

Galiano Naturalists

Meeting Minutes January 17, 2005

Present were: Jerry Azevedo, Cheryl Bastedo, Dick Chase, Louise Decario, Keith Erickson, Dora Fitzgerald, Pam Frier, Nathan Gaylor, Cathy Holahan, Mike Hoebel, Ken Millard, Linda Millard, Brian Mitchell, Odin Scholz.

The faces around the table were looking as grim as the weather, but then Cathy showed up with a plate of dog biscuits, and the Naturalists got straight to business...

1. "Species of the Month" project: Pam's "Natural Mysteries" has been sent to Ralph. Keith is set with frogs for the March issue. Keith's article will be the first one to include a single "Natural Mystery" at the end, so let's hope someone gets inspired by Pam's piece and sends us an intriguing question so that we don't have to make up one ourselves.
2. "Galiano's Natural Areas Brochure" project: Our pleas for island photos fell on deaf ears, except Sky sent us his wedding pictures, which the art committee is trying to work into the layout. Brian whipped out a stack of dog-eared 4x6s from his private collection (we're all adults here, right?), and some people spent the rest of the meeting sneaking furtive peeks. To save the art committee further embarrassment, Mike raised the issue of capitalization of plant and animal names and distracted us with a straw poll on whether we should or shouldn't. The room was evenly divided, sort of like the U.S. election, though no fights broke out. Changing the subject once again, someone asked about beach accesses, and Dora told a pitiful story about how MOTH has stopped the P&RC from making improvements, leading certain unnamed individuals to sneak around the island at night and clip blackberries from the trails. [Note to art committee: Let's get a picture of that for the brochure.] Mike said he would confront the P&RC at their next meeting. Our next target deadline is to have another mock-up of the brochure, with or without photos and with at least half of the species names capitalized, for the February meeting.
3. "Bones Festival" project: With our mouths full of Cathy's dog biscuits, everyone in the room was more than happy to volunteer to help out with the festival. Once the biscuits are gone, people tend to have short memories, so for the record, here's who volunteered to do what:
 - Set up tables (10 AM): Brian, Jerry
 - Set up artwork: Cathy, Libby, Annette (not a Naturalist but a bones enthusiast)
 - Provide resource material from the libraries: Linda
 - Accompany Rene (a small Asian male) to the hall: Dora
 - Help in the kitchen: Pam, Louise, Dora
 - Assemble deer skeleton: Mike
 - Provide First Nations info: Nate
 - Dissect owl pellets: Odin or Cathy
 - Set up the sandwich board: Ken
 - Bake goodies: (whoever walked off with Cathy's cookie forms)
 - Dress as Bone Bob: Barry Lovell (unconfirmed)
 - Wear a tutu (or dress the taxidermy specimens in tutus or something to do with tutus): Dora

4. "Nature walks" project: Mike reported that the Naturalists are co-sponsoring (along with the Conservancy and the Bookstore) a visit to the island by Bruce Widdington on February 11th/12th. Bruce, a former HAT director who has written a bird book, will give a talk at the hall at 7 PM on the 11th and will lead a walk at Laughlin Lake at 8:30 AM on the 12th.
5. GN Logo: Of the 14 people in the room, only Pam was bold enough to show some sketches. After everyone had a look, Pam was inducted into the Sunday Drawers hall of fame. Then Jerry made off with her drawings, and they haven't been seen since.
6. "Sunday Drawers" project: Hanging on the line until sometime in January/February (TBA).
7. "Web site" project: Mike showed around the GN Web pages (they looked like ordinary sheets of paper to some of us) and asked for suggestions. "A Naturalist Calendar," someone said. "Our Natural Mysteries series," chimed in another. "Links to other Websites," said a third. "A 'Wheel of Fortune' type lottery game with million-dollar prizes..."
8. "Traveling Expert" project: Refer to item 4.
9. "Western bluebird stewards" project: No news yet from the Galiano Club as to whether they will allow the nest boxes on Mount Galiano.
10. Other business:

Christmas bird count – For people obsessed with numbers, there were more than 61 participants counting 9446 birds in 77 species (82 if you fudge the day either side, and if you're going to fudge it a day, why not six months?).

Eco-cultural restoration talk – Ken reported that Herb Hammond and Dennis Martinez will give a public talk at the hall on February 13th, prior to their week-long workshop sponsored by the Conservancy. Cathy used this distraction to grab the last of her biscuits and make for the door, and the rest of us chased after her into the parking lot, and that ended the meeting.

11. Next meeting time and place: MONDAY, February 21st at 1 PM at the Activity Center.

Corrections and comments to:

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