

**Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists –Minutes of Regular General Meeting
Monday, November 28, 2011
Municipal Wing-404 Building on Dutton Dr., Waterloo**

Call to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Welcome by Fraser Gibson.

2. Announcements

2.a. Champion Tree Hunt – Fraser Gibson

The announcement ceremony was held on Saturday, October 29th. There were 62 species named from 332 entries. If you are interested in reading about the results of the hunt, there are details on the Champion Tree Hunt website:
<https://sites.google.com/a/landscapeontario.com/champion-tree-hunt/>.

2.b. Ontario Nature – Card Sales – Fraser Gibson

Christmas cards and hasty notes that were ordered at the September meeting are available for pick-up at the back of the room. Thank-you for your support of Ontario Nature and KWFN, profits from the sale of these cards come back to the KWFN.

2.c. Christmas Potluck – April Morrissey

The Christmas potluck is December 12th at 6:00 p.m.. April passed around clipboards for volunteers to sign-up for this event.

2.d. Wood Duck nest box donation by Peter Bisset – Fraser Gibson, Marg Macdonald

Peter Bisset donated 2 Wood Duck boxes to the KWFN. Margaret Macdonald, the contact for the Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary committee accepted the boxes on behalf of the KWFN. Fraser thanked Peter for his generous donation of these boxes. They will be an excellent addition to our property and the wildlife living there.

2.e. Award Nominations – Fraser Gibson

Fraser reminded the membership that the deadline for nominations for the Conservation Award and the Honorary Life Membership Award is December 15th. More information about these awards can be found in this month's *Heron*.

2.f. Heron Editor – Fraser Gibson

Thelma Beaubien has volunteered to be the new editor for our newsletter, *The Heron*. She and Deb Fowler will be working on a transition plan for Thelma to take over for the September 2012 edition.

2.g. Christmas Bird Count and Calendars – Jim Burrell

The 6th annual Linwood Christmas Bird Count is on January 2nd. For more information contact Mike Burrell.

Jim has a few 2012 bird calendars for sale at the back of the room.

2.h. CBC Bird Count – Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

The annual Cambridge Christmas Bird Count is on December 18th. For more information about this event, contact Levi Moore.

2.i. Membership – Larry Hamel

- Larry provided an update of the membership status for the 2011-2012 year. We have 14 new members so far this year. Renewal notices have been sent out to members that haven't renewed their membership.
- Downloading newsletter – Beginning with the February newsletter, if you indicated on your membership form that you prefer to download a copy of *The Heron* from the website, a paper copy will no longer be available for you at the general meeting. If you don't remember which option you chose or you would like to switch your option, please see Larry at the break. For the downloaders, the newsletter will be available on the website the Thursday before the club meeting and Larry will also send out an email to these members once the newsletter has been added to the website.
- **Website updates:**
 - You can share sightings on the website.
 - The website will now have copies of the minutes of the club meetings. These will be available after the general meeting at which the minutes are approved.
 - Some feedback has been received about starting a sharing/library page on the website. If you see a need for this, please contact Larry.
 - Larry also mentioned some interesting website statistics. We have people visiting our website from all over the world.

2.j. Fee increase – Fraser Gibson

Fraser let the membership know that the board is currently reviewing and dealing with a new rental fee schedule. Over the next 5 years the cost of renting this room will increase substantially. We are currently paying approximately \$322/year for the rental. In 2015, the rental fee will be approximately \$1340/year. As a result of this increase, there may be a need to adjust our membership fee structure at some time in the future.

2.k. OMAFRA grasses – Fraser Gibson

A postdoctoral researcher at the University of Guelph is looking at the ecology of some of the grass species under discussion/development for biofuels crops. They are looking for naturalized populations of *Miscanthus sinensis* or *sacchariflorus*, as well as weedy/invasive populations of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) in Ontario. If you are familiar with any populations of these species please contact Fraser for further information.

2.l. Daphne Nichols had some coupons from the Region of Waterloo for Green bin bags. She also shared ideas for making origami green bin liners from newspaper and mentioned putting organics into the freezer until garbage day to cut down on smell.

3. New Members and First Time Visitors - Janet Ozaruk and Fraser Gibson

Fraser Gibson and Janet Ozaruk welcomed first time visitors and/or new members to the meeting. A copy of *ON Nature* magazine and *The Heron* was given to each. One visitor was a friend of Jim Burrell. Three of the

visitors were from other naturalists clubs (Kingston and Guelph). One of the new members is returning after a 20 year absence and joined with his son.

4. Sightings – facilitated by Elaine LaRonde

- Larry and Judy Hamel – their neighbour spotted 2 deer on Larry's lawn in the middle of the night
- John Priess – Tundra Swans, Snowy Owl
- Mary Ann Vanden Elzen and Robert Bezeau – near Woodstock saw more than 10,000 crows. They were all over the fields, trees and the horizon was covered with them
- One member saw 8 male turkeys at Hidden Valley
- Julian Greer – at Coote's Paradise saw Nelson's sparrow, Godwits and many different shorebirds.
- Neil Taylor – saw pine siskins, wild turkeys and American Tree Sparrows
- Helga Hartman – 30 tundra swans were seen by her neighbour
- Jim Burrell – when he was in Niagara, he saw midges and moths; at Conestogo River, near Hawksville he saw the Red-shouldered hawk that has been coming back for 9 years.
- Elaine La Ronde– there were 30 gold finches at her sister's feeder in Sault Ste. Marie.

5. Further Announcements

- 5.a.** Minutes from October 24, 2011 - Fraser Gibson invited members to look at the minutes for the October General meeting to be approved after the break.
- 5.b.** Field Guides - Fraser Gibson – Field guides are for sale at the back of the room from Jim Cappleman.

Break from 8:20 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion: "That the minutes of the October 24, 2011 General Meeting be accepted as printed."

Moved by Michael Frind, seconded by Neil Taylor. Carried

7. Presentation – April Morrissey introduced Else Poulsen, who gave a presentation on her insights about bears and their lives.

April thanked Else for her presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m..