

**Shuswap Naturalist Club General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 4, 2023**  
**Salmon Arm Senior Secondary School Library**

**Di Wittner**, Chair for this meeting, welcomed 30 members to SASS library at 7 PM, including Doug Mongerson who was attending his first meeting.

As a follow-up to the Celebration of Life held for Ed McDonald on March 28, where Janet Aitken and Dawn McDonald spoke on behalf of the Club, Di invited anyone to share their favorite memories and stories of Ed. Among those reminiscences: the genuine warmth and gestures of inclusion Ed extended to every one of us, his impressive degree of knowledge about so many aspects of nature, and his spontaneous, mischievous sense of humor. It seems we might still keep the ball rolling with more of those dung beetle tales Ed loved! We'll miss Ed dearly, and treasure the opportunity we had to know and learn from him for over 20 years in this group. And we are eager to have Marlene back among us soon.

**Approval of Agenda:** Cathy Meakes moved acceptance of tonight's agenda. Carla Kirkpatrick 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Approval of March minutes:** Gillian Richardson noted an error in the Sightings notes: it was Mitch Olinek, not Mitch Milgram who spoke on the CPR cleanup issue. Janet Pattinson moved acceptance of the March 7 minutes as amended. Carla Kirkpatrick 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Financial/membership report:** Ted Hillary submitted his reports:

**Financial Statement April 1, 2023**

Bank Balance March 1 2023 **\$4159.99**

**Revenue**

Dues	165.00	
Donation	30.00	
Interest	.36	<b>\$ 195.36</b>

**Disbursements**

**None** **\$ 0**

Bank Balance March 1, 2023 **\$4355.36**

**Patronage** **\$ .89**

Larch Hills Sign Project	\$2500.00
Songbird Committee	\$ 280.00

Ted moved acceptance of the Financial Statement. Pat Mearns 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Old Business:**

**1. Update on coffee/snack situation:** Di Wittner will contact Kathleen Miège about the storage of equipment as noted in March minutes.

**2. Bird box reports:** Di Wittner thanked her intrepid crew of strong helpers who moved a salvaged pole to the chosen location of the south hummock, to be raised as support for a barn owl box. Two duck boxes will be placed, on Christmas Island and Peter Jannink Park. Fern Fennell noted that 2 pairs of mountain bluebirds have been investigating boxes at the upper and lower Petersen Farm locations.

**3. Outings committee updates:** Marcia Woods outlined upcoming field trips arranged by the committee after their 2 meetings. All trips will be held on Thursday mornings. The list will include 'difficulty ratings' to help us decide if our abilities match the challenges. Outings will be advertised in local papers (Shuswap Observer, FridayAM) and on FaceBook to entice public participation. Each event will have a leader from the Club as well as a co-leader with knowledge of relevant science topics. Waivers (re: insurance) will be available for guests to sign. Summary of outing destinations: April - the foreshore, Solvang-Jespersen Farm. May - Swan Lake/Vernon/Allan Brooks Nature Centre, and Revelstoke (all day May 25). June - Mallory Ridge and Skimikin.

The committee also plans to hold 'Bird Watching for Families' at the wharf/Brighthouse Nature Centre on 5 Sundays at 8:30 AM. Dates: April 30, May 14, May 28, June 11, June 25. Involving the public and young families might encourage more memberships.

## **New Business:**

**1. Tree planting April 22 ;** Help is needed when we team up with SABNES to plant cottonwood trees on the Salmon Arm Bay Foreshore on Earth Day, Saturday April 22 at 1:30 PM. Watch for more information by email.

**2. Birding with John Woods:** An 'early birding' group will join John at 7:30 AM to enjoy birding by ear on Saturday, April 8 at the Mt. Ida Cemetery. Please give John your email address if you wish to be included on future outings he has planned. [woods@telus.net](mailto:woods@telus.net)

**3. BC Nature News:** a reminder about the AGM, May 5-7 in Langley. Watch for information in your BC Nature News magazine.

**4. Chair for May meeting:** Janet Aitken will chair the meeting if she's available. Janet Pattinson offered to be backup chair, if necessary.

**5. Discussion of meeting format change:** On occasion, it will work best to have our speaker presentation at the beginning of the meeting, followed by the business meeting. All agreed this format would be acceptable.

**6. June 6 meeting at Marine Park:** Due to current inaccessibility to Peter Jannink Park, we have changed the venue for our June picnic/meeting to the Marine Park. Anne Caughlan will book the site for our use at 4 PM.

7. Janet Pattinson urged everyone to sign the online petition to stop proposed development at Roberts Bank, also an issue of urgent concern to BC Nature. The petition link has been sent to all members by email.

**Sightings:**

**Fern Fennell** – Great horned owls calling nightly

**Barbara Raynor** – heard 2 pairs of great horned owls and saw-whets calling

**Di Wittner**– has been owl stalking at night, spotted great horned owls near SASS (likely the ones Barbara has heard).

**Mike Saul** – shared a photo of the enormous rooster fish that Pam caught/released in Costa Rica

**Carla Kirkpatrick** – watched 2 bald eagles attacking a great blue heron on the foreshore; the heron escaped without injury; 13 bald eagles on the mud flats

**Colin Spence** – alerted us to expect severe winter fish kill in many small lakes in BC due to early ice formation and snow cover preventing oxygen circulation

**John Woods** – noted 28 bald eagles feeding on the bay, many were immature

**Horst Baender** – a bald eagle holding a captured coot underwater on White Lake

**MOTION to Adjourn at 8:00 pm:** Mike Saul

**Break -**

**8:15 pm Presentation:**

Molly Cooperman works with Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation's Education Programs. Her presentation gave us greater awareness of the initiatives of HCTF, which is funded by provincial fishing and hunting license fees. Working with local conservation /environments groups, they offer such activities as Wild Schools, WILDBC, Resource Room, Go Grants(for field trips), Leap Grants, Environmental Box Exchange, and professional development for teachers.

**Where to send What:**

1) Please send information you wish to be forwarded to all club members to Ken Raynor, at [ken.r.sa.bc@gmail.com](mailto:ken.r.sa.bc@gmail.com). As Communications Director, he will relay upcoming meeting/activity announcements (or cancellations), meeting minutes, information from any of our committees (e.g. BC Nature, Environment).

2) Please send any items for/correspondence about an upcoming eNewsletter directly to Marlene McDonald, [mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca](mailto:mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca)

3) Please send agenda items to **Janet Aitken, Chair for the May 2 meeting.**