

**Shuswap Naturalist Club Meeting**  
**7 PM Tuesday, November 1 2022**  
Salmon Arm Senior Secondary School Library

**Cathy Meakes**, Chair for this meeting, welcomed 30 members to SASS library, including newcomer Kay who brings a keen interest in nature from time spent helping at a wildlife rehabilitation centre on Vancouver Island.

To begin, Cathy acknowledged that we meet on the unceded lands of the Secwepemc peoples. The meeting agenda was approved by Joyce Henderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marcia Woods.

**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 Ed and Marlene McDonald, [mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca](mailto:mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca)
- 3) Please send agenda items for the next meeting to Anne Caughlan [caughlan\\_anne@hotmail.com](mailto:caughlan_anne@hotmail.com) who will Chair the December meeting. **NOTE:** Let Anne know if you have a short presentation for this 'members' night' meeting.

**Announcements:**

- 1) The Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 18. Please contact Ted Hillary for more information and to let him know if you will volunteer in the same area as last year. [tedhillary@shaw.ca](mailto:tedhillary@shaw.ca)
- 2) A sincere **Thank You:** to Ken Raynor for taking on the role of Communications Director (see note above); to Janet Aitken for keeping communications flowing for most of this year as we sought new volunteers; to Colin Spence for choosing and purchasing a projector for the Club to facilitate presentations.
- 3) Pam Saul has written and illustrated *Dreamkeeper*, an action/adventure story for readers young and old. Circumstances propel the characters on a voyage of discovery about their world and themselves. Pam shows her skill with both vivid word-pictures and fine detailed pencil sketches. You can purchase a copy from Pam.
- 4) Thanks to all for contributions to the November eNewsletter, and to Marlene and Ed McDonald for producing it. Please continue to send all newsletter related items directly to them at [mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca](mailto:mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca). They will be preparing an eNewsletter every second month, with the next one due to appear by January.
- 5) John Woods reported a donation of a tripod and one pair of binoculars to the Brighthouse Centre. See John's note in the November eNewsletter.
- 6) A list of job descriptions for the vacant positions of **President, Vice-President**, as well as **Webmaster** (Dorothy Parks would like to step back) is included at the end of these minutes. We'd welcome anyone to become a **Director** (offer input at Board meetings). We are also **seeking**

**volunteers to chair monthly meetings** if we don't have a new President by January. **Will you offer to chair one meeting, January to June? (C'mon, it's not so hard, ask Cathy ☺ )**

**Minutes:** Carla Kirkpatrick moved acceptance of the October minutes as circulated. 2<sup>nd</sup> Di Wittner.

**Treasurer:** Ted Hillary submitted his report:

Financial Statement November 1 2022

Bank Balance October 1 2022		<b>\$6026.56</b>
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**Receipts**

Dues	165.00	
Coffee	19.55	
Interest	.46	185.01

**Disbursements**

Projector	1000.21	
Blackburn Park	382.15	1382.36

Bank Balance November 1 2022		<b>\$4829.21</b>
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<b>Patronage</b>		.89
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Ted moved acceptance of this report. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Saul. Ted notes that he is accepting dues for the 2023 year anytime: single membership \$25, family \$30.

**Business:**

1) Julia Beatty, Chair of the Shuswap Climate Action Society had reported sightings of painted turtles crossing 10<sup>th</sup> Ave SE near South Canoe Elementary School, facing danger of being run over. She has contacted the school, and they will deal with putting up signage to alert motorists in the spring and summer.

2) Eleanor Marshall, with Mallory Ridge Advocacy Group, has requested that the Club write a letter of support for permanent protection of Mallory Ridge. The letter would be used for various levels of government, First Nations and other advocacy work ongoing. See the website [Gardom Lake Stewardship Society](#) for more information about this project.

**MOTION:** Joyce Henderson moved we write this letter of support. 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenda Hanna. Carried. Janet Pattinson will draft the letter, and send to Club Directors for approval/editing, and submission to Eleanor Marshall.

3) Di Wittner reported on the growing success of the nest box project in foreshore parks. Records show 9 broods from 29 boxes in 2017, and now, in 2022, 62 broods from 95 boxes. The most exciting result was the discovery of 2 barn owl chicks in a duck box. To improve this species chances of nesting success on the foreshore, Ken Raynor has built a state-of-the-art nest box (which he brought to show), especially for barn owls. It will be installed in a safer location closer to trees in time for next spring.

See Di's complete report in the November eNewsletter. She also noted seeing a ripple effect of our well-publicized nest box endeavours – more bird boxes are being purchased by members of the community from MakerSpace. Nest box GPS locations are also being entered into a database for access by monitors or researchers.

4) Di Wittner passed along an invitation from the Kamloops Naturalist Club to attend an event hosted by Nature Canada in support of biodiversity, on **Sunday, November 27, 2-4 PM, at Riverside Park** in Kamloops. Di is taking her own letter of support for preserving biodiversity that will be presented at the UN's COP15 summit on Biodiversity in Montreal this December. If you wish to carpool with her on Nov 27, let her know [dwildlife8@gmail.com](mailto:dwildlife8@gmail.com).

From the Nature Canada website: “*Nature Canada's Nature Network partners are planning a massive education and awareness campaign in the lead up to NatureCOP and will be chartering several buses to criss-cross the country collecting messages from Canadians from coast to coast. Nature-lovers will be encouraged to submit messages, artwork, and letters demonstrating their excitement about this historic opportunity. Their messages will be displayed as part of Nature Canada's event in the Canada pavilion in Montreal.*”

5) Larch Hills Interpretive Trail: Pat Danforth sent an update....plan approvals have been sought from provincial agencies and local organizations. Support is widespread, but needs ongoing communication with BC Parks, and to rebuild minor trail accesses and involve indigenous knowledge keepers. The trail route has been confirmed, sign layout and content planned, writers are working on text and photos for the first half of the trail. Pricing has been established, but options to reduce commercial layout costs are needed. Anyone wishing to contribute expertise/skills, please contact [danforthpat@gmail.com](mailto:danforthpat@gmail.com)

### **Sightings:**

Mike Saul – at Marmont's farm, a muskrat eaten by an otter, a wolf

Carla Kirkpatrick – 3 otters by the boat launch

Eleanor Marshall – neighbours have seen a grizzly and 2 cubs on Mallory Ridge, also elk, deer, moose and a bobcat (caught on webcam)

Pam Saul – quail, still with tiny young quite recently

Pat Mearns – 5 deer near 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and 30<sup>th</sup> St NE

Glenda Hanna – along the lower Shuswap River, 10,000 salmon, 100 bald eagles

John Woods – at the wharf, 100+ common mergansers fishing under the dock, fending off competition from gulls

**MOTION** to adjourn at 8:50 by Anne Caughlan

Following refreshments, we enjoyed a presentation by **Claire Christensen** (also member of Vernon Naturalists) on the 109 (of 24,000 worldwide) species of butterflies found in BC. Claire's details and

excellent photos will help us identify individuals in the 4 groups of butterflies we might see in the Shuswap. She recommended using eButterfly, a website similar to eBird, for lots of information and to post sightings.

### **Job Descriptions for Board vacancies:**

At the January 2023 AGM, we will hold an election for the new Executive. We welcome volunteers to run for any of the Executive positions. We especially invite you to read the job descriptions below. **Will you put your name forward for a currently vacant position.** Members currently/previously holding an Executive position are ready to offer assistance and advice to a new person:

a) The **President's** role is to look after the club, to remind the membership of its purpose, "*to know nature and keep it worth knowing.*" As we have many members dedicated to many aspects of club work, the President should be aware of what is going on and allow it to be brought to the membership. The President needs to be an active email user. He/She would be in charge of calling Executive meetings, planning and running the monthly meetings or having another (e.g. VP, Acting Chair) fill in when necessary. It has been proposed that this role be limited to a 2 year term, unless the incumbent wishes to renew.

b) **Vice President** will take on the role of assisting the President, in particular, running meetings when necessary. It is hoped this person will move on to become President.

c) The **Webmaster** will maintain the SNC website with regular updates to notices of meetings, outings, activities, and with postings of minutes, newsletters, various reports including photos. See the website for contents of its pages: ([shuswapnaturalists.org](http://shuswapnaturalists.org)) It is currently hosted by Cirrus Hosting. The free software program, KompoZer, appears to be still available for WIN 10, but someone with web building skills might rebuild and update our site using more current software.