

2009 Annual Report

South Shore Wildlife Association

We started our year with a crossword puzzle contest for our membership, and continued throughout the year involved with many different projects pertaining to our interests, be it involved in community events, assistance to government departments, or attempts to make improvements to our environment.

The following report outlines the activities of our club throughout 2009:

- Annual NSFAH Convention: In March we were once again represented in Bridgewater by two voting delegates while a third member attended much of the activities throughout Saturday's agenda. Full reports were submitted to our club, which in turn were passed on to our membership through our monthly minutes.

-Fundraising:

- Ticket raffle in June for cash prizes
- Ticket raffle in December for seafood prizes
- Two Chinese auctions
- Toonie 50/50 draw at each meeting
- Hosted a giant flea market in July
- Hosted a music variety concert in April

-Donations:

- SSWA hat, shirt and membership to a Fire Dept. fishing derby
- SSWA hat and shirt to NSFAH March Convention
- \$100 worth of deer meat processing or groceries for the food bank
- Purchased two tickets to NSFAH banquet fundraiser

-Community Involvement: - Big Brother's Fishing Derby we hosted in May where 16 young people caught 86 trout, almost a repeat of last year. These were cleaned and bagged by our members and stored on ice. Once again we treated them to a healthy lunch and each participant was presented with a club certificate, a Canada pen, and a camo hat. This event remains their most popular outing.

- Earth Day Cleanup on April 22'nd. Another annual event where we clean the same stretch of highway. There is never a shortage of trash, as once again we collected 16 bags full within a couple of hours.

- Michelin Health and Safety Fair on June 20'th. This annual event gives us a chance to dispense info to the public on things to be aware of in our outdoors. These include the poison plants, wood and deer ticks and associated lyme disease, sunburn, West Nile Virus, insect bites and stings, and the hug-a-tree program for children.

- Club Float in local Parades - We entertained the crowds in two parades with our float depicting a humorous side of Lunenburg area's problem with deer and ticks. Once again we received a 1'st place trophy from one of the parades.

-Big Brothers fall Outing in October where we hosted a group of "littles" and mentors to a day in the outdoors. Activities included a nature hike where they got to look for various shapes and colors, games, discussion on the hug-a-tree program at which time info on the outdoor hazards was handed out to all, camp fire instruction, and a good old fashioned hot dog and smores roast to end the day. This will become an annual event for us as it was a big hit with the Big Brothers organization.

-Big Brother's Curling Bonspiel in November where we were invited to enter a four member team. Each team was asked to procure a minimum of \$300 sponsorship donations. Due to timing and space limitations only two members were able to take part but those members contributed \$240 alone. All money raised goes to help sponsor the Big Brothers programs throughout the year.

- Guest Speakers: - In April we invited newly appointed Minister of DNR Carolyn Bolivar Getson to our meeting to discuss local wildlife issues. Also attending this meeting was large mammal biologist Tony Nette from DNR.

- Government Dept. Assistance: 1/ South Shore Wildlife Association attempted to co-host, in April, one of the Mainland Moose Recovery presentations put on by the DNR. Unfortunately, despite advertising, there was insufficient turnout that day in Bridgewater so it was not presented.

2/ In late April/early May our club, along with Lunenburg County Wildlife, took part in the first Zone 2A Roadside Deer Survey for Tony Nette of DNR. This involved organizing 26 teams to drive the majority of the roads within 2A on certain evenings and record various data, in particular the number of deer seen.

3/ In June we were invited and were represented by two members at a special Public Land Protection meeting organized by the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg to discuss concerns over the future of public land in the Municipality.

4/ In late October, and at the last minute, our club was contacted to ask for assistance in obtaining blood samples from deer to do a study of the new EEE virus which caused the death of a couple of local horses. Robbin Lindsay, a research scientist from the National Microbiology Laboratory, Public Health Agency of Canada out of Winnipeg needed the samples to check for any spread of this virus. Test packets were delivered to us days prior to the two stations set up for this in Lun. Co. receiving theirs. We distributed dozens of these to our members. I met with Robbin during his 5 day stop here and offered our assistance with future studies should they be required for EEE, or Lyme disease.

Other Activities 1/We again took part in the Trapper's Summer Rendezvous in August with our youth BB Gun Shoot booth which is always very popular.

2/ We pushed for and have offered assistance through email to the Lahave River Salmon Association to make major improvements to the ponds at the Recreational Center where our fishing derbies are held each spring.

3/ We have applied for training to Inland Fisheries to become instructors for their Learn-2-Fish program and are on a waiting list at this point.

4/ In March we established our first Migratory Waterfowl Committee to work with concerned clubs and Government in an effort to become better aware and more involved with the management, control and regulations concerning these birds.

5/ We have started the wheels rolling on an anti-littering campaign to have signs made and posted at various fishing and public sites, etc. where litter spoils the natural beauty and is a major concern. We have spoken to the Program Coordinator for the Dept. of Environment for info and direction. Signs to be ready for the start of fishing season next spring.

Our club continues to inform all members of our activities and other items of concern through monthly mailed out minutes of our meetings. Despite the loss of several members SSWA continued a steady increase in membership through 2009.

Respectfully submitted
Stephen Joudrey – President
South Shore Wildlife Association
Bridgewater, NS