

**Shuswap Naturalist Club General Meeting  
Tuesday, September 5, 2023  
Sunnybrae Provincial Park**

**Janet Aitken**, Chair for this meeting, welcomed 12 members to Sunnybrae Park beach at 11:10 AM.

**Approval of Agenda:** Gillian Richardson moved acceptance of today's agenda. Di Wittner 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Carried.

**Minutes:** Janet Pattinson moved approval of the June 6 minutes. Marlene McDonald 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.

**Show and Tell:** Pat Shea, a woodworker from Maker Space workshop in Salmon Arm brought samples of boxes/houses and kits for various birds, bats, bees and butterflies. He explained how the box designs evolved with early input from Roger Beardmore and ongoing advice from Di Wittner. The Maker Space crew is keen to encourage hands-on projects, especially for children (hoping to develop an interest in trades and engineering) and adults/seniors, and to that end has applied for a New Horizons grant to help with material expenses. Pat expressed a need for input from naturalists to help kids learn more about the habits and diets of the birds that will use the nest boxes. Janet Aitken said the Club would discuss ways we might help with that, and also with fund raising.

**Financial report:** Gillian Richardson gave the report in Ted Hillary's absence:

**Financial Statement September 1, 2023**

**Bank Balance June 1 2023** **\$4428.24**

**Revenue**

Dues	50.00	
Coffee	52.45	
Donation	100.00	
Interest	1.11	<b>\$ 203.56</b>

**Disbursements**

Shuswap Community Foundation	100.00	<b>\$100.00</b>
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Bank Balance September 1, 2023 **\$4531.80**

**Patronage** **\$ .89**

Larch Hills Sign Project	\$2500.00
Songbird Committee	\$ 80.00

Gillian moved acceptance of the Financial Statement. Glenda Hanna 2<sup>nd</sup> Carried.

### **Membership Report:**

Regarding membership there is no change from the June meeting. Ted did collect dues from one member which he already knew would be paid.

Effective now, membership **fees will be raised by \$5** to cover the cost of mailing print copies of BCN Magazine to those members who still wish to receive them: \$30 individual, \$35 couple/family

### **Old Business:**

1) **Tree Removal** on the Jim Weed property, update: Janet Pattinson received a response to her followup letter to the City, but it held no further information. Colin Spence's investigations re: any violation to the Federal Migratory Birds Act could not proceed as evidence needs to be collected on-site when it happens. We were not able to collect this evidence at the time of nesting disturbance, and we have no photos for proof. The City will monitor such events in future during nesting season.

### **New Business:**

1) **Weed Pull** : Thanks to all those that were able to help with the annual weed pull on the Foreshore.

**Mark your calendars:** Invasive Species - one final Yellow Flag Iris day is planned with SABNES, Shuswap Naturalists and Nature Trust on **September 28th** to address a new Shuswap Lake infestation along the foreshore. Watch for more information to come.

2) **MOTUS** Bird Tracking System – Ken Raynor gave a brief explanation of this technology that can track bird movements/migrations, with the closest equipment set-up being just south of Kamloops. Ken and Barb are leading the investigation into the possibility of adding a MOTUS station in Salmon Arm. Once more information is gathered, a presentation will be made to a future club meeting.

3) **Lights out program in Salmon Arm and area during spring/fall migration** – Janet Aitken suggested looking into this idea, following the recent city project to put lights in McGuire Lake Park. Do we need an education campaign re: the impact of night lighting on wildlife? If anyone is interested in taking up this cause, let Janet know. She and Janet Pattinson will be attending an EAC meeting later today, and this topic will be brought up.

4) **Advocacy:** Janet Pattinson - keep your eye on the Newsletters.

### **Reports:**

1) **Outings Committee:** No committee members were in attendance, but details of activities for this fall will be announced shortly. Thank you Cathy Meakes, John and Marcia Woods.

2) **Newsletter:** Thanks to Marlene McDonald and Gillian Richardson for creating informative and enjoyable reading, and to those of you who contribute the content.

3) **Bird boxes** - Di Wittner gave a summary of bird box use, with a full report to come at the October meeting. Colin Spence is helping to correlate the data. It appears 97 boxes were occupied, which is 10-15% higher than last year. Swallows took 98% of their boxes as well as some duck boxes and the barn

owl box. An unidentified raptor might have used one duck box. Di found “lots of double nests” (one atop the other). She discovered/dispatched some rats.

4) **Coffee Conveners:** Thanks to Pam Saul and Pat Turner for overseeing refreshments. Reminder: we need to check on the status of storing the coffee equipment at SASS (re: Kathleen Miede).

### **Lunch 12:00**

#### **Presentation: Bear Aware**

Olivia Lemke, Columbia Shuswap Coordinator of WildSafeBC noted that numerous local sightings may occur between now and November when bears are in their extreme eating phase before hibernation. Black bears are more likely to flee humans, while grizzlies can be more aggressive. She focused on bear avoidance (hike in groups, make noise, be alert for sow/cubs, pets on leash) and response if a bear is encountered (talk calmly, do not run, scare off if close to your home to discourage return). Olivia demonstrated the safe handling/storage of bear spray and the correct way to use it if a bear charges. Her casts of black and grizzly paws showed the vast difference in size. While bear attacks make the news, they remain rare in BC. For more information, contact Olivia via Facebook (WildSafeBC Columbia Shuswap) or email ([columbiashuswap@wildsafebc.com](mailto:columbiashuswap@wildsafebc.com) )

**Next Meeting:** October 3 at SASS Library 7:00 PM Chair: Janet Aitken

The library at SASS is confirmed for this next year, including the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Sightings:**

**Gillian Richardson** had a red-naped sapsucker in her yard

**Doug Mongerson** saw several rare birds on the foreshore recently: ruff, marbled godwit, little gull, long-tailed jaeger

**Ken Raynor** noted about 6 poplar trees have been munched by a beaver(s) along the foreshore trail

**MOTION to Adjourn at 1:10 pm:** Janet Aitken

#### **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, newsletters, information from any of our committees (e.g. BC Nature, Environment).

2) Please send any items for/correspondence about an upcoming eNewsletter directly to Marlene McDonald, [mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca](mailto:mcdonald@airspeedwireless.ca). Next eNewsletter, November 1.

3) Please send agenda items to **Janet Aitken** [janetaitken1@gmail.com](mailto:janetaitken1@gmail.com) , **Chair** for the October 3 meeting.