

Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, September 5

Janet Pattinson welcomed everyone (10 in attendance) at 11 am to the first fall meeting/picnic at Sunnybrae Park. Mike and Pam Saul sent regrets from the Confederation Bridge, enroute to PEI. Marlene McDonald distributed copies of the September 2017 Newsletter.

Minutes: Ted Hillary moved that the minutes of June 6 be accepted as circulated. 2nd Shelley Wallace

Treasurer's Report

Ted Hillary submitted the following Financial Statement for September 5, 2017

Bank Balance June 6, 2017		\$3798.58
Receipts		
Dues	150.00	
Interest	.47	\$150.47
Disbursements		
Bishop Wild Bird Foundation	100.00	\$100.00
Bank Balance September 5, 2017		\$3849.05
Patronage		\$.81

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report. 2nd Marlene McDonald

Business

1. Naturalist Academic Award: Janet Pattinson noted the award is being given this year in Leslie Stoddart's memory (see article in the September Newsletter). Gillian Richardson will attend the presentation event in late November at TRU in Kamloops, along with Leslie's sister, Joanne Jarvis (her attendance to be confirmed).
2. AGM Vernon: Janet Pattinson will attend the Directors meetings. Topics of discussion may include the impact of this summer's wildfires on the Caribou/Chilcotin area, and ongoing concerns for wildlife management.

Good News

1. Greg Wiebe witnessed the total solar eclipse on August 21 using a #13 welders lens from a superb and silent vantage point—solo, on a plateau in central Oregon near Ritter. He experienced a 3 degree drop in temperature and dark blue skies during totality for 2 minutes. Venus and Jupiter were visible.
2. Gillian Richardson shared a recent CBC news item about a piping plover (endangered species) nest rescue when high tides threatened to swamp it on a north shore PEI beach. Biologists monitoring the nest site used a pizza pan to lift the nest with 3 eggs, under the watchful eyes of the parent bird, and

relocate it above the reach of the water. The parent returned immediately to incubate and later successfully hatched the chicks.

3. Shelley Wallace reported sightings of many orca, humpback whales, and a sea lion during a recent kayaking trip at Telegraph Cove on Vancouver Island.

Announcements

1. Ed McDonald relayed Geoff Styles' report of a proposal to District 83 School Board to take over the vacant South Canoe School building for use as an outdoor school, hopefully to begin September 2018. The Board has okayed a feasibility study. Next step is to form a committee which will meet on Monday, September 25. Geoff would like to see 2 SNC members on the committee, and Ed suggested recently retired teachers might be the best choice. Geoff stressed that community involvement will be key to the success of this valuable enterprise.

2. Another Weed Pull on the foreshore trail has been set for October 18, with help from Columbia-Shuswap Invasive Species Society. Woody Nightshade will be pulled from a section of trail between the beaver pond and Christmas Island. Gillian Richardson will post an article in the local newspapers prior to the activity to alert the community and seek volunteers.

3. Programs: Guest speakers and program topics for the next few months have been set. They will include grizzlies, Dave Ramsey's watershed program for his high school students, community radio and the Saul's trip to eastern provinces. Suggestions are needed, especially for January.

4. Outings: a list of fall outings is posted on the website and in the Newsletter.

Sightings

Ted Hillary – 9 marble godwits (rare here) and a whimbrel near Peter Janninck Park

Pat Turner – 4-5 white pelicans on the foreshore (likely juveniles)

Ed McDonald – a good showing of orchids including Alaska Rein Orchid and Green-flowered Bog Orchid on the Sunnybrae foreshore; also Indian pipe, nesting spotted sandpipers, abundant loons.

Marlene McDonald – a yellow-bellied marmot in her yard

Marlene passed along greetings to the Club from Ed and Monica Dahl, now living in Royston, near Courtney on Vancouver Island.

About 11:45, motion to adjourn for picnic lunch, by Mike Saul (in absentia).

After lunch several members walked the shore between Sunnybrae Park and the Fire Hall, property of Nature Trust that is monitored by the McDonalds for vegetation recovery now that ATV activity has been prohibited.