

Galiano Naturalists

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2005

Present were: Jerry Azevedo, Cheryl Bastedo, Dick Chase, Pam Frier, Mike Hoebel, Libby McClelland (who never was in Arizona this spring).

When the other Naturalists started showing up after 1, Mike and Jerry tried to hide the most recent printout of the brochure, slipping it under the table like a French postcard, but after a brief struggle they were caught in a corner of the room and had to surrender the pages, and the Naturalists got straight to business...

1. "Galiano's Natural Areas Brochure" project: Though for the past two months Keith has cleverly arranged to skip town to avoid coming to the meetings, he did leave behind a new version of the brochure. And everyone agreed that it is looking quite spiffy. With most of the photos and text in place now, we might finish the project before Halloween. Everyone at the meeting took home a copy of the brochure and will pass along final review comments to Mike by this weekend. Mike will give Keith the compiled comments on his return on Sunday, and if all goes well, we could see a printer's proof by the next meeting.
2. "Species of the Month" project: Jerry reported that none of the reluctant Naturalists responded to a request for an article for July, but he cobbled something together. Pam said she would go outside the group to solicit articles, perhaps something about marine life. Libby, who'd been dozing in the back, heard the word "marine" and started a debate with herself over whether one octopus plus one octopus makes two octopuses or two octopi. It was not the Tourette's outburst we all imagined. Libby had found two of the creatures on the beach near her place, washed up on the rocks, a smaller one and a behemoth, with tentacles "as long as this table". At least, she supposed that's how long they would have been, if eagles hadn't amputated the legs to mere stubs. But it was huge, with suckers the size of Loonies. A fearsome creature, or it would have been, if it hadn't been dead on the rocks, the tasty parts carried off by carrion birds. So an article on the octopus, Libby suggested, especially addressing the issue of the plural. But Pam had other ideas. "Sex," she said, in that coy way she has. Barnacle sex. She went on to describe the process, which considering the family audience for these minutes, can't be described here. So the August article will be about sex or 8-legged marine animals or something else entirely.
3. Bird stuff: Mike reported that at least 8 of the 18 nestboxes on Mt. Galiano have nesting house wrens, some with fledglings. But no bluebirds. And down at the hummingbird banding site at the base of that mountain, there will be two or three more banding sessions, the next one on the 27th. After getting chastised for our slothful ways on Galiano, Mike has had to commit to starting the trapping within a half hour of dawn, according to the established protocol. No more of this namby-pamby roll in at 7 AM business. It's 5:30 now. Mike realizes that he might be a bit lonely there at the traps for the first hour or two.
4. Shorekeepers: Last summer the Naturalists started to participate in the Shorekeepers monitoring program, and many of the group went through a training program at Montague. Cheryl reported that the monitoring will continue this summer, with a monitoring session at Montague Park (near the Nature House) on Wednesday, June 22, starting at 8:30. There's a need for both trained and untrained helpers; all are welcome to participate. Though there are no guarantees, there's a chance we'll see some barnacles "doing it".

5. Next meeting time and place: MONDAY, July 18th at 1 PM at the Activity Center.

And with that, feeling sated, we all went out for a smoke.

Corrections and comments to:

Jerry Azevedo

galianonaturalists@gulfislands.com