The club broke for coffee at 7:50 p.m., moved to adjourn by Marlene.

After the break, Jeremy Ayotte gave a presentation on his project collaring bighorn sheep.