

Shuswap Naturalist Club Minutes - Tuesday October 6, 2020

Ed McDonald welcomed 21 members to the shelter at Blackburn Park for an open-air meeting at 2 pm.

Minutes: accepted as circulated

Treasurer's Report: there was no report in Ted Hillary's absence.

Announcements

- 1) Ed MacDonald reported that Eric Grayston passed away at age 102. A member since 2000, Eric often expressed his keen interest in the Club. As he was the first member to pass the 100 year age mark, we gave our 2018 Academic Award at Thompson Rivers University in his name. Read more about this honour at [Newsletter - September 2018](#)
- 2) Outings: Ed McDonald thanked the committee for their preparation of two successful outings this fall. The trails at Shuswap Memorial Cemetery revealed numerous honey and lobster mushrooms, and the Enderby River walk turned up juniper berries. Ed also acknowledged Roger Beardmore's engaging article describing his and Nan's trip to South Okanagan birding locations.
- 3) The October eNewsletter contained a copy of the 1970 Membership List which was of interest especially to those original members—Tom Brighthouse and Joyce & John Henderson—in attendance at today's meeting.

Business

- 1) Tree planting: Joyce Henderson reported that the remaining trees for our 50th Anniversary project will be planted on Thursday, October 8 at Blackburn Park. They will include Douglas Maple Mountain Ash, Red Osier Dogwood, Choke Cherry and Oceanspray. She noted that the Mountain Ash was donated by Martin Albrect. The area where the trees will be planted is not close to a park water source, so volunteer teams will be needed next summer to water until the trees become established. After the meeting, Joyce showed members the exact location on the west side of the park.
 - 2) Di Wittner's full report on nest boxes appeared in the October eNewsletter. She mentioned further work to be done includes raising 3 wood duck boxes to a higher level on the posts as they were unused this season. Roger Beardmore offered to help with that task.
 - 3) Thompson Rivers University Academic Award: Dorothy Parks hasn't yet received word from Gary Hunt at the university regarding this year's student recipient. Janet Pattinson will communicate with him for this information. The Shuswap Foundation which administers our award reports that the endowment amount will be higher this year. Marlene McDonald suggested the Club designate this year's award in honour of our 50th year, and this idea was enthusiastically received.
 - 4) Future meetings: Discussion took place about possible indoor locations for November, December, January (suggest to cancel in anticipation of winter weather conditions), February and March. By April, outdoor meetings might again be possible.
- MOTION:** Janet Pattinson moved we book the United Church Hall for November 3, at 7 pm at a cost of \$75. Seconded by Claire Meunier.

Donations (\$2?) by members could help with the cost. Possible speaker: Di Wittner was encouraged to entertain us with her stories about bears and birds on her property.

Reports:

1) Joyce Henderson reported that the issue of the Vernon heronry losing city protection has been resolved as the council voted to keep the rules in place regarding noise at nesting time and potential development of the area.

2) Hanne Mackay mentioned that Juniper Beach Provincial Park (on TCH #1, 20 km east of Cache Creek) in the third week of June is an excellent site for owls and nighthawks.

3) Di Wittner reported that Gary Hunt, Okanagan District Representative for BC Nature, has done a survey of clubs' activities this summer in view of Covid 19 limitations. They included more outdoor events, and virtual outings through shared newsletters. Other suggested activities included birding treasure hunts (once a month reports to share) and bat monitoring. BC Nature AGM will be a Zoom meeting. Fees may be accepted/adjusted if necessary to help preserve memberships.

Sightings:

Fern Fennell saw 15 sandhill cranes on the Enderby outing.

Motion to Adjourn at 3:20 pm by Hanne Mackay.