

Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2006

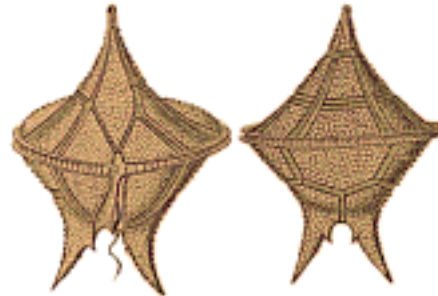
Galiano Naturalists



Present were: Jerry Azevedo, Megan Cowling, Pam Frier,
Mike Hoebel, Libby McClelland.

The original drawings from Megan's well-read (by some) article on ladybugs were scattered casually on the table, as if she hadn't intended them to start a conversation, as if the Naturalists could ignore any artifact or image of the natural world. People started with the most innocent of questions, but once the conversation got rolling, it sounded suspiciously as if the meeting had started, so the Naturalists got straight to business...

1. (New Business) "Naturalist T-Shirts": Who can predict these things? We start off talking about ladybugs and segue straight into T-shirts. Someone (the name is lost to history) commented that the ladybug would look good on a shirt, and soon we'd forgotten the ladybugs and were focusing on the shirts. What image would look good? A newt? The Naturalists were squeamish about having an animal with toxic skin as their signature totem. Dinoflagellates? The images are cool (some people with a vivid imagination think they look like space ships), and it's great to think that bioluminescence has its source in such small creatures, but do we really want to call attention to the specter of red tide? The safest totem animal to put on a T-shirt is probably the tree frog: cute, big eyes, cuddly (in a cold skin kind of way), and, most importantly, non-lethal. So the call goes out to the artists among the Naturalists to come up with a tree frog image we can silk-screen onto a bunch of shirts.



2. (New Business) mystery rocks: Now that the original agenda was thrown out the window, a sort of laissez faire suffused the room, and Pam pulled from her pocket a rock for consideration. It was a polished rock, angular, dead flat on top and bottom. Holding it in her hand and closing her eyes, she claimed it to be the work of aboriginal people. A primitive talisman produced with primitive tools. Or a glacier, someone muttered uncharitably. Not to be outdone, Megan dashed out of the room and came back (from the parking lot?) with a disk-shaped rock, like a miniature hockey puck, which looked as if it might have been petrified wood or perhaps mudstone. Megan was hoping it was a meteorite, of infinite value. Since our resident geologist was too exhausted from the morning session of hummingbird banding to attend this meeting, we had to leave these speculations and get on with other business.
3. (New Business) "Fiesta": This item started out as a proposal to hold a bake sale to raise funds for, well, surely there are projects we could spend funds on. We could each bake something and call it something very 'Naturalist', like Salamander Cookies or Toxic Newt Cake. We could rent the hall and have a grand sale to pay for the hall rent. Then we thought of the Fiesta. The Naturalists could rent a booth and have baked goods on the table with a sign, 'Help us pay for the booth.' Other improbable ideas included:
 - 'Natural mystery objects' – Fiesta-goers would be encouraged to bring in their unidentified natural objects, and we'd assemble these on the table and ask people to try to guess what

they were. The person who identified the most objects correctly would win a prize, either a T-shirt or a dinoflagellate.

- ‘Box lunch’ – A yummy baked good and some other makings for a picnic, including, with legal sanction from the RCMP, a bottle of wine, would be put up for silent auction to bring in the big bucks.
- ‘Booth of Mystery’ – A curtain would hide some as-yet-unspecified goings-on that may or may not have anything to do with frogs and newts.
- ‘Demonstration telescope’ – Should the owners of the large telescope wish to expose it to risk, it would be great to show people that the Naturalists look beyond the bounds of earth.

At the end of the discussion no one had volunteered to do anything, but everyone felt we’d accomplished something nonetheless.

4. (New Business) “Stargazing Overnight”: By consensus the Naturalists agreed that it was time for another overnight stargazing party at the Mitchell/Decario residence. As a courtesy, we decided to let them pick the date.
5. “Species of the Month” project: To his credit Mike didn’t try to pretend he hadn’t volunteered to write the August article on garter snakes. Megan stepped in to say she’d do an illustration. Libby didn’t volunteer for anything, but she did say that she’d seen a garter snake with one of our infamous black slugs in its mouth, thus confirming two truths: that snakes are predators of these noxious aliens and that snakes have no taste buds. Libby had interrupted the snake in mid-gulp, with the slugs tail (or head, who can tell) sticking out, and noted that the snake had a slow time escaping. Did you ever try to run with a slug in your mouth?
6. “Galiano Bird Checklist” project: For a progress report on this project, read the minutes from last month.
7. (New Business) “Shore Walk”: With the lowest tides of the summer at full moon this month and the next, the Naturalists are proposing a shore walk to look at creatures seldom exposed. Libby offered that Morning Beach is a great place to explore the tide pools at extreme low tides, and we agreed to meet there at low tide on the full moon in July. UPDATE: We will meet at Morning Beach on July 10 at 11AM. We might as well combine the shore walk with lunch and a business meeting.
8. Next meeting time and place: MONDAY, JULY 10th at 11 AM, Morning Beach.

A booking conflict meant that the Naturalists had the room for only an hour this time, and the folks from the Chamber of Commerce were massing outside with pitchforks and grim expressions, so before the situation got tense, the Naturalists picked up their amulets and meteorites and snuck out the back door.

Corrections and comments to:

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