

Shuswap Naturalist Club Meeting
Tuesday, October 4 2022
Salmon Arm Senior Secondary School Library

Janet Aitken, Chair for this meeting, welcomed 23 members, including future new member, Julie Gerard, to the first gathering back in our old setting, SASS library.

NEWS FLASH! Communications Director: We are pleased to have Ken Raynor ken.r.sa.bc@gmail.com take over this role, effective immediately. Thank you, Ken, for stepping up to help us with this important task that keeps the club humming along.

Where to send What:

1) Please send information you wish to be forwarded to all club members to Ken Raynor, ken.r.sa.bc@gmail.com Ken 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 an upcoming eNewsletter directly to Ed and Marlene McDonald, mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca

3) Please send agenda items for the next meeting to Cathy Meakes dcmeakes@gmail.com, who will be Chair for the **November** meeting.

Show & Tell: Di Wittner brought a basket of eggs, collected from her forays along the shoreline while checking nest boxes. They ranged in size from the jumbo, palm-sized Canada Goose egg to the jelly bean-sized swallow egg, and a few in between: Common Goldeneye, Wood duck. We learned many fascinating facts about birds' eggs, their formation and development. Who knew, for instance, that the chick develops from the egg white, not the yolk?

Get to know you Activity: Janet led us in a short session to pair off and talk about our history with the Club with another member. Though many of us know each other, we discovered how we came to join SNC in the first place.

Minutes: Gillian Richardson read the Minutes from September 4 2022. Greg Wiebe moved the minutes be accepted as read. 2nd Shelley Wallace.

A list of job descriptions for the vacant positions of **President, Vice-President**, as well as **Webmaster** (for which we are seeking a replacement) was passed around for members to read, and to consider if they could volunteer. **These descriptions are also included at the end of these minutes.** We are also seeking volunteers to chair monthly meetings: Cathy Meakes has agreed to lead the November meeting. We expect Anne Caughlan will run the December (Members own presentations) meeting. **If we don't have a new President by January, will you offer to chair one meeting, January to June?**

Treasurer: Ted Hillary submitted his report:

Financial Statement October 1 2022

Bank Balance September 1 2022 **\$5,873.78**

Receipts

Dues	55.00	
Donation – Save Shuswap Songbird Committee	280.00	
Interest	.48	335.48
Disbursements		
Room Rental	182.70	
Bank Balance October 1 2022		\$6,026.56
Patronage		.89

Ted moved acceptance of this report. 2nd Mike Saul. Ted notes that he is accepting dues for the 2023 year anytime.

Announcements:

- 1) The Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 18. Ted Hillary will provide further details.
- 2) The work party at Blackburn Park postponed from September 30 will be held on Friday, October 7. Joyce Henderson would like assistance with spreading mulch around the trees we planted last year. If you are able to help with this, let Joyce know joiceh@shaw.ca, or show up in the park at 10:00. Bring gloves and a shovel.
- 3) The **Outings Committee has cancelled the outing to Yard Creek for this Thursday, Oct. 6.** Their advance ‘recce’ was very disappointing for viewing salmon or the fungus that we look forward to in the fall. With the warm temperatures and lack of rain, salmon are not yet moving up this stream and very few mushroom are fruiting. For these reasons, we are going to cancel the outing. Thank you for understanding and we’ll look forward to seeing everyone on the foreshore for our final outing on Oct. 13.

Business:

1) Since we do not have access to a projector in the SASS library, we have been looking into buying our own. Colin Spence has researched details/costs and found a suitable projector. Ted Hillary informed Colin that the funds are available.

MOTION: Carla Kirkpatrick moved that Colin purchase a projector in time for the November meeting. 2nd Cathy Meakes.

Discussion: who will store the projector and bring it to each meeting: Colin will manage this, with back up from Ted Hillary.

Reports:

- 1) eNewsletter: Ed and Marlene McDonald will be preparing an eNewsletter every second month, with the next one due to appear by November. Please continue to submit items anytime directly to them.
- 2) Save Shuswap Songbird Committee: Janet Aitken reported that Melissa LaRiviere has prepared an illustrated bird check list for Salmon Arm Bay. It will be an item to include in the birding backpacks that we hope to assemble for use at the Brighthouse Centre, if we can get a grant to cover costs. Gillian

Richardson brought along the Okanagan Regional Library's birding backpack to show its contents: binoculars, guide book, check list, all contained in a backpack, and available on 2-week loan from our local library branches.

3) SABNES: Janet Aitken updated us on the progress of rebuilding boardwalks on the foreshore. They will use a current grant to fix the beaver boardwalk section first, and dismantle the remains of the old one. A new grant will be needed to proceed further.

Sightings:

Ted Hillary – a black bear has visited his backyard every day for the past month; a Long-tailed Duck in the bay; 50 pelicans

Carla Kirkpatrick – a pica and deer at Myra Canyon.

Barbara Raynor – asks where have all the eagles gone....none seen in most likely locales lately?

Wally Kirkpatrick – black bear wandering along the foreshore from Prestige Inn toward Peter Jannink Park

Janet Aitken – Starlink satellites being launched in groups of up to 60, the trail of lights visible most nights around 9:30

Pam Saul – noted Varied Thrush were absent on the recent visit to Marmont Ranch, but she had a large flock at home instead

MOTION to adjourn at 8:05 by Mike Saul

Presentation:

Phil McIntyre-Paul, Senior Consultant with the Shuswap Trail Alliance gave us an informative overview of the Development Plan for the 50 km Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail, a joint project between First Nations (Splotsin are a leading partner) and local governments since 2015. Phil focused on the goal of prioritizing environmental restoration. The Trail could be completed and open in 2023.

Job Descriptions for Board vacancies:

As there are several vacancies on the Executive, we invite you to read these **job descriptions** to help you decide if you can volunteer for a position. Those currently/previously holding these positions 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. As Ed says, "*.... it is important to see people's strengths and encourage them.*" 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) 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) 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.