



## Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Ed welcomed everyone at 7:00 p.m including a few new faces.

### Minutes:

Minutes for the September meeting were accepted as circulated. Moved by Mike, 2nd Marlene.

### Treasurer's report:

Ted reported the following for September 2011:

Bank balance as of September 6, 2011 was \$335.16.

Revenue:

Dues	\$90.00	
Shus. Community Fdn.	\$659.00	Total: \$749.00

Expenditures:

Postage	\$33.60
Neskonlith Wetlands	\$100.00

Bank balance on Oct. 4 \$950.56 (\$350.42 of that for Nature Park)

Ted moved acceptance of the report, 2nd John.

### Announcements:

1. Shuswap Community Foundation  
There will be a Shuswap Community Foundation meeting on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
2. Upcoming outings  
October 6 – Paxton Valley, October 20 – Roderick Haig-Brown Park. Recently, the walk to the river delta outing was a successful one, with a variety of birds spotted and an unusual plant—the wapato—at the northern tip of Mary's Pond.

Clare recommended the salmon-themed show currently on at the SAGA art gallery.

### Business:

1. McGuire Lake  
There have been many reports of anglers catching turtles off the dock. In response to this, the dock has been extended, and also there are plans to erect signage directing anglers to use non-barbed hooks.
2. Fundraising  
The club needs to do some fundraising. One idea is to hire a restaurant for a dinner night: the club pays \$12/plate, and diners pay \$20/plate; with the difference going to the club.

Joyce suggested that we have a 50/50 draw at every meeting (half the pot goes to the winner, half to the club).

Geoff: the club should also get \$200-300 for the Birdathon.

### 3. Ajax Copper Mine

The new mine going in near Kamloops will cause mercury to be leached into the environment, including the area bordering the Douglas Lake Important Bird Area, of which the Shuswap Naturalist Club are caretakers. There should be more frequent monitoring of the IBA to keep tabs on the mine's effects. Ed M. wonders if the new Merritt Naturalist Club should be caretakers for the Douglas Lake IBA now. It would be much easier for them to get to the area than it is for us. He will contact them to see what they think.

### 4. Christmas Bird Count

Ted: this year's Christmas Bird Count has been planned for Dec. 18, the last Sunday before Christmas. Marlene will book a building for approx. 3–6 pm; Marg will take care of the food but will need help.

## Reports

### 1. Good News – Hanne

Hanne has just returned from the Cotswolds trail in the UK.

A. In the BP oilspill in the Gulf of Mexico last year, the methane gas was ingested by bacteria in only four months, a surprise to all.

B. Peter Jennings, of Craigellachie, has donated 51 acres along the Perry River to the CSRD to preserve as parkland.

C. University of Maine has come up with a biodegradable golf ball made out of lobster shells.

D. [reported by Mike] Caribou herd near Alaska is at a stable population now.

E. [reported by Clive B] Peregrine Falcons are making a comeback in Alberta now, due to a captive breeding program and change in pesticide use over the years.

### 2. SABNES – Don

The City will be raising the height of the trail by one metre. Also, approximately 1800 people visited the interpretative centre this summer.

### 3. BC Nature meeting

Joyce & John Henderson attended the fall meeting in Delta, as did Janet Pattinson, going as the club representative.

## Sightings

Helga V. had given Ed M. a spider to identify, and he found it to be a Cat Face orb weaver.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., moved by Mike.

After the meeting there was to be a presentation by guest speaker Celia Nord; however she had twisted her ankle and couldn't make it, so Gillian was to present on New Zealand in her place. This didn't happen either due to technical difficulties with the projector.