

**Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting
Tuesday, November 3, 2015**

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:03 pm, including guests Sky Stevens, Dianne Wittner, Ron Thomas and Blaine Carson.

Minutes

The October 6 minutes were accepted as circulated; motion by Janet Pattinson, 2nd Sharon Lawless.

Treasurer's Report

Ted Hillary presented the following report:

Bank Balance October 6, 2015		\$5,276.83
Receipts		
Dues	20.00	
Coffee	10.00	
Interest	.22	30.22
Disbursements		
Postage	35.70	
Allan Brooks Nature Centre	100.00	
Rent – Literary Event	152.00	287.70
Bank Balance November 3, 2015		\$5,019.35
Patronage		.41

(For Nature Park \$286.06)

(Fall AGM \$3,652.16)

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report. 2nd Claire Meunier.

Announcements

1. This year's Thompson Rivers University Award, in honour of Peigi Macmillan, will be presented on November 19 in Kamloops by Dorothy Parks and Harvey Macmillan.

2. Outings

Recent outings took place to Kingfisher Interpretive Centre, and the Salmon Arm Foreshore. At Kingfisher, the group saw a dissection of salmon and a salmon carcass decomposed by so many maggots that it was generating heat. Pat Danforth suggested that a donation be given to the Interpretive Centre to help with their programs with school children to introduce salmon fry to local rivers.

Motion: Ed McDonald moved that we donate \$100 to Kingfisher Interpretive Centre. 2nd Janet Pattinson. Carried.

Highlights of the Foreshore outing included a winter-plumage American avocet, a low-flying Harrier, and 4 river otters playing on the wharf.

3. Members may present photos at the December meeting. Contact Sharon Lawless if you have something to share.

4. The October 18th Celebration of Nature co-hosted by SAW and SNC was well attended, with a variety of presentations enjoyed by all. Thanks to Roger Beardmore and Pat Hutchins for their excellent photos shows, to Clive Bryson for introducing them, and to Isobel Anderson and Gillian Richardson, both on the organizing committee for the afternoon's event.

5. BC Nature: Janet Pattinson talked about a couple of BC Nature's goals for the coming term and suggested we keep track of how our club is addressing them so we can offer a report. Goal #3 deals with inspiring people to acquire nature knowledge, volunteerism, encouraging public interest and participation, and monitoring programs to increase their profile. Goal #6 involves mentoring, especially for young naturalists, e.g. in Science Fair projects. See Janet for complete details of the goals.

6. SABNES Nature Trail & Dogs: this issue was addressed at the recent SABNES meeting and is producing considerable debate. Members are urged to attend a public meeting of Salmon Arm City Council on November 23, 7 pm where presentations will be made supporting a dog ban by several SNC members.

Business

Show & Tell:

1. Gillian Richardson shared news of the recent publication of a nature article about Buffleheads in Nature Friend, a US children's magazine, and invited everyone to her book signing for *10 Ships That Rocked the World* at Buckingham Palace Bookstore on November 14.

Jim Hoskins brought some original, 1970s handmade trail signs from Larch Hills ski area. One of the oldest had shown the way to Scat Lane, of particular interest to President Ed, who responded with his classic, entertaining imitation of a dung beetle rolling scat.

2. Sharon Lawless received a Thank You note for our recent donation to Allan Brooks Centre.

Reports

1. Young Naturalists: Geoff Styles was absent

2. Good News: Hanna MacKay was absent

3. SABNES rep Pat Mearns reported that sewer line replacement has been postponed to Jan/Feb, 2016. Gerry Leering commented that the postponement might be related to the new government's promise of increased infrastructure money. Habitat conservation money may be available. Rotary is contributing money and labor for improvements.

4. Environment: Janet Pattinson did not have news to report

Sightings:

- a. Helga Vrabac had a large flock of common redpolls in her yard, and a Veery that had hit the window (too decomposed to bring to meeting)
- b. Mike Saul, on a recent trip to Poland, Italy and Greece, saw red admiral butterflies and a much-desired sighting of a red-breasted flycatcher on his cruise ship
- c. Dianne Wittner's backyard (Mobley Road) webcam captured a bobcat; she saw 2 peregrine falcons
- d. Roger Beardmore spotted a dipper and 30 + Barrow's goldeneye in Okanagan Falls Provincial Park. He saw a Harris's sparrow on Christmas Island.
- e. Ted Hillary reported a Harris's sparrow in his yard.
- f. Gillian Richardson has a ruffed grouse as regular visitor to snack on burning bush berries

Motion to adjourn at 8:55: Mike Saul

After coffee break, Jeremy Ayotte, volunteer warden for Mara Meadows, shared results of a rare plant survey undertaken this summer by Curtis Bjork from the Beatty Biodiversity Museum in Vancouver. Visits of small groups may be possible next spring.