

Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2006



Present were: Jerry Azevedo, Carol Black, Mike Hoebel.

After days of rain and wind, the weather broke briefly on Monday, but the only three Naturalists not standing outside sunstruck got straight to business...

1. **Mushroom Festival Retrospective:** With a faraway look in his eyes, Mike recounted the menu from the Festival: polenta with mushroom sauce, stuffed mushrooms, mushroom soup – oh, he did go on and on, while the rest of us remembered the cheese sandwich we'd just gulped for lunch. As the husband of one of the three cooks that day, he was the beneficiary of leftovers for days afterwards. He had every right to gloat. He wouldn't have had so many mushroom meals if the attendance had been as high as in previous years. Though we'd put up lots of posters, some people still didn't know about the Festival. Next year we need an ad in the Active Page and/or Island Tides, which depends on having a fixed date. Although mushrooms pay more attention to the weather than to the calendar, having better publicity outweighs catching the 'peak' of the season. We know there'll be mushrooms in early November. We set the date of the next Mushroom Festival to be the first Saturday in November of 2007. Mike also noted that despite the relatively low attendance, the lunch concession generated enough income to pay for the hall rental, thanks to the three cooks donating their time. He also suggested that the Galiano Naturalists post the mushroom species list on our website. And that led to the suggestion, delivered dead-pan, of producing a mushroom checklist for Galiano.
2. **Christmas Bird Count:** Mike reminded us that the Christmas bird count this year will be on December 17th. The South Hall is booked for the post-count potluck at 5 PM, where the collection plate would be out for counters to drop their \$5 Audubon fee. We hope to inspire a bird theme for the potluck, with great plates of roast turkey, barbecued chicken, skewered Guinea hens, partridges, squab, doves, and parakeets. Carol admitted that in a weak moment she once added 'roasted chicken' to her Christmas bird count, but that was years ago, and the statute of limitations has expired, like that chicken.
3. **Bird Checklist:** Having learned something from the last meeting, Mike tossed his revised checklist on the table and quickly stepped out the door. But there was surprisingly little controversy, since the remaining two Naturalists at the table have such sweet dispositions, and they both forgot their glasses so everything was looking pretty rosy anyway. Apparently the list has been field tested by Brian, though he wasn't there to confirm this or defend himself. Mike also had another bird checklist with still more details. One can never have too many checklists.
4. **Bird (and Bat!) Houses:** We recalled that some meetings ago the Naturalists had the idea of making bird (and bat!) houses, perhaps as a fund raiser or to put on a program for kids. The best time to put up bird (and bat!) houses is in the spring, so the idea now is to apply for CRD recreation funding to put on a workshop for making bird (and bat!) houses. No sharp instruments would be involved. We'd precut and predrill the materials, and the kids would screw them together. Mike will take care of the application, and if it's approved, we'll get something together for March. In the summer or fall, we might make some bird feeders, possibly for sale at Fiesta, but that's a long ways in the future.

5. 'Active Page' column: With Pam's December article on slime molds on track, we pondered the dilemma of the New Year issue. Somehow the first article of the year should offer certain possibilities for a reflective essay on something, but no subject came to mind. We decided to put the call out for articles, especially to DickP, who'd suggested he might have an article or two in his back pocket.
6. Next meeting time and place: SUNDAY, December 10th at 1 PM, Activity Center. [NOTE CHANGE IN DAY FOR THIS MONTH ONLY]

By the time all business was conducted, the skies had clouded over, and it was safe once again to go outside without worry of sunburn. We put away all the chairs we'd optimistically arranged around the table before the meeting, turned out the lights, and filed out into the wind and rain.

Corrections and comments to:

Jerry Azevedo

galianonaturalists@gulfislands.com