



## Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 5, 2019

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm, including a few new faces.

### MINUTES

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There was an error in the October 2019 minutes: swallow boxes, not bat boxes, are available at the makerspace. Janet Pattinson moved to adopt minutes as corrected, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sid Visser.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

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Ted Hillary reported the following for November 2019:

Bank balance on Oct 1, 2019:	\$4,154.01
Revenue:	
Dues	\$135.00
TRU	\$100.00
Interest	\$0.14
Total:	\$235.14
Disbursements:	
SABNES weed pull	\$900.00
Total	\$900.00
Bank balance Nov 5, 2019:	\$3,489.15
Patronage:	\$0.89

Ted moved acceptance of the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Saul.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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1. The Christmas Bird Count this year will be on December 22 – the Sunday before Christmas. More details will be discussed at December's meeting.
2. At the last executive meeting, the idea was discussed of providing money for the club director(s) who go(es) to the AGM, as this is a fairly expensive weekend. Ted Hillary said that BC Nature will pay 50% of what the costs are, and he believes that our club should pay the other half. Marlene McDonald said that they don't normally pay for half, but that they will provide a receipt for that amount, that can be used for tax purposes. Janet Pattinson said that the directors are eligible to receive this

money, but that most choose to take the tax receipt instead. She feels that it's not fair for individuals to have to pay when they are representing our club. Also, allowable expenses are not the whole amount that will end up being spent.

**MOTION:** Our club will offer to support our delegate up to 50% at each of the two meetings in the year. Moved by Anne Caughlan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joyce Henderson.

3. Songbird committee: the club executive feels that we should keep up our efforts, as the songbirds are in grave danger.  
Janet Aitken is currently in the Canary Islands, actually named after the Latin term for dog. There are 7 islands in total, each with a different habitat.

## BUSINESS

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1. Pat Mearns asked Ed McDonald if the club could do something about the turtles. The Western painted turtle populations have gone down in our local lakes, being displaced by the red-eared sliders in the lower mainland. They are still OK here, but are in need of basking logs. We have the person power, but we need to go to City Council to ask permission. We are also running out of nesting areas for the turtles. They need sandy areas, but those are becoming rare.  
McGuire Lake is under the purview of Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The club could consider putting logs in at night, to avoid the red tape of applying for permission. Any log insertion should probably be done in early March. Tom Brighthouse reminded us that there are also turtles in the ponds near the college that may need help.
2. Next year will be our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we should decide on a way to commemorate this. We could plant a tree or several trees. A committee will discuss ideas – Joyce Henderson, Janet Pattinson, Gillian Richardson, and possibly Pat Mearns. Pat thinks that we can plant 50 trees on our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Janet suggested that we involve the local indigenous community.
3. Show and Tell: Pam Saul – years ago, they used to have a cabin in Prince George, and they would lock it up in the winter. One year they came back, and there was a strong smell. They tracked it to a big nest and determined that it was a packrat. She also found one (dead) recently at their place in Raven, and brought it to show the club. She also found a collection of feathers at the Paxton ranch – Di Wittner said that they were Great Grey Owl feathers.  
Ed McDonald had a Hawk Moth specimen – this is one of the few moths that pollinate in the daytime. They like flowers with tunnels. The McDonalds have also raised polyphemous moths in the past.  
Ed & Marlene rescued a great horned owl at Thanksgiving and brought it to the Kamloops rescue centre.  
Di Wittner said that Roger Beardmore recently rescued a long-eared owl and took it to Kamloops.  
Isobel Anderson said she's seen a Plume Moth twice, once at her apartment and once at the Prestige Inn.

## SIGHTINGS

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- Gillian Richardson: had 5 ruffed grouse in the hawthorn tree outside her kitchen window.
- Mike Saul: was looking at a flock of about 3500 black-tailed godwits in the UK when he saw spoonbills fly overhead.

Motion to adjourn by at 7:50 pm by Mike Saul.

After the break, biologist/agronomist Julia Beatty gave a presentation on how her career impacted her view of the environment.