

Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

7:05 pm—President Ed McDonald welcomed everyone including guests Britt, Fern and Andrew.

Minutes

Janet Pattinson moved to approve minutes of the September meeting as circulated. 2nd Syd Visser

Treasurer's Report

Ted Hillary gave the Financial Statement for October 2, 2018:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Bank balance September 4, 2018 | | \$ 3002.46 |
| Receipts | | |
| Dues | 25.00 | |
| Interest | .24 | \$ 25.24 |
| Disbursements | | |
| Youth Program | 100.00 | \$ 100.00 |
| Bank balance October 2, 2018 | | \$ 2927.70 |
| Patronage | | \$.89 |

Ted moved acceptance of the report. 2nd Mike Saul

Announcements

1. Members donated 4 nature books for a raffle with proceeds going to Wild Wonders Outdoor Learning Camp.
2. Outings – Members have enjoyed recent outings to Yard Creek and the Shuswap River at Enderby. This Thursday, meet with mycologist Mitch Milgram for a mushroom search and study at Larch Hills.
3. The Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 16. More information to follow at upcoming meetings.

Business

1. Drones – Ed McDonald's research on use of drones in nature areas was presented to the Environment Committee and met with enthusiasm. It will be presented next to City Council with a view to securing permission to put up signage on the foreshore prohibiting use of recreational drones at the Nature Sanctuary, the wharf and Peter Jannink Park. Sarah Weaver has talked to Nature Trust on the same topic.

2. Nest boxes – Di Wittner reports that boxes occupied by violet-green and tree swallows increased from 9 in 2017 to 25 in 2018 due to the cleaning and relocation project begun last year. There is some vandalism happening, and some boxes still need to be moved and more added.

3. Wildlife Rescue – Following the information in last month's minutes, a list of those people Di Wittner trained to handle injured wildlife has been distributed to local vets and the SPCA. When they receive reports of wildlife in need of help, their first contact is Marlene McDonald who will then reach out to the trained volunteers on the list. Ed related a story about finding a 'mystery bird' on Hacking Road recently which flew off toward Bastion Mountain after several minutes quiet recuperation time and a little water. He identified it as a Black Swift.

4. Weed Pull – Volunteers are needed for Saturday, October 27 to help clear out and bag more woody nightshade on the foreshore. Janet Aitken has been seeking grant money to hire additional help, and Salmar Theatre has generously donated \$1000. Watch our website for more information.

Reports

1. Janet Pattinson noted that 2 Nature Spots have been broadcast on CKVS Radio so far. She's looking for more volunteers and suggested topics. Some ideas offered: nature photography, nest box program, followup on Save Shuswap Songbird activities.

2. Mike Saul reported 'good news' about a new marine national wildlife area at Scott Island, north end of Vancouver Island. The Federal government has committed \$3.2 million to support research in this area that will protect seabird nesting and feeding.

3. Joyce Henderson noted that Kingfisher Interpretive Centre (east of Enderby on the Mabel Lake road) is holding its annual Egg Take on October 6 and 7, 10:00 to 3:30. Chinook eggs collected will be fertilized at the hatchery and the salmon raised in local classrooms. Find out more here: <http://www.kingfishercentre.com/programsandevents2.html>

Sightings:

Ted Hillary has seen a Sabine's gull on the foreshore.

Greg Wiebe notes many sockeye in the Shuswap River.

Mike Saul moved to adjourn at 7:50 pm.

Jeremy Ayotte updated us about his work with bighorn sheep, with main herds being located along the Fraser Canyon. He reviewed how the pathogen myosotis ovipneumoniae is monitored, and what new strategies are being investigated to prevent the disease from circulating among wild and domestic sheep.