

**Shuswap Naturalist Club General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2023**  
**Salmon Arm Senior Secondary School Library**

**Janet Aitken**, Chair for this meeting, welcomed 23 members to SASS library at 7 PM.

**Approval of Agenda:** **Pat Mearns** moved acceptance of tonight's agenda. Carla Kirkpatrick, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.

**Presentation: Dave Ramsey**, Educator at SASS who has spoken to the Club in the past, returned to update us on the progress of his 2014 curriculum initiative about the Shuswap Watershed. It has morphed into a province-wide program called BC Tomorrow. The focus tonight was "Land Use Planning in the Schools". This highly interactive 3-part program includes a video series, a simulator which students can use to evaluate elements of the landscape and manipulate variables to see past and future conditions, and field studies. Dave described the high level of engagement by the students and how they are applying critical thinking and decision making skills as they learn to address environmental and socioeconomic concerns within the Shuswap community.

**Break for refreshments**

**8:00 PM - Business Meeting:**

**Approval of April 4 minutes:** A couple of amendments: Colin Spence noted inaccuracy in the report in Sightings, giving this clarification: *"The small lake winter kill resulted from an unusually warm fall, which prevented many lakes from mixing properly before freeze up. This created unusually low oxygen levels over the winter, producing the worst winter kill event in decades."*

Di Wittner pointed out that Motions need to reflect agreement by including, 'Carried'.

Colin Spence moved acceptance of the April 4 minutes as amended. Glenda Hanna 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.

**Financial/membership report:** Gillian Richardson presented Ted Hillary's report, in his absence:

**Financial Statement May 1, 2023**

Bank Balance April 1 2023 **\$4355.35**

**Revenue**

Dues	325.00	
Donation (for bursary fund)	150.00	
Interest	.36	<b>\$ 475.35</b>

**Disbursements**

Website	132.83
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Gift Card	200.00	
Shuswap Community Foundaton	150.00	<b>\$482.83</b>
Bank Balance March 1, 2023		<b>\$4347.87</b>
<b>Patronage</b>		<b>\$ .89</b>
Larch Hills Sign Project	\$2500.00	
Songbird Committee	\$ 80.00	

Gillian moved acceptance of the Financial Statement. Cathy Mearns. 2<sup>nd</sup> Carried.  
Di Wittner explained the Gift Card was for Bob Petrie.

**Show/Tell:** John Woods reported a successful first Sunday of “Birding for Families”. Barb and Ken Raynor led the viewing on the wharf, with 11 people attending. The scope was a hit, especially with one youngster whose photo will appear in the next edition of The Observer. John outlined upcoming outings: the complete list will be sent by email to everyone tomorrow. Looking forward to June, the Mallory Ridge promises to be exciting with viewing of a bear ‘marking tree’ along the trail. Hint for a fall outing: the Donkey Refuge, with birding on the property.

**Correspondence:** Janet Aitken read a ‘Thank You’ card from Bob Petrie for the gift card. He said it would be put to good use for material to build more bird boxes.

#### **Old Business:**

- 1) Di Wittner has contacted Kathleen Miège about storage of the coffee equipment in the school. This will be arranged for the first meeting in the fall. Thanks were extended to Pam Saul and Pat Turner for tonight’s goodies.
- 2) Janet Aitken commented on the excellent newsletter for May, and thanked all who contributed.
- 3) Janet Aitken will chair the June 6 meeting, in Marine Park. Bring your own picnic and chair.
- 4) Di Wittner offered a huge *Thank You* to all who have helped with nest box work. There are now 105 boxes on the foreshore.

#### **New Business:**

- 1) **Environmental Action Committee:** Janet Pattinson reported on the latest meeting where a suggestion was made to change the yard size restrictions for keeping chickens, bees in city backyards. This might be a way to help address food security concerns.
- 2) **SABNES:** Janet Aitken reported the Canada Summer Job Grant will allow hiring of 1 student. Also, the Grant for \$19,220 is in place for the bird viewing platform, work to begin after nesting season. Carla Kirkpatrick urged everyone to report dogs off leash to the Shuswap Trail Alliance (check their website for the link, “report trail issue”, eg. black lab at 10:40 am) and try to take a photo, but avoid a

confrontation. Or call the Bylaw Officer at 250-803-4000. Reports go to the City which provides SABNES with funds for signage about restrictions to dogs on the trail until June 30.

**Sightings:**

Carla Kirkpatrick – a female merganser with 7 males in courtship chasing, also yellow-headed blackbirds, rufous hummingbird

Mike Saul – mating mallards (ask Mike!)

Eleanor Marshall – a mama black bear and 2 cubs on the Mallory Ridge trail

John Woods – 220 western grebes in the bay; Nashville warblers, Cassin’s finch, western tanager on Mallory Ridge trail

Cathy Meakes – 2 avocets in the bay

Di Wittner – a Swainson’s hawk in the Salmon River Valley

Marcia Woods – 6 snow geese in the field adjacent to the fairgrounds.

**MOTION to Adjourn at 9:00 pm:** Mike Saul

**Where to send What:**

- 1) Please send information you wish to be forwarded to all club members to Ken Raynor, at [ken.r.sa.bc@gmail.com](mailto:ken.r.sa.bc@gmail.com). As Communications Director, he will relay upcoming meeting/activity announcements (or cancellations), meeting minutes, newsletters, information from any of our committees (e.g. BC Nature, Environment).
- 2) Please send any items for/correspondence about an upcoming eNewsletter directly to Marlene McDonald, [mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca](mailto:mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca)
- 3) Please send agenda items to **Janet Aitken, Chair for the June 6 meeting.**