

‘South Shore Wildlife Association’

2010 Annual Report

2010 became yet another eventful year for our organization. October saw the beginning of my 13th year in this role, so in an attempt to prevent boredom and stagnancy we continually try to introduce new members, new ideas, and new suggestions throughout the year.

The following is a list of our activities for the past year:

**** NSFAH: Annual Convention**; Two resolutions were submitted, and two voting delegates represented us once again. Reports were reviewed at our April meeting, and info was sent out to the membership.

Roadside Deer Survey; SSWA took part for a second year with driving hundreds of kms of roads to log information on deer sightings, distances driven, weather, etc. to assist DNR’s efforts in monitoring Zone 2A’s over populated deer herd. Data was again forwarded to DNR.

Dinner and Auction; We were well represented with 6 members in attendance at the Sept. fundraiser. All had a great time, and some of us left money behind as well.

**** Community Involvement: - Earth Day Cleanup** on April 21st. For the 8th consecutive year SSWA members took part in this annual attempt to help our environment. We once again collected 16 large Earth Day bags of man made refuse along the same section of roadway we clean each year. This is a strong indication that the littering mentality is alive and well.

Big Brother’s Fishing Derby An annual highlight for us. On May 01 we hosted 20 “littles” along with their ‘big’s’ and staff members in another very successful trout fishing outing. SSWA supplied rods, gear and bait, gave instructions and assistance to all in need, cleaned the fish, and bagged and stored them until the event ended. We provided a lunch of sandwiches, fruit and veggie trays, cookies and hot and cold beverages. This year we even fried a few fish to allow some folks to have their first taste of fresh trout. This event remains their favorite outing.

Special Needs Fishing Derby: As a direct result from the Big Brothers derby, we were asked to host another fishing outing for Community Services Support Group. This took place on May 19th and turned out to be our favorite derby ever. Twenty ‘special needs’ individuals, along with 5 administrative care givers spent a very enjoyable day reeling in trout, 3 over 15” long. SSWA arranged the pond stocking, policed it from local anglers, supplied rods, bait and gear, bagged and stored the catches, provided lots of assistance to some of the anglers, and presented prizes at the end. By the end of the day we were asked to plan on another one in 2011. Many pictures were taken by us, and a full set of prints including group photos was presented to CSSG later.

Michelin Health and Safety Fair in June allowed us to again host a booth pertaining to safety in the outdoors. We try to make the public more aware of the dangers pertaining to insects, animals, poisonous plants, and even the sun. Info is available on hand outs for a variety of topics such as West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, insect bites, sunburn, coyotes, hug-a-tree program for kids, etc.

Club Float Our club did two floats this year. The first was for New Germany Canada Day Parade and was a remake of the giant tick trap theme from 2009’s efforts. It went over very well. The second float was constructed on a humorous note to suit the Bridgewater’s Big Ex theme of ‘remembering our heritage.’ The crowd loved it as there was much laughter and applause. It was good enough to take first place in our category for a prize of \$200. The big surprise however was to win ‘best overall float’ accompanied by a plaque and another check for \$100. There can be no better way to promote our associations. Thousands of people view and appreciate our efforts.

Anti-Littering Campaign: SSWA worked with the Dept. of Environment early in 2010 to promote an anti-littering campaign in some of our outdoor recreational areas. We designed and purchased a total of 25 weather resistant signs to post in hunting/fishing/recreational areas notorious for litter – litter from our ‘recreational sportsmen’ ! The theme was “if you trucked it in, truck it back out!” Many thanks to DOE who paid for the signs. This trial effort may be extended next spring as well and may be something other clubs could be interested in.

**** Guest Speakers:** - In April Gary and Annette Mader gave an excellent presentation on coyotes and trapping techniques, including various examples of pelts and equipment.
- At June’s meeting Dept. of Fisheries reps Terry Matherson and Mathew Fraser spoke to us for 2 hrs and answered questions from the floor on a multitude of topics.
- In Sept. special guests Sarah Spencer and Mike O’Brien from DNR addressed our concerns and questions regarding various wildlife issues, including the roadside deer survey project.
- Invited back for our Oct. meeting, Mathew Fraser from DFO continued the Q and A session which ran short in June. He included a lot of interesting info on DFO’s role in enforcement.

**** Fundraising/Donations:** - In addition to annual membership dues, we held two ticket raffle draws this year. We also hosted our annual giant flea market in July. This was our most successful yet with approx. 500 people coming through the doors for the 4 hr event. Although it’s a fair bit of work organizing, setting up, and tearing down it is worth it as SSWA cleared over \$1200 this time.

For donations, in addition to the items listed under NSFAH, the following apply:

- We donated \$100 to the ‘Bruce Montague Scrap C-68 Fund’ to aid Bruce in his legal battle in challenging his charges under the C-68 law, and to help our cause in fighting the long gun registry.
- We donated \$50 to Bonnie Lea Farm.
- We donated \$200 to the Bridgewater Food Bank through Sobeys.
- SSWA sponsored a youth to the Junior Guides Camp this year in Hibernia.
- In Jan. we offered to cover the costs for 2 members to attend the winter BOW program - unfortunately there were no takers this time but we’ll extend the invitation into 2011.

**** Other Activities** 1/Our Migratory Waterfowl Committee continue in their efforts to stay current with federal activity.

2/ In July five members took part in the Learn-2-Fish training provided by Tara Marshall of Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture. We are potentially scheduled to instruct in some local schools next spring.

3/ In August we again hosted a successful pellet gun shooting booth at the Trapper’s Rendezvous held in Hibernia.

4/ We attempted to host our second Big Brother’s fall outing in Sept. but unfortunately after several attempts BB had to cancel. All of us were disappointed, but we definitely plan on scheduling one well in advance for 2011.

Our club continues to meet monthly, and to send meeting minutes to all members so they know their club’s activities. Membership saw a slow but steady climb to the point of approaching 200 by yearend. Thanks to those members who faithfully attend our meetings; extra thanks to those who contribute to our efforts be it through donations, ticket sales, or help in a variety of ways; and special thanks to Eugene and Greg who carry much of the load in all that we do.

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