

**Shuswap Naturalist Club Meeting
September 6, 2011
Sunnybrae Park**

20 members present on a warm, sunny day

11:15: Ed welcomed everyone to the park, saying it felt like the first day of school, including Joanna Lazzarotto, a former member of the club who has returned to the fold

Minutes of the June 7, 2011 meeting were accepted as circulated: Janet, 2nd Mike.

Treasurer's Report:

Ted reported a Bank Balance June 7, 2011		\$3,979.94
Receipts:		
Dues	40.00	
Sale of Check lists	49.00	
Garage Sale	161.10	
Donation	50.00	300.10
Disbursements:		
Bursary	750.00	
School District	194.88	
Nature Park	3000.00	\$3,944.88
Bank Balance September 6, 2011		\$ 335.16

(For nature park: \$350.42, Club deficit: \$15. 26)

Ted moved to accept report, 2nd Greg

Announcements:

1. The Nature's Corner column in Lakeshore News needs more contributors.
2. Upcoming fall outings: check the website for details.
 - Sept 15 - Salmon River delta
 - Sept 22 - Gene Puetz salmon trap
 - Oct 6 - Marmont's farm in Paxton Valley

Business:

1. SABNES has been working on improvements to the Nature Trail, to raise it by 1 metre. SNC suggests adding another 8 cm to account for frequent flooding.
2. Frank (who recently celebrated his 88th birthday!) commended the Dahl's excellent monitoring of the western grebes.
3. Janet attended the Regional Meeting of BC Nature. She proposes we consider a resolution to the AGM to the effect that we are not opposed to paying taxes that are needed for important services such as environmental concerns, and would support tax increases if the government gives adequate explanations of how the

money is spent. She asked us to think over this suggestion until the November meeting.

Reports:

1. SABNES would like to construct a bird viewing platform in Peter Jannink Nature Park, design TBA. They suggest a non-wooden structure without benches or roof to discourage loitering and damage. **MOTION:** that we accept the principle of having a platform in the park. Peggy, 2nd Marlene. Passed. SABNES also reports that this summer's student assistant at the Brighthouse Nature Centre did an excellent job.

Sightings:

Greg - 4 otters near his home in Grindrod

Monica – Tennessee warbler

Ed M – alligator lizard (a yellow-listed species, ie not in danger)

Mike – salamander in his basement, black-throated grey warbler on Bowen Is

Janet – rubber boa, tree frogs

Joanna – large flock of pelicans on Shuswap Lake

Gillian – asked about the absence of swallows; Ed mentioned, in particular, barn swallows have declined. Many were seen early, then disappeared when cool wet weather moved in during May, June as there were no insects. Frank reported swifts nesting under the wharf

Motion to adjourn at 12:00: Monica

A picnic lunch was enjoyed by all, including the wasps. Scopes were set up on the beach. Sightings included kingfisher, great blue heron, red necked grebe, Canada geese, a loon was heard.