

## Shuswap Naturalist Club Minutes - Tuesday, November 9, 2021

President Ed McDonald was pleased to welcome everyone, including several new members, to the first 'normal' General Meeting we've had in many months. The meeting was held at Okanagan College, Room 130, with 40 in attendance.

**Minutes:** September's outdoor meeting minutes, accepted as circulated. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mike Saul.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ted Hillary gave his Financial Statement for November 1, 2021:

Bank balance September 1, 2021		\$3,438.37
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### Receipts

Donations	1005.00	
Dues	80.00	
Interest	.32	\$1,085.32

### Disbursements

Shuswap Community Foundation	1000.00	
Room rental	157.50	
Wacking weeds	120.00	\$1,277.50

Bank balance November 1, 2021		\$3,246.19
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Patronage		\$ .89
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Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Mearns

## Announcements

- 1) Ed MacDonald brought along copies of the SNC Bird Checklist, available free to members.
- 2) Academic Award: Janet Pattinson noted that this year's award will be over \$1500. Dorothy Parks reported that there had been no word yet on the recipient from TRU.
- 3) Ted Hillary: Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 19. With COVID protocols still in place, there will be no car pooling nor a social gathering afterwards. Anyone wishing to participate in any of the 4 count areas, please contact [tedhillary@shaw.ca](mailto:tedhillary@shaw.ca) for information.

## Business

- 1) Pat Danforth reported on progress with rehabilitation on the Larch Hills Nature Interpretive Trail that begins and ends near the South Hub in the nordic ski area. They want to create a budget for signage and are waiting for pricing estimates from Shuswap Trail Alliance before making a grant application to BC Nature by mid-January. If you'd like to help the committee with this initiative contact Pat at [danforthpat@gmail.com](mailto:danforthpat@gmail.com).

2) Mt Ida: a Provincial Park is being proposed for Mt. Ida. Since the 1998 fire, larch trees have covered the burned areas with thick growth. For several years after 2001, the Club took hikes there while access was available from a local farmer, and in 2005, participants at the BCN AGM in Salmon Arm enjoyed an outing along its trails. Recently, concern has arisen about ATV intrusion. Blaine Carson has organized Friends of Mt Ida, a committee to address protection and Provincial Park status for the area. Anyone interested in learning more, please contact Blaine. His phone contact for text and his most immediate response is 250 833 2516, or reach him at [blainecarson@gmail.com](mailto:blainecarson@gmail.com) .

3) Bluebird Trail: A generous donation of nest boxes, poles and money to SABNES after last year's Nature Sanctuary vandalism will allow creation of a bluebird trail near Peterson Orchards on 35<sup>th</sup> St NE.

4) Prestige Inn/riparian habitat: Colin Spence has noted concerns expressed about lack of attention from Prestige Inn management to ecosystem preservation issues. He will make inquiries to Salmon Arm City re: access to planning documents to learn the history or status of agreements made when the hotel was built. Di Wittner suggested a committee might be formed to approach management about resolving any legal issues within a constructive partnership with SNC.

5) Bats: Ed McDonald shared his knowledge of bat species while showing a Little Brown Bat that Di Wittner had found and preserved. It is one of 12 species found in the Shuswap, out of 18 species in all of Canada, and 1400 worldwide. Years ago, bats from an old church that had burned nearby took up residence behind the sign on the Squilax General Store and were 'an attraction' for years.

6) Executive Plans for 2022: We're repeating our plea for volunteers to offer their names for executive positions to begin in January. **Positions open include President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Directors** (we need at least 3). The current President and Treasurer have a wealth of expertise and are happy to help someone get used to the new position, making this an excellent time to step into one of these roles. Your commitment to chair meetings and coordinate communications to members for even one year (10 meetings) would help us move forward more efficiently right now. Gillian Richardson has agreed to continue as **Secretary**, and Anne Caughlan is our **Program Director**. Please get in touch with Ed, or Ted, if you'd like to discuss helping the Club by accepting an executive role at this time.

With respect to meetings going forward, John Woods put forward this **MOTION**: that regular meetings continue from January to May 2021 on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Carried.

Di Wittner put forward this **MOTION**: that SNC will pay OUC \$50.00 per meeting for room rental for these five meetings. Carried.

Anne Caughlan will co-ordinate the December 7 meeting, inviting members to share a few photos and stories. Watch for her email invitation.

### **Sightings:**

Pam Saul was surprised to find a Wilson's Snipe wandering in her flower bed looking for food.

Gillian Richardson had a backyard visit from a Great Horned Owl, that stood its ground (perch) despite being mobbed by a gang of crows, magpies, flickers and Steller 's jays. She also saw/heard 2 Trumpeter Swans splash down in Blind Bay on Oct 31. P.S. There's a huge flock of 250+ Bohemian Waxwings in Blind Bay right now.

**Motion to Adjourn** at 8:05 pm by Mike Saul.

Thanks to Pat Turner and June Bryson for setting up a table of refreshments. Even though the electrical outlet failed to cooperate to heat the coffee, the baking was yummy.

Our speaker for the evening was Di Wittner, who treated us to a showing of her trail cam photos of wildlife. Di's animated storytelling kept us riveted with tales of the numerous critters she regularly welcomes to her sheltered yard, especially the bear families, deer (almost) giving birth, flying squirrels leaping among the trees and a pair of rescued Saw-whet owls being reunited with their parents.