



Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm – a smaller crowd than usual.

Minutes:

The April 2017 minutes were accepted as circulated; moved by Pat Mearns, 2nd Di Wittner.

Treasurer's report:

Ted Hillary reported the following for April 2017 (via email):

Bank balance April 4, 2017	\$3,744.04
Revenue	
Coffee	8.85
Dues	75.00
Donations	5.00
Interest	0.15
	\$89.00
Expenditures	
Website	\$93.32
	\$93.32
Bank balance May 2, 2017	\$3,739.72
Patronage	\$0.81

Ed McDonald moved acceptance of the report. 2nd Mike Saul.

Announcements:

1. Gillian Richardson was in the local newspaper for her new book 10 Roots That Ruled The World. She will be signing copies at Buckingham Palace – 12-2 pm this Saturday (May 6).
2. Clive Bryson has a new coffee table book: The Adams River and its Sockeye. He has written the copy as well as taken the photos.
3. Outings – Pat Danforth: two so far, both very wet but also very successful. Foreshore, and also Peterson Pond. This Thursday – Salmon River delta. Dawn McDonald and Marie Fortin will lead in Pat's absence.
Next outing: Dorothy Parks will be taking the group to Enderby, up near

the water tower.

Business:

1. Facebook: Janet Pattinson has asked the naturalists to join SABNES on a Facebook account. The executive has agreed. It will be a good place to advertise speakers, etc. There is a \$500 fee involved, and SABNES will be paying more than \$1000. Question: what is the payment for when Facebook is free??

MOTION: To pay \$500 to join SABNES. This will be **tabled** until Janet can give us more information.

2. Proposed tower at Peter Jannink Park:
The proposed area is on a little spit, which is reclaimed land – that is, it doesn't belong to the city, but is Crown land. So now we need to apply for permission to the Crown to build it.
Greg Weibe: could we build it anyway and maybe they wouldn't notice?
Mike Saul has already proposed this to SABNES (who will pay for it).
The plans are for a more robust structure than was there previously.

MOTION by Pat Turner, 2nd Sarah Weaver: to go through the process to apply for permission through the Crown.

3. Grebes have arrived. Di Wittner will do the grebe count.
4. Mike Saul: BC Nature Spring AGM – there is a resolution put forth by the North Cowichan group for protection of grey wolves by banning the wolf kill. Mike wanted to discuss this with our club.
Ed McDonald: eliminating a predator will create problems instead of solving them. He feels that we should stop or reduce logging instead.
Jim Hoskins: in Jasper park area, the skidoo traffic creates roads for wolves where normally there would not be, creating access to herds that would normally be left alone.
Di Wittner: nonselective culling is disasterous to the wolf social structure. Also, blaming the wolves takes the blame off us, where it really lies.
Mike Saul will also propose an amendment to the constitution.
5. Ed McDonald's Show and Tell: shell of a Painted Turtle, found near Mary's pond. There are 4 subspecies. Western Painted Turtle is blue-listed, although less in danger in our local area than in the lower mainland and on the island. Females are larger, and lay 8-16 eggs in sunny area of dry soil which they urinate on to loosen it. Main predator of adult turtles is racoon, but eagles will also eat them. Average lifespan is 30-40 years. They can only eat under water, and hibernate under water in the mud. Temperature of egg incubation determines sex.

6. Hummocks – Ed McDonald recommends a walk down to see the hummocks. Swallows are using the nest boxes. Thanks to Jim Hoskins for building the swallow houses as well as duck and bat houses. Di Wittner offered to help clean out the bird boxes along the trail.

Reports:

No good news as Hanne was absent.

Ed McDonald had more show & tell: wasp nest, morel mushrooms from his property, and discussion on moss grass and mosquito fern (rare).

Sightings:

1. Kyle Fitzpatrick– two Swainson’s hawks at Peterson Pond outing.
2. Jim Hoskins: a hawk on top of Skookum Cycles eating a pigeon that it had caught.
3. Greg Wiebe: goldfinch.
4. Ed McDonald: White crowned sparrows are back in big numbers, near Sorrento.
5. Mike Saul: Sandhill Cranes at near Falkland.

The club broke for coffee at 7:55 p.m., moved to adjourn by Mike Saul.

After the break, wildlife biologist and member Di Wittner presented “Adventures in Wildlife Rescue.”