

2007 Annual Report for South Shore Wildlife Association

Bridgewater, NS

Our club entertained another active year in 2007. We continue to meet monthly 11 times a year, and to send minutes and information to members after each meeting. The long gun registry is still a main concern for us, although there was minimal activity in 2007.

The following are highlights of club activities throughout the year:

NSFAH Convention: SSWA was represented by two voting members at the Annual Convention in March at the Bridgewater Wandlyn. In addition, one other member chaired one of the committees, and another attended various activities over two days.

Earth Day Clean-up: Rain date, April 22 we did the same stretch of roadway as for the past number of years, collecting approx. 15 garbage bags full of normal trash, plus various other objects.

Big Brothers Fishing Derby: In May we entertained Big Brothers/Big Sisters again at the MARC Recreation area in Dayspring, hosting another successful fishing outing for the excited young people. A total of 80 trout, the largest being 14 1/4", was caught by those in attendance, assisted by SSWA members. All fish were cleaned and bagged for the 'littles'. SSWA supplied the rods and gear, bait, food and refreshments, and at the end of the outing presented each attendee with a certificate, a key chain flashlight, and a brand new fishing rod and reel ready to use. This event remains their most popular outing – probably ours as well. In appreciation, Big Brothers presented us with a lovely engraved plaque recognizing our efforts.

Michelin Health and Safety Fair: Two members manned a booth for our club on June 16 where we displayed information, and passed out leaflets on safety in the outdoors. Topics included West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, Wood/Deer Ticks and Protection from the Sun. This is a public event and provides good exposure for our club to a lot of people, as well as an opportunity for us to show some community involvement.

Giant Flea Market: July 07 saw us hosting our annual fund raising market at the Michelin Social Club. A good turnout of vendors and buyers saw us profit \$311.25 in 4 hours.

Club Parade Float: The best way to expose and promote any club to thousands of people is through a club float. We entered our largest display yet in three parades during July and August. Two trucks, one hauling a trailer, were outfitted to present hunting, fishing, and the good old days, all from a humorous viewpoint. Our club name was well displayed in several places. Much applause and laughter accompanied us in all 3 parades. SSWA was rewarded with a first place recognition in each of the parades held in Bridgewater, Mahone Bay, and Western Shore.

Nascar Final Race Event: Another annual fund raiser at the Michelin Social Club, although perhaps the final one, was hosted in November. A smaller crowd than usual didn't deter the excitement. Door prizes, refreshments, camaraderie, and a large screen TV make this a popular event. This fund raiser netted us \$330.00 (Between the Flea Market and the Nascar Event SSWA has netted \$4400 over the last 6 years.)

SSWA was represented at both the Trappers Summer Rendezvous in August at Hibernia, and the Open Bible Church Skeet Shoot in Sept. in Newcombville.

This year SSWA issued letters to the following:

Minister David Morse with concerns to changes to the trapping regulations.

Minister Michael Baker with requirements for deer crossing signs.

Town of Bridgewater with concerns of unsightly premises (littering)

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg with concerns of pond conditions at the MARC.

Our club offered pending labor to both Spruce Cove Rehab Center, and to Community Services Focus Group, to assist in upgrades to habitat areas. We also offered to club members to cover the cost for two attendees to the BOW program. We held a crossword puzzle contest for members early in the year, and tried to organize a “fun day” for the club. We held several ticket draws as fund raisers and were pleased to have sold one of the two winning License of a Lifetime Lottery tickets. We entertained local DNR officials at our April meeting, and also Tony Nette at our December meeting, to allow members an open discussion to air their concerns.

SSWA donated prizes for the Federation Convention auction in March, and purchased 2 tickets to the Federation Banquet in addition to donating prizes again for that auction fundraiser in Sept. We also donated to the Italy Cross Fire Dept. fishing derby again this year, and issued an honorary membership and club hat to Ruby Bower of Shelburne County, the delightful 91year young senior citizen who collected a 6 point buck in the 2006 hunting season. The hat was presented in person.

Despite the normal expected loss of a few members each year, our membership enjoyed a slow but steady climb, approaching 140 at one point. We are sad to report the death of two members this past year, but are proud to have known them and thank them for their individual values.

In closing, I would like take a moment to remind all clubs of the importance of staying active and visible within respective communities. Instead of slowly giving ground each year, perhaps we should be trying harder to keep pace with the changing mentalities and acceptance levels of today’s cultures. Yes, it does take some time and effort - but will we survive if we refuse to try? SSWA works hard at promoting a positive image for our wildlife organizations, through community involvement and through expressing general concerns regarding our heritage, our sports, and our environment. SSWA has been recognized through two community websites - South Shore Now, and Be Well Connected, as a contact group for these issues. Respect works in both directions, and having a healthy relationship within your area goes a long way towards acceptance in today’s society. Visibility and involvement can in turn attract new members - it’s a win/win situation.

Finally, I wish to thank almost all members for staying on board. I especially thank those members who are the driving engine of our group and allow us to accomplish all that we do. In any group members are important, but active members are vital.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen M. Joudrey – President
South Shore Wildlife Association
Bridgewater, NS