

Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists –Minutes of Regular General Meeting
Monday, September 26, 2011
Municipal Wing-404 Building on Dutton Dr., Waterloo

Call to order at 7:28 p.m.

1. Welcome/ Thanks by Fraser Gibson

Fraser welcomed all the new and returning members. He introduced the Board of Directors to the club. He also thanked the Board Members and other volunteers that have already been active with club activities so far this year.

2. Announcements

- a) Fred Schneider - Fraser Gibson announced the passing of Fred Schneider. Fred was a long-time member of the KWFN. He was very involved in conservation and was generous with access to his property. Sincere condolences to Jane Schneider and her family.
- b) Announcement Protocol – Fraser Gibson.
We plan to continue to use the efficient announcement procedure that has been used in the past. 1. Please let the president know you have an announcement at least 3 days in advance of the club meeting. 2. Announcements should be no more than 2 minutes in length. 2. If you are seeking volunteers, two clipboards should be used – one for each side of the room.
- c) Champion Tree Hunt – Phil Dickie.
Nominations close at the end of this month. November 29th is the award ceremony at the Huron Natural Area. There are a lot of last minute nominations coming in and if anyone would like to help verify the nominations, volunteers would be appreciated.
- d) Ontario Nature - Fraser Gibson
Fraser is selling Christmas cards again this year. The cards feature the Common Redpoll. Clipboards were passed around to order the cards. Cards will be available for pick up at the November meeting.
- e) KWFN Library – Mary Ann Vanden Elzen.
Now that the archives are with the Region of Waterloo Archives, Mary Ann asked the membership for ideas about what to do with the library. Suggestions included: selling the books for a low price, giving them out for free, silent auction, giving the books to a nature centre or Dr. offices. The committee will discuss and make a recommendation.
- f) Hidden Valley - Daphne Nichols
Daphne shared the location of Hidden Valley and the impact that the River Rd extension and development will have on this area. She asked that members contact their regional council to let them know that it matters. Also mentioned there is a Council meeting (Planning

and Works Committee) Tuesday Sept 27th at 1:00 that members can attend to make their voices heard. If you would like any more information about Hidden Valley contact Daphne.

- g)** Archives Committee - Fraser Gibson
There was an interesting article in *The Record* about the KWFN archives moving to the Region of Waterloo Archives. Six boxes of archives were moved, it wasn't a simple process and the process is still ongoing. Sincere thanks were offered to the committee for their hours of work and their continued work.
- h)** Baillie Birdathon Participants 2010 – Fraser Gibson.
The cheque for the 2010 season has now been received and Fraser thanked the Burrells, Holveys and Neil Taylor for their donations to the club.
- i)** Baillie Birdathon Participants 2011 - Fraser Gibson
Thanks to the Burrells and Neil Taylor for their participation in the Baillie Birdathon and the donation that will be received in the spring for their efforts.
- j)** Baillie Birdathon - Neil Taylor
Neil talked about his successful Baillie Birdathon this year, raising \$4035 and surpassing his goal. A portion of this money will come back to the club.
- k)** Hidden Valley - Neil Taylor
Neil will be making a presentation at the Council meeting tomorrow and was asking members to attend the meeting. He finally received data to review prior to the meeting.
- l)** Membership - Larry Hamel thanked Neil Taylor for his efforts with the Baillie Birdathon, the Jefferson Salamander and Hidden Valley. Larry asked the membership to please wear their name tags at each meeting. There are print-on name tags available for visitors and new members. A lot of membership forms have been received tonight. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a greeter at club meetings, contact Larry. He also reminded members that their copy of *The Heron* is available for pick-up at the back of the room. An update about electronic version of *The Heron* will be made available once information has been gathered from the membership forms.

3. New Members and First Time Visitors

Janet Ozaruk and Fraser Gibson welcomed 8 first-time visitors and/or new members to the meeting. A copy of *ON Nature* magazine and *The Heron* was given to each. Four of the visitors heard about the club from their colleague and club member John Priess, two visitors were friends of Mary Ann Vanden Elzen, one heard about the club by word of mouth and the other searched online to find the club.

3. Sightings – facilitated by Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

- Thema Beaubien had 16 different species of butterflies in her front yard. 2 of these were rare species – Giant Swallowtail and Fiery Skipper.
- Mary Ann Vanden Elzen – during snapping turtle monitoring helped 100 turtles to the pond that may not have made it otherwise.
- Neil Taylor – observed that there were 80-100 trees in Homer Watson park that have been damaged. Among these were Red Oak, Hemlock, Pine and Ash trees. He also had a turkey in his yard.
- One member saw Turkeys in Monarch Woods.
- John Priess – had three nests of turtles in his yard, the eggs were destroyed by kids. Ten painted turtles were helped out of another nest. Observed some interesting behaviour when a frog tried to eat a turtle and spit it out.
- Katharina Walton – in Monarch Woods observed 1000s of wooley beech aphids on the beech trees.
- one member has a friend that has a turkey roosting on her deck every night.
- Karen Buschert saw piping plovers and a sandpiper at Sauble Beach in July.
- on Randy Fowler's outing to Hawk Cliff he saw thousands of Broad-winged Hawks. Harriers, Bald Eagles and Kestrels were also seen.

4. Further Announcements

- a) Minutes from May 30, 2011 - Fraser Gibson invited members to look at the minutes for the May General meeting and the AGM and we would have a vote on them after the break.
- b) Field Guides - Fraser Gibson – field guides are for sale at the back of the room.

Break from 8:25 pm to 8:36 pm

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion: "That the minutes of the May 30, 2011 general meeting be accepted as printed."

Moved by: Micheal Frind. **Seconded by:** Ron Beaubien. **Carried.**

Motion "That the minutes of the May 30, 2011 AGM be accepted as printed."

Moved by: Will Prudam. **Seconded by:** Margaret McDonald. **Carried.**

One opposition (Neil Taylor)

6. Presentation – April Morrissey introduced Peter Kelly. His presentation topic was The Last Stand. A journey through the Ancient Cliff-face forest of the Niagara Escarpment.

April thanked Peter for his presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.