



DELTA NATURALISTS SOCIETY

PO Box No. 18044, 1215C 56th St, Delta, B.C. V4L 2M4

DNS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Sept. 5, 2017

Welcome: Tom welcomed everyone to this meeting, the first after the summer recess. He identified members of the Executive and committees. He also asked visitors to identify themselves and indeed we did have visitors.

Minutes: As usual, Tom asked those present if they had read the draft minutes from our June meeting. Audrey Coutts moved that the minutes be accepted; Elizabeth Perrin seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by those present.

Mail: Jim Kneesch indicated that mail received related primarily to membership renewals.

Treasurer & Membership: Jim Kneesch delivered the financial report of our financial status effective August 31, 2017. The bank balance was \$3641.31. Individual memberships numbered 53; family memberships totalled 30. Jim also produced the Income and Expenses sheet for the September 2016 to end of August 2017 period. Membership dues for our new year effective September 1, 2017 were payable now and a number of members did renew their memberships this evening.

Newsletter: Audrey produced her usual excellent newsletter.

Publicity: Valerie was congratulated on her public relations work which this evening, as usual, resulted in "newbies" attending our meeting.

Social:

Jennifer/Valerie and Carol Rennie. Tom thanked those who had provided "goodies" for this evening's meeting. He also drew special attention to Chris McVittie's and Marlene Mark's hospitality for the excellent June garden party held at their home.

Environment Issues: Anne addressed the matter of the Delta Birds and Biodiversity Strategy. Delta appears to be slow in developing their strategy; undoubtedly there are reasons for the delay. Regardless, results are needed and expected. September is the month for which the strategy completion had been anticipated. Once completed, the Strategy will need to go to Council for approval.

Anne also gave an update on the August 2018 Ornithological Congress to be held in Vancouver. Apparently, the birding days and times in Delta are going to coincide with times of low tide, which will not be the best times for viewing shorebirds. A key time for involvement of the DNS is on Friday, August 24 when four bus tours of delegates from

the Congress will visit Delta. Anne and Tom will be helping with these tours and other volunteers will be needed. Stay tuned for more information later....

Anita updated the members on the stance of the Nature BC Conservation Committee with regard to the proposed Bridge which would have replaced the Massey Tunnel. For a variety of environmental reasons, our Committee is opposed to a huge, expensive 10 lane bridge as visualized by the previous Liberal government. She also gave a brief overview of the purpose of this committee. (*Subsequently, the NDP government cancelled the Bridge, with a review to be conducted of crossing options*). This Committee will also be reconsidering the wolf cull (purportedly in an attempt to save the endangered Mountain Caribou; these animals have been more endangered by urban development).

BCN & Speakers: Anita updated the audience with news of future speakers. In October, the speaker will be Ken Hall on "Water in the Desert". Our November speaker will talk about Bats in BC and the Dangers Facing Them, and in December Anne Murray will present "Living On the Edge" with respect to seabirds of England, Iceland and Peru.

Tom noted that Anne Murray and he will be the only DNS members attending the Fall General Meeting of B.C. Nature in Vernon September 21 - 24 in Vernon. He urged other members to attend.

Display Committee: Display volunteers have been at a number of events this year. The next and final one for 2017 will be Saturday, September 9th, "Day At The Farm" on Westham Island. This is always a fun event, with a number of displays geared to farming and food, and with live entertainment.

Activity since June 6 Meeting:

Thirteen weekly DNCB outings since June 6 meeting to: 1) Pitt Lake, 2) BBRP/BOTB, 3) Maplewood Flats, 4) Campbell Valley Park, 5) Surrey Bend/Tynehead RP's, 6) Bowen Island, 7) Victoria, 8) Minnekhada RP, 9) Manning Park, 10) Reifel/Alaksen, 11) Pt. Roberts, 12) Boundary Bay at 104th, and 13) Iona RP.

Check out Outing Reports, and photos, on our DNCB Blog at:

www.dncb.wordpress.com.

Note that Outings leave Petra's at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesdays until Tuesday October 3, when they are changed to Tuesdays. See website for future DNCB Destination List. Mt. Baker is destination tomorrow on September 6th.

Other Activity Reports since June 6 meeting:

- 1) Sat. June 10 to Sat. Aug. 26, Six Car Boot Sales, Centennial Beach, 8:00 am-Noon.
- 2) Sun. June 11, BioBlitz at Centennial Beach, 2:30-4:00 pm (Tom & Suzuki Foundation). This was NOT well attended.
- 3) Wed. June 14, Birds on the Bay outing, Cammidge House, 9:00 am

- 4) Sun. June 18, Pancake Breakfast in the Park, Centennial Beach, 9:00 am-Noon w/DNS Display.
- 5) Sat. June 24, DNS Annual Garden Party, Chris/Marlene McVittie home.
- 6) Sun. July 23, Invasive Plant Removal, BBRP, 10:00 am to Noon (BBPA).
- 7) Sun. Aug. 13, Richmond Raptor Festival, Terra Nova Park, 10:00 am-4:00 pm w/DNS Display.
- 8) Sat. Aug. 19, Starry Night, Deas Island Park, 6:00-9:00 pm, w/ DNS Display.
- 9) Thurs. August 24, DNS Executive meeting, Tom's home, 7:30-9:30 pm.

Future Meetings/Events:

- 1) Thur. Sept. 7, Bird Studies Canada, Conserving the Fraser Estuary conference, Cammidge House, 1:00-4:30 pm (Anne, Chris, Anita, Tom were committed to attend).
- 2) Fri. Sept. 8, First 2017/18 BBPA meeting, CH, 10:00 am.
- 3) Sat. Sept. 9, Last Car Boot Sale, Centennial Beach, 8:00 am-Noon.
- 4) Sat. Sept. 9, Day at the Farm, Westham Island, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- 5) Sun. Sept. 10, Metro Vancouver Boat Cruise on Fraser, 10:00 am.
- 6) Tues. Sept. 12, Bird Box Examination/Cleaning at BBRP, 12th Ave entrance, 9:30-Noon. The Delta Nature Kids will participate.
- 7) Wed. Sept. 13, Quarterly Birds on the Bay outing, Cammidge House, 9:00 am.
- 8) Mon. Sept. 18, DNS Executive meeting, Tom's home, 7:30 pm.
- 9) Thur. Sept. 21-Sun. Sept. 24, BC Nature FGM, Vernon BC (Anne, Tom).

Other Issues for Discussion:

1. Tom reminded those present that the Annual General Meeting would be held on October 3rd, and appealed to members to consider joining the Executive. That is the date of our annual election to the Board of Directors.
2. Jim Kneesch gave an update on the DNS Facebook which Chris McVittie and he administer. This site has much interesting information on it including links to other organizations and activities.
3. Bird Box Report: Chris McVittie demonstrated a device which is used to "peer" into bird boxes to gain information of what is happening inside the boxes. This is an endoscope.

Sightings & 50/50

Presentation: Tom introduced travellers and photographers David & Diane Reesor. They gave a totally fascinating presentation of their most recent trip to Madagascar. Madagascar is a "mini-continent" with some species such as lemurs which are found nowhere else. The topography of this island is interesting as is the environment, including culture. By western standards, this is an extremely poor country; yet the people appear to be happy. There is a lesson to be learned here.

Next DNS meeting & AGM: Tuesday, October 3, 7:30 p.m. at Benediction Lutheran Church, with Ken Hall presenting on "Water in the Desert".