

Shuswap Naturalist General Meeting

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ed welcomed everyone at 7:05 pm. New folks included Denise, John, and Judy Stockdale. Ed introduced Peter Stockdale and Jay Kehne as tonight's speakers, and treated us to a quote from Blake's, *The Tiger*, to set the theme for a presentation on 'predators'.

Minutes:

Accepted as read by Marlene, 2nd Janet

Treasurer's report:

Ted reported:

Bank balance as of April 6, 2010 was \$10,958.97

Revenue:

Coffee \$17.20

Dues \$70.00

Total: \$87.20

Disbursements:

Web site 88.02

Bank balance on May 4 was \$10,958.15.

Acceptance of the report was moved by Gillian, 2nd Mike.

Correspondence:

1. Letter sent to Barry Penner re: proposed wolf kill.
2. Received 'Thank You' from BC Nature President Bev Ramey for our donation in support of BC Nature magazine.

Announcements:

1. Brad Ackerman has the rock/plaque (Mary Lou Tapson-Jones) and soil ready to install in Peter Jannink Park. He will hire a contractor to do work on the trail.
2. The next meeting is a potluck, June 1, 4 PM at Peter Jannink Park. It is hoped the plaque might be in place by then.
3. Ted encouraged everyone to work harder at Breeding Bird Atlassing.
4. Pictures of the Eagle River outing, taken by Clive, are posted on the website. This Thursday's outing is to John Vivian's farm along the Salmon River, the first area to be rehabilitated by Salmon River Watershed Roundtable.

Business:

1. Ed reported that at least 20 members attended the Conference during Celebrate the Shuswap Week. Jim Cooperman was pleased with the turnout, and hopes to hold another gathering in 2011. During the week, Ed led walks on the foreshore that attracted several new people who showed interest in learning more about the biodiversity of this area, and interaction of species.

2. Saturday AM Birding: Ed/Monica report only a few people came last week. The group saw 36 species including American avocet, 18 snow geese. Ed M. hopes to take CSRD people on a walk soon. The Saturday walks will be advertised around town on the poster that Clive designed.
3. Clive offered to discuss photography tips during outings, for those interested.
4. Several members will be attending the BC Nature AGM in Kamloops on May 13.

Reports:

1. Environment: Janet received letter from Jeremy McCall, President of the Outdoor Recreation Council regarding a new 2 km trail from Scotch Creek to Onyx Falls. She expressed the concern that such hiking trails are soon abused by mountain bikers/ATV/Quads, citing the situation in the Balmoral Road area, and that more trails might fall victim to the same problem. Discussion followed about BC's weak legislation re: restricting motorized vehicles on hiking-only trails. John Henderson relayed information that red-listed trees do exist about 16 km up the Salmon River.
2. SABNES: Don reported that new 'no dog' signs would include the SABNES website and list dog-friendly parks in the area. An early attempt to set out buoys in the bay failed; will try again. The AGM is Thursday, May 27, speaker TBA. Trail clean-up, opening of the Brighthouse Interpretive Centre set for May 29. A student will be hired for the summer. Mike Saul will be taking applications, and asks for volunteers to man the centre on extra days.
3. Hanne was absent, so no 'Good News' report (much to Ed's dismay!).

Sightings

Clive – barred owl near Haney Park

Rosemarie – many white-crowned sparrows

Mike – Nashville warbler, otter at Murdock Point, wolf along lakeshore

Ed M – orange-crowned warbler, evidence on foreshore of coyote eating gulls

Greg – 3 river otters fishing in Shuswap River

Sharon – river otters, coyote

Gary – Mama black bear and cub

Bill – wolverine roaming Peter Jannink Park

Peggy – bear up a tree across the lake

John – possible albino Canada Goose

Joyce – ermine near the wharf

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM by Monica.

After the break, Peter Stockdale introduced Jay Kehne, the Okanagan County Outreach Associate from Conservation Northwest (www.conservationnw.org) in Washington State. Jay presented a DVD, "Lords of Nature: Life in the Land of the Great Predators". This stunning film was produced to change attitudes about wolves and other large predators by showing the vital role they play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem, and how people can adapt to their presence. A copy of the DVD was left with Ed, and can be borrowed.