

## Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

**11:15 am**—President Ed McDonald welcomed 22 members to the sunny picnic site at Sunnybrae Park. He noted that member Kyle Fitzpatrick would have attended except it's "back to school day" and he's off to study at UBC Okanagan to become a teacher. Marlene McDonald distributed the September Newsletter for our reading pleasure.

### Minutes

Minutes of the June meeting were not circulated prior to today's meeting. They will be considered and approved at the October meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

Mike Saul gave the Financial Statement for September 4, 2018 in Ted Hillary's absence:

Bank balance June 5, 2018 \$ 3003.38

#### Receipts

Dues	270.00	
Coffee	35.05	
Interest	.78	\$ 305.83

#### Disbursements

Room Rent	182.70	
New cheques	47.02	
Newsletter	76.10	
Service charges	.75	\$ 306.75

Bank balance September 4, 2018 \$ 3,002.46

Patronage \$ .89

Mike Saul moved acceptance of the report. 2<sup>nd</sup> Isobel Anderson

### Announcements

1. Geoff Styles asked that any members interested in helping with South Canoe Outdoor School outings (going along, running a learning station, offering expertise) give names to Ed. The school has a goal to collaborate with the local community, and this participation would help to fulfill it. Janet Pattinson mentioned that the Shuswap Action Group is interested in helping with food-related activities.

2. Jeremy Ayotte, our Mara Meadows warden, will talk about his latest work with big horn sheep at the October SNC meeting. Geoff Styles attended the International Ornithological Congress in Vancouver this summer, and will give a presentation at the November meeting.

3. Wildlife Rescue: Five members (Ed McDonald, Roger Beardsmore, Pat Hutchins, Wally & Carla Kirkpatrick) participated in a clinic given by Di Wittner regarding the rescue and proper handling of injured wildlife. A contact number will go to local vets and the SPCA for use if they receive reports of injured wild animals. Sarah Weaver is developing a brochure to alert visitors to the area to inappropriate interventions that may harm wildlife, in particular around the foreshore. It will advocate Look, Learn, Leave them Alone. It would be available at the Prestige Inn, and include a map of trails and the contact numbers of the wildlife rescue group.

4. Dorothy Parks received notice that TRU will be setting up a Special Chair to fund restorations of damaged environments due to recent wildfires. Students enrolled in the Natural Resources Science Program are considered for our annual Academic Award.

5. Pat Danforth mentioned possible changes to the Sept 13 outing destination of Turtle Valley. Alternate choice may be Yard Creek, Malakwa: watch for email notices prior to the date.

6. **MOTION:** Tom Brighthouse moved that SNC strongly support the proposed development of a safe trail linking the Neskonlith and Adams Lake Reserves to Salmon Arm to replace the current practice of walking along the railway tracks. <sup>2nd</sup> Greg Wiebe. Carried.

## **Business**

1. Weed Pull: Woody nightshade on the foreshore has seen a resurgence of thick growth this summer. We anticipate having another weed pull possibly in October. Janet Aitken will investigate getting a grant to pay a group of helpers (e.g. from Trail Alliance or Invasive Species) to work for several concurrent days for significant removal. More woody nightshade has appeared in Peter Jannink Park as well; if we can organize volunteers to pull it, perhaps the city will cart it away.

2. Drones: Reports by Kyle Fitzpatrick and another city resident alerted us to recreational drones being flown over grebe and osprey nesting areas of the wharf, nature sanctuary and Peter Jannink Park. Ed noted that drones are not permitted in any national parks or nature sanctuaries.

**MOTION:** Tom Brighthouse moved that we promote the prohibition of recreational drones on the foreshore. <sup>2nd</sup> Mike Saul.

3. Nature Interviews for CKVS radio: Janet Pattinson reported that 11 interviews have been broadcast so far, and she welcomes ideas and input for more topics, and also more volunteer contributors. Upcoming topics might include the wildlife rescue group, or Sarah Weaver's brochure once it is ready.

## **Reports**

1. Save Shuswap Songbirds: Janet Aitken reported that she has secured a \$3000 grant (through SABNES) from Shuswap Community Foundation for signs to be posted around town to raise awareness of the value of songbirds.

## **Sightings:**

Isobel Anderson, Tom Brighthouse – a family of Lewis' woodpeckers in a Grand Forks campground. 4 turkeys in the Kootenays. A blue-tailed skink.

Rosemarie Breymann – has a mountain ash tree loaded with berries. Ed told us waxwings and varied thrush will likely converge on them in the fall.

Mike Saul – yellow-breasted chat at a Penticton area banding site

Sarah Weaver – wood ducks and ducklings at Heron View

Gillian Richardson – 14 black bears along Cassiar Highway to Yukon in late May

Wally Kirkpatrick – beaver at the wharf, also otter taking a young grebe

Ed McDonald – a mink family (4) on Hacking Road, alligator lizards, spotted sandpipers

Mike Saul moved to adjourn at 12:05 pm.

We enjoyed a delicious potluck picnic lunch after the meeting. Afterwards, several members went for a hike along the park trail and beach led by Ed McDonald, looking for spotted sandpipers.