

**Shuswap Naturalist Club General Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Salmon Arm Senior Secondary School Library**

Janet Aitken, President/Chair for this meeting, welcomed 23 members to SASS library at 7 PM, including Diane Colombo, and new member Kathleen Miège.

We will continue to request volunteers to chair meetings. Di Wittner will chair the April meeting.

Minutes: Janet Pattinson moved acceptance of the December 6, 2022 minutes as circulated.
2nd Carla Kirkpatrick

Treasurer: Ted Hillary submitted his reports:

Financial Statement March 1, 2023

Bank Balance February 1 2023 **\$3879.68**

Revenue

Dues	280.00	
Interest	.31	\$ 280.31

Disbursements

None **\$ 0**

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

Patronage **\$.89**

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

Ted moved acceptance of the Financial Statement. 2nd Dawn McDonald

Membership: Ted reports about 25-30 people have yet to pay their 2023 membership. BC Nature has already dropped non-renewed memberships as of March 1. If you wish to remain on the SNC mailing list, let Ted know by email tedhillary@shaw.ca by March 31: single membership \$25, family \$30.

Show/Tell: Gillian Richardson brought dryer lint, with the question, ‘Is this okay to offer birds as nesting material?’ It is not a good idea, since it may contain harmful chemical residues or microplastics. Also, the weak fibres disintegrate when wet, so will leave holes in a nest. Yarn isn’t a good idea either, as birds can become entangled. Offer small twigs, straw or dog hair, and leave a ‘messy area’ in your yard for birds to find their own suitable material.

Reports

1) **Outings Committee** – Cathy Meakes reported the new committee (also John Woods, Marcia Woods) have organized a list of outings for the spring months. While traditionally held on Thursdays, some will occur on Saturdays so families might attend. The first outing will be on the foreshore, in mid-April. Outings will be advertised in Friday AM. Cathy asked if the insurance waiver to be signed by non-members requires a \$5 fee as well. Di Wittner will send Cathy the BC Nature policy to verify what is needed.

2) **BC Nature Rep** – Di Wittner gave an update to her report in the December 6, 2022 minutes regarding the '30 by 30' initiative (Canadian Wildlife Municipal Protected Areas Project) to conserve 30% of Canadian lands by 2030. So far, about 15% of Canadian lands and inland waters are protected. Di and Janet Aitken will meet with Sylvia Lindgren, Salmon Arm Councillor, tomorrow to discuss a proposal to designate Salmon Arm Bay as a candidate for this program, before further discussions with BC Nature. The goals are to stem biodiversity loss, reduce ecological degradation and mitigate climate change effects. For our Bay, there are about 11 local stakeholders to be consulted, including Neskonlith First Nation.

3) **Bird boxes** – Di Wittner has been busy securing wood duck boxes, and now has 4 built by craftsman Bob Pitrie to be installed on the foreshore (Peter Jannink Park, 2 on Christmas Island, one among the hummocks). She brought one box to show us: an impressive structure any wood duck would be proud to call home! Di is looking for help to install poles and boxes as soon as the snow is gone and the ground is workable. Please let her know if you can help: dwildlife8@gmail.com

4) **Newsletter** – Janet Aitken thanked Ed/Marlene McDonald, and the contributors for the latest excellent newsletter, much enjoyed by all. The next edition will be May 1.

5) **Coffee** – While some members indicated they do enjoy coffee at the break, the transportation of coffee equipment is becoming inconvenient, especially if committee members are away. Kathleen Miège, who teaches at SASS, offered to look into a location in the school where the coffee urn and supplies could be stored.

Sightings:

Colin Spence – chickadees and nuthatches coming for hand feeding along foreshore trail

Dawn McDonald – Saw-whet owl, Great Horned owl near her home

Barbara Raynor – Townsend's Solitaire on the foreshore trail

Elaine Goertzen – 40 Bohemian Waxwings around Okanagan/20th St.

Anne Caughlan – Red-winged Blackbirds at Gardom Lake

Kathleen Miège – Varied Thrush pecking at tires....for salt?

Gillian Richardson – Varied Thrush singing in the mornings, Spotted Towhees

Mitch Milgram – the foreshore trail has not been adequately cleaned up after recent CPR pruning work, so he will contact the City for followup.

MOTION to Adjourn at 7:50 pm: Carla Kirkpatrick (in lieu of Mike Saul, birding in Costa Rica)

Break -Thanks for the delicious cookies, Barbara Raynor!

8:00 pm Presentation: Colin Spence

A Kootenay Lake Fish Tale: Colin shared his experience as a fish biologist on Kootenay Lake when changes to the ecosystem had dramatic impacts. The introduction of small shrimp, in a bid to enhance the sport fishery (trout, burbot, sturgeon), combined with an influx of nutrients from nearby mine runoff created unintended consequences for the fish populations. With the ecosystem thrown out of balance, kokanee populations collapsed unexpectedly. For more information, Google “Kootenay Lake Kokanee Collapse”, or check [Kootenay Lake Sport Fishing Update \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://www.gov.bc.ca/kootenaylake/sportfishingupdate/)

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. 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 Ed and Marlene McDonald, mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca
- 3) Please send **agenda items for the April 4 meeting to Di Wittner** dwildlife8@gmail.com who will chair the meeting.