

Meeting Minutes  
May 22, 2006

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Present were: Jerry Azevedo, Pam Frier, Mike Hoebel,  
Libby McClelland, Rene Zich.

The rain had been coming down since early morning, drenching the hummingbirds in the traps and running down the necks of the banders. Back at the school the Naturalists trudged across the parking lot with their heads down, looking for shelter. The room was dry and warm. Rain coats dripped on the rack. And the Naturalists got straight to business...

1. 'Galiano's Natural Areas Brochure' project: And we thought the project was done. But a box of brochures is taking up space in Mike's office, and he's talking of charging the Naturalists rent, so we brainstormed ways of distributing the brochures. Jerry had already talked to the Chamber about getting word to their B&B members and about having some available under lock and key at the tourist booth. The Nature House might be a good place for them. Mike was going to check with Montague Park about putting one up under a plastic cover on the bulletin board. And the kayak shop might like a few. All agreed that we should not put the box out by the side of the road with a "Free" sign.
2. "Species of the Month" project: This part of the meeting is always entertaining, just to watch how the Naturalists jockey for position to find a credible reason why they couldn't possibly be the one to write next month's article, the subtle interplay of social standing and guilt. Libby started off with a diversion tactic, first mentioning octopi as a subject for some future article at some theoretically far-off date and then deftly shifting the conversation to a story about how she watched an eagle scavenging a octopus near her place. The eagle would pull on a tentacle, and it would stretch out like a rubber band and snap back – sprong – and the eagle would pull again, almost like working out at the gym to strengthen the muscles of the upper back. Libby claimed the octopus was the biggest in the world. How big was it? She spread her arms improbably wide. Nobody expressed open disbelief – we're not that sort of group – but there were hints, a vague mood in the room, enough for Libby to get defensive, 'I have it in the freezer, so there.' By this time no one thought to bring the discussion around to actually writing an article about the octopus. The conversation turned to garter snakes, and Libby knew she was in the clear. Garter snakes were thought to be more of an August topic, and glass sponges could be interesting, later. Pam was the first to crack. 'I'll do dragonflies,' she said. Remembering the content of her previous articles, we thought to ask if she'd leave the sex out of this one. 'No, no, no,' she told us. 'I already have a working title: "Nasty Business".' She'd be sending to France for the illustrations. And we sighed and started thinking of how we'd deal with the public relations nightmare, resigned, but then someone asked if we hadn't already had an article on dragonflies, and that's what saved us. In frustration, Pam said all right, she'd do the article on red tide. Red tide sex? We can't wait.
3. 'Galiano Bird Checklist' project: Mike trotted out the same mock-up of the little pocket checklist of Galiano birds, and the two Naturalists who hadn't seen it at the last meeting expressed appreciation. Mike and Rene would work on the species list, focusing on birds that a birder might actually hope to see on the island rather than include every bird that might have been seen once, blown in on the winds of typhoon. Libby brought in a drawing of a heron,

which seemed to fit on the cover. Mike would send the text out for review. And then we would go to print, sometime in the 2006-2008 *biennium*.

4. 'Moss & Lichen Walk' project: On Saturday, May 27, renowned bryologist, lichenologist, botanist, and all around –ist Terry Taylor was scheduled to lead a walk on Bodega Ridge, and since these meeting minutes have been unavoidably delayed by lethargy and procrastination, we can report that Terry did actually show up and that a few Naturalists braved the drizzly weather to amble a few hundred meters along the trail, stopping every meter or so to examine three or four plants, some of which were mosses and lichens. From time to time Terry would scrape a clump of lichens into a plastic bag and tuck it away into his knapsack. 'Medicine,' he mumbled, which led to lots of silent speculation.
5. 'Sidney Island' field trip: Some of us dream of Sidney Island the way people talk of Shangri-La, and there was the desperate suggestion to grab a boat and make the trip, even at the risk of dispelling our illusions. But fortunately it was pointed out that the best time for a trip there, from a naturalists perspective (and what other perspective is there?), is April. OK, next year.
6. 'Costa Rica Night' project: Mike is committed to hosting this gala event with Pearl, but we all agreed this was a fall project, not a summer project.
7. Next meeting time and place: MONDAY, JULY 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM, Activity Center.

The rain had let up a little by then, so there was no reason to stick around any longer.

Corrections and comments to:

Jerry Azevedo  
galianonaturalists@gulfislands.com