

# Galiano Naturalists

## Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2005

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Present were: Jerry Azevedo, Pam Frier, Mike Hoebel, Chris Pitschka, Dick Pitschka.

Mike was passing around a book called “Vancouver Island Birds” when we realized there were two unfamiliar faces in the group. Chris had come early and had managed to blend in with the crowd, but Dick had been wandering on his bike, hopelessly lost on the convoluted roads of Galiano, and gave it away when he came in late. After giving up trying to pronounce their last name, the Naturalists got straight to business...

1. “Species of the Month” project: Pam failed to find anyone who could be talked into writing the August article so she did it herself. These articles are so much FUN to write, we wondered why more people haven’t contributed to the group effort. We decided to put a sign-up sheet at the bottom of the email with these minutes. Those who commit to writing an article (or finding someone to write an article) over the next year, well, there’ll be a prize, like the continued subscription to these minutes each month. If no one steps forward for the September issue (August 15 deadline), the Naturalists won’t have a column in the Active Page that month.
2. “Galiano’s Natural Areas Brochure” project: Keith did a great job of getting out another iteration of the brochure, and we all agreed it was looking fine. He’d told us that the HP printer messed up the colors, that the green was way off, but everyone liked the green, accident or not. So when we go to the printer in Victoria, we’ll just say, Give your press a good kick and let us have whatever green it spits out. Other than that, we each had a few little picky changes to note. Mike kept track of the comments, or pretended to keep track of them. We’ll see whether the changes get made or whether we forget about them between now and then. We then talked briefly about the schedule and decided to set an aggressive goal of having the brochure out in time for the winter Olympics in Vancouver.
3. Bird stuff: With the hummingbird banding finally over for the year, Mike could report that we captured 424 defenseless birds (most of them hummingbirds, though one was a finch in a hummingbird costume) in sixteen banding sessions. (You do the math.) Of those, 74 had been previously banded and should have had better sense. Though we trapped at two sites on Galiano this year, there was no intercourse between the birds at each site; at least, none of the birds trapped at one site had been previously trapped at the other. Some of us found this fascinating. Others remembered that Shakespeare had written a play called ‘Romeo and Juliet’.
4. With no other new business or business of any kind, we sat around talking about abandoned seals. Some were all for it. Life is cruel by nature, they agreed. One abandoned seal is one seal that won’t grow up to eat salmon. And what about carrion birds. They have to live too. But others argued that life is precious, the Bambi thing. And who could resist those big soulful eyes, the helpless little creature on the rocks. That’s the source of bread-and-butter funding for wildlife rescue centers. Nobody donates to save abandoned jackdaws or sea slugs. It’s those baby mammal eyes that bring in the bucks. The subject came up because we think the Naturalists should write an article on the pros and cons of wildlife rescue. Nobody volunteered right off, but there’s still time. We’ve missed the peak of the “abandoned seal pup” season, so the article wouldn’t be timely until next June.
5. Next meeting time and place: MONDAY, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the picnic table behind the Conservancy office.

And with that, we all went off looking for baby seal pups to club.

Corrections and comments to:

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