

**Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 1, 2011**

Ed opened the meeting at 7:10 with a welcome our guest speaker, Valerie Rogers, and visitor Joe Froese.

Minutes: One correction from October – Barb, not Marg, will take care food for the CBC social. Minutes accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report:

Ted reported the following for October, 2011

Bank balance 950.56

Receipts

    Donation 50.00

Disbursements nil

Bank balance November 1, 2011 1000.56 (350.42 for Nature Park)

Ted moved acceptance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marlene

Announcements

1. St. Mike's Day – Clive (absent) was to make a presentation to Mike Saul regarding his promotion to 'sainthood' for rescuing the same injured osprey at the wharf on two occasions. Despite a trip to the local vet, and prompt treatment, unfortunately the bird had to be euthanized. However, Mike's exalted status will stand.
2. CBC social – Barb needs a couple of strong volunteers to set up (at 2:45pm) and take down tables for the post-bird count social at the Seniors Centre on Hudson Ave. Ted reminded everyone to contact the count area leaders (NE-Ted, SE-Joyce, NW-Ed D, NE-Ed M) if they wish to participate in the day's activity.
3. TRU Award – the ceremony for the Club's student award will take place on November 24 at TRU campus, Kamloops. It will be given in memory of Margarett Johnson this year. Janet has added \$500 to the fund to ensure the interest will cover this year's award.
4. IBA: Douglas Plateau. Since it is proving to be not always convenient for our club to honor its commitment to monitor this area, Alan Bulger, President of the Merritt Naturalist Society has offered to take over the duties. This has been a key habitat for sandhill cranes, flammulated owls and pelicans among other birds.

Business

- a) Janet has drafted a resolution to send to the BC Nature AGM regarding payment of taxes. Discussion with input followed. MOTION: that SNC support the concept of a pro-tax statement concerning our willingness to pay taxes provided they are used wisely, e.g. for environmental issues that we feel are crucial. Moved by Joanne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Greg.
- b) Ed received an email from Phil McIntyre-Paul seeking interest in monitoring the sharp-tailed snake. Although it has only been seen rarely in BC (1960s at McGillivray Lake, 2011 on Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland), it is worth

keeping a lookout for this reptile that prefers wetland areas. It has short body, sharp point on tail used for defense and razorlike teeth for eating slugs (exclusively), but is nocturnal making sightings rather unlikely.

#### Reports

1. SABNES – Don reported that the Brighthouse Nature Centre is closed and being prepared for winter. The bird tower proposed for Peter Jannink Nature Park is still in planning stages, with research underway. Many have noted fewer shorebirds likely due to late high water this year, but a good variety, e.g. buff-breasted sandpiper that likes a grassy shoreline. Geoff viewed final upgrades to the trail at 20 cm, and repairs to the fence.
2. Environment – Janet reported a discussion about garbage incineration that is being proposed in the Regional District of North Okanagan on First Nations land, and is being met with concerns about the ash disposal. No such project is on the radar in CSRD.
3. Good News – Hanne was absent, but Gillian brought a news item from the Regina Leader-Post about a survey of songbirds in Wascana Marsh this year, as part of the MAPS monitoring project across Canada. Numbers were up, an encouraging sign.
4. Mike and Pam will be travelling next meeting. Judith and Geoff volunteered to do coffee.

#### Sightings

Joyce – an active beaver at the first pond along the trail, and 60 swans

Monica – with Joanne, Ed and Ted, saw a short eared owl on the foreshore just prior to tonight's meeting

Greg – 20 trumpeter swans have returned to the river near Grindrod

Ted – a lesser black-backed gull near the wharf and river mouth, easy to ID while it was preening

Rosemarie – many Stellar jays

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 by Mike.

#### Program

Multi award-winning local wildlife artist Valerie Rogers treated us to a tour of her stunning paintings of BC and North American wildlife.