

Sault Naturalists Executive Meeting
April 9, 2009 - 7:00 pm
Civic Centre, Sault Ste. Marie Ontario

Attendance: Jeanne Mannesto, John Lehman, Helen Hutchinson,
Gail Andrew, Harvey Robbins, Robert D. Cohen, Dave Euler, Don Hall, Valerie Walker

1. Approval of the minutes from the February 5, 2009 meeting

Move to accept minutes Robert, 2nd Jeanne

2. Business arising from the minutes from the February 5, 2009 meeting:

A \$100 Sault Naturalist Research Merit Award was made to LSSU biological science student Peter Belleau for his senior research project, in which he developed a new method of analysis for a thiamine-degrading enzyme that is associated with early mortality syndrome in salmon fry. Three Sault Naturalists, John Lehman, Leslie Askwith and Valerie Walker acted as judges on April 3 for this annual award.

The Club donated \$100 to the Rotary Club to sponsor the Gary Rahn Natural History award at the recent Rotary Science Fair and two \$50 awards were presented by Gary's brother Larry Rahn in this category

The Breeding Bird Atlas (with book plate affixed) was delivered to the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library (main branch) by Val

3. New Business:

1. Treasurer's Report for April 9, 2009:

CIBC Operating Account (\$CND)	\$3638.52	Total
General Funds	\$2311.57	
Platform Project	\$1326.95	
Huntington Bank (\$US)	\$1614.28	
GIC's (\$CND)	\$3744.16	Nov 20/09
	\$2156.76	June 15/09

2. Program Report – John L

Programs set up well into next year.

A travel allowance was discussed for Karen Brzys (program in October).

John moves to offer Karen \$100 in car fare, 2nd by Helen. Carried.

Action: John to offer Karen a \$100 (US) travel allowance

Harvey requested a date for a program “Birds of Mazatlan”

Action: Harvey will provide a program write up to John

3. Outings Schedule - Val

Schedule is near completion.

Outings & Programs to be mail out together in mid April.

Action: Val will canvas general meeting April 14 for interest in Manitoulin Island outing.

4. Membership Report - Harvey

136 Total: 33 US; 103 Canadian

Category	#
Individual	63
Family	45
Life memberships	10
Student	2
Complimentary	8
Complimentary Family	3
Complimentary Life Group	5
Total	136

Memberships in arrears **42**

Lapsed members will be given an email reminder to renew before being removed from the membership list

Action: Harvey to prepare an e-mail and mail out reminders for release in late May

5. Insurance for Club Members in Michigan – John

John provided a quote from JMWilson insurance broker to buy a policy for Michigan outings. Insurance premium would be \$565.59/yr (excluding terrorism). The executive members generally agreed that Club members are vulnerable to a law suit if somebody is injured on an outing in Michigan.

There is a cost to go to court if a law suit is launched and certainly a cost if the Club is found negligent. The Executive generally agreed that an insurance policy for our Michigan outings is important and is a good idea.

Jeanne moved that the Club purchase liability insurance for Michigan outings and John will continue his search for a competitively priced carrier. 2nd by Harvey. Carried.

Action: John will continue to research costs for liability insurance

6. Signs for Viewing Platforms

The Sault Naturalists now have 6 viewing platforms (2 Pumpkin Point, 1 Bellevue Park, 1 Whitefish Island, 2 Echo Bay) that we have sponsored and/or built.

Dave suggests that Aja & Graham be commissioned to design metal signs approximately 15X25" to be placed at each of these platforms

Robert moves that after Gail determines the wording requirements for each of the signs that Aja & Graham be asked to design the signs and prepare a quote for their services. 2nd by John. Carried.

Action: Gail to determine the wording requirements for each of the 6 signs

Action: Helen to ask Aja & Graham to submit a quote to design the signs

7. LCD Projector

Is it time to buy a LCD projector (~\$500) for the club?

Jeanne moved that the Club to buy LCD projector. 2nd by Harvey. Carried.

Action: Val to get LCD projector for Tuesday April 14's general meeting

Action: Jeanne & John to get quote for LCD projector, Harvey to check on Canadian side for prices.

Note: Harvey's research as of April 13:

*Epson EX30 projector 800-600HD 2200 lumens, with longer life bulb **\$729** (not including 13% tax) @ Staples & Future shop*

*Benq projector MP51 2200 lumens, shorter life bulb **\$636** (not including 13% tax) @ Future Shop*

(recommendation is that projector should not have less than 2200 lumens)

8. Ed Czerwinski's SSM Birding Guide List and SSM Bird Check List

Action: Don will scan and reformat Ed's Birding Guide for SSM and post on the Soo Nats wiki as a PDF (we have his permission to do so)

The SSM Bird Check List needs updating. Birder hot line nonexistence now, bird names have changed, new birds need to be added

Action: Dave to ask Tony to take updating the SSM Bird Check List on as a project

9. Healthy Great Lakes Public Meeting

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs are inviting input into the Visions, Goals and Strategies for the 'Healthy Great Lakes, Strong Ontario' discussion paper. Dave asked for volunteers to attend the Lake Superior meeting on April 21. There were no volunteers.

10. Environment Film Festival

Bill Howe, a teacher at St. Mary's, is involved in an Environmental Film Festival. Bob McDonald from the CBC will be the keynote speaker. He is inviting Soo Nats to have an exhibit/display at the Galaxy in Station Mall April 30 – May 02

Action: Dave to call Bill to get more information

Action: Gail to determine photo size of platform/birders, Val to print

Action: Don to produce copy of Fort Creek Inventory

Action: Robert to loan a copy of Breeding Bird Atlas for display

Action: Harvey, Robert, Val to volunteer at Env Film Fest display

11. Fisheries Management Zone 10 – Lake Trout Strategies

The Ministry of Natural Resources is looking for public input into the proposed changes to the lake trout fishing regulations. A brochure has been produced which contains facts and information on lake trout as well as proposed changes to catch & possession limits, changes to the open season and an introduction of a maximum size limit. All changes are designed to reduce the harvest of lake trout to a sustainable limit and to further protect those 36 lakes designated as recovery lakes for lake trout.

Action: Harvey to draft a response to the proposed changes to the lake trout fishing regulations that can use as a starting point to formulate a unified Club response.

Action: Val to place info on FMZ10 Lake Trout Strategies on the wiki and distribute Fact Sheet at next General Meeting

Meeting adjourned @ 9:10 pm, Next meeting May 7, 2009

Valerie Walker, acting secretary