



South Shore Wildlife Association

1632 Camperdown Rd.,
Camperdown, N.S.
B4V 6S5

Date: April 16, 2012

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| <p><u>In Attendance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Joudrey Eugene Herman • Otis Scott Linda Joudrey • Barry Kelley Lawrence Baltzer • Doug Joudrey Ronnie Johnstone • Gary Mader Annette Mader • Ron Thompson Greg Himmelman • Dr. Reg Archibald | <p><u>50/50 Tonnie Draw</u></p> <p>Gary Mader \$13.00</p> <p><u>Door Prizes:</u> Greg H. – Hat Reg A. – Bass lure spray Ron T. - Penlite</p> | <p><u>Executive Phone List:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Joudrey (President) 543-9891 • Eugene Herman (Sec/Treas) 543-2893 <p><u>Email :</u> sellherman60@hotmail.ca</p> <p><u>Web-Site:</u> sswa.chebucto.org</p> |
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Stephen opened the meeting at 7:09 pm, Eugene read the March minutes and moved for adoption as read - seconded by Doug J.

Long Gun Registry: No further news as to when the records will be destroyed, probably well into the summer at earliest. We are patiently waiting to finally remove C-68 from our agenda once and for all. It has been a long uphill battle!!!

Old Business:

- Stephen has still has not received a response to SSWA's offer to help the Young Naturalists Club in September.
- Our spring raffle tickets are being sold. Draw will be at the June 11'th meeting. Tickets \$1 or three for \$2. Four prizes are \$100, \$75, \$50, and \$25.
- Food Bank: Gift cards for \$50 each along with a letter have been delivered to each of the three food banks we had discussed previously.
- Still no action with the Youth Trapping and Hunting Camp reimbursement of 2 local participants. Stephen will try to get contact info for the 2 we selected.
- Earth Day cleanup: Stephen wrote a letter after our last meeting on behalf of SSWA and mailed it to: local MLA's Pam Birdsall and Gary Ramey, Municipality of Lunenburg Mayor Don Down and Town of Bridgewater Mayor Carroll Publicover, addressing our concerns over the futile annual efforts of roadside cleaning instead of battling the causes of the problem. It was noted that we would probably not be doing our annual clean-up this year to emphasize our stand. All recipients were asked what steps are or will be taken to help reduce littering, be it through signage, fines, education, etc. We will report any feedback in next month's minutes. The letter was also forwarded to Vernon Oickle, editor of the Progress Bulletin. Stephen followed up

with a phone call to Mr. Oickle to explain our position and to request support from him through an article in the paper. Little response had been received before this meeting. Therefore Lawrence moved, seconded by Gary, that because we didn't receive many acknowledgements SSWA should not participate in the Earth Day cleanup on Logan Rd. and we should write a letter to the newspapers highlighting the lack of political response, mentioning that for the first time since 2000 SSWA did not clean a designated stretch of highway and that unless we see some action of prevention, we will not be cleaning the roadsides in the future. Motion passed 12-1. The one who voted against felt that by us not doing the cleanup we are hurting the environment. We then explained that we would probably do different individual sections of highways that we haven't normally cleaned in the past in our own neighborhoods instead of Logan Rd.

- Roadside deer survey: Until now nobody from DNR has contacted SSWA about doing the survey this year. With the retirement of Tony Nette, and the resignation of Sarah Spencer, the survey priority may well be forgotten for now. If we're asked to do this survey again, Stephen & Eugene will contact each of you who took part before. If we're not contacted by DNR in Kentville then neither will you be.
- Hats have been ordered but they've been delayed. They should arrive by Friday April 20th.

Correspondence/Info:

* Eugene has been in communication with Kevin Benjamin, Off Highway Consultant, Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Division, about the need to have proof of registration of ATV/OHVs previous to 2007. Here are the questions with Kevin's answers:

Q. Is it necessary to obtain this letter for proof from N.S. Motor Vehicles branch or would it be acceptable to carry a copy of the Certificate of Registration from when the vehicle was purchased?

A. No, it is not necessary to obtain this letter from the Registry of Motor Vehicles. What is needed is proof that the operator has owned and registered an OHV prior to Sept 2007. If you have a copy of an annual vehicle permit showing ownership and registration prior to that date then everything should be fine.

Q. Is there a fine for not carrying this letter or some other proof of ownership previous to 2007?

A. What we are talking about here is proving that the individual may be exempt from having to take the ATV Safety Training course. As of April 1, 2012 everyone who is not exempt is required to have the course. For info go to:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/ohvsafitt.htm>

The fine for a first offence for not meeting this requirement is \$399.91.

Q. Does this rule apply to snowmobiles and watercraft such as seadoos also as they are all OHVs?

A. It applies to Snowmobiles and off road motorcycles, mini bike or dune buggies but Seadoos and other watercraft are under different legislation.

This is because anyone who did have a registered OHV previous to 2007 has been grandfathered from being required to take the safe driving course that became compulsory April 1, 2012. Failure to provide this proof is subject to the fine mentioned above.

We had other questions as a result of this discussion: "If you have had the safe driving Course in another province and move to N.S., does this meet the proof required?" Also "How much does the course cost?" Responses will be printed next month.

* There have been many wood tick and deer tick findings recently in many parts of N.S. Eugene reported finding several on their cats and that has never happened before. Exercise diligence in checking your pets. The deer ticks are very, very small!

* Stephen and Linda visited our faithful SSWA honorary senior member in Lower Ohio on March 25'th to help celebrate her 96th birthday. "*Happy Birthday Ruby Bower!*" They presented her with flowers and a hunter orange hat from SSWA, and personal goodies such as home made deer sausage and mincemeat, blackberry jelly and some of Stephen's maple syrup.

Treasury Report: After issuing checks for postage, UPS store contract for photocopies, N.S. Registry of Joint Stock Companies, food donated to NSFA&H Convention and a donation to The Canadian Firearms Institute, we have a balance of \$2896.96.

Waterfowl Committee Report: No members in attendance

New Business:

- Annette gave a report written by her and Gary on the Annual NSFA&H Convention held in Bridgewater in March. Well done guys! (See last two pages of these minutes.)
- Eugene gave Greg \$30.40 in Canadian Tire money & gift certificates to purchase new line for the fishing rods before the BB/BS Fishing Event. (The money was donated to Barry K. some time ago by someone who felt SSWA does a great job working with these kids.) Stephen and Greg will also purchase a few closed faced reels to replace some of the open faced ones we have. Most of the kids find it easier to cast using closed faced reels and they tend to tangle less often.
- Eugene volunteered to look after our display at the Michelin Health and Safety Fair this year on June 16'th.

Dates to Remember:

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| BBrothers / BSisters Fishing Event | May 5 th 9:00 rain date 12 th |
| Community Services Fishing Event | May 16 th |
| Bridgewater Grade 3 Fishing Event | May 17'th |
| SSWA Raffle Ticket draw | June 11 th |
| Michelin Health & Safety Fair | June 16 th |
| Giant Flea Market at Michelin Social Club | July 21'st |

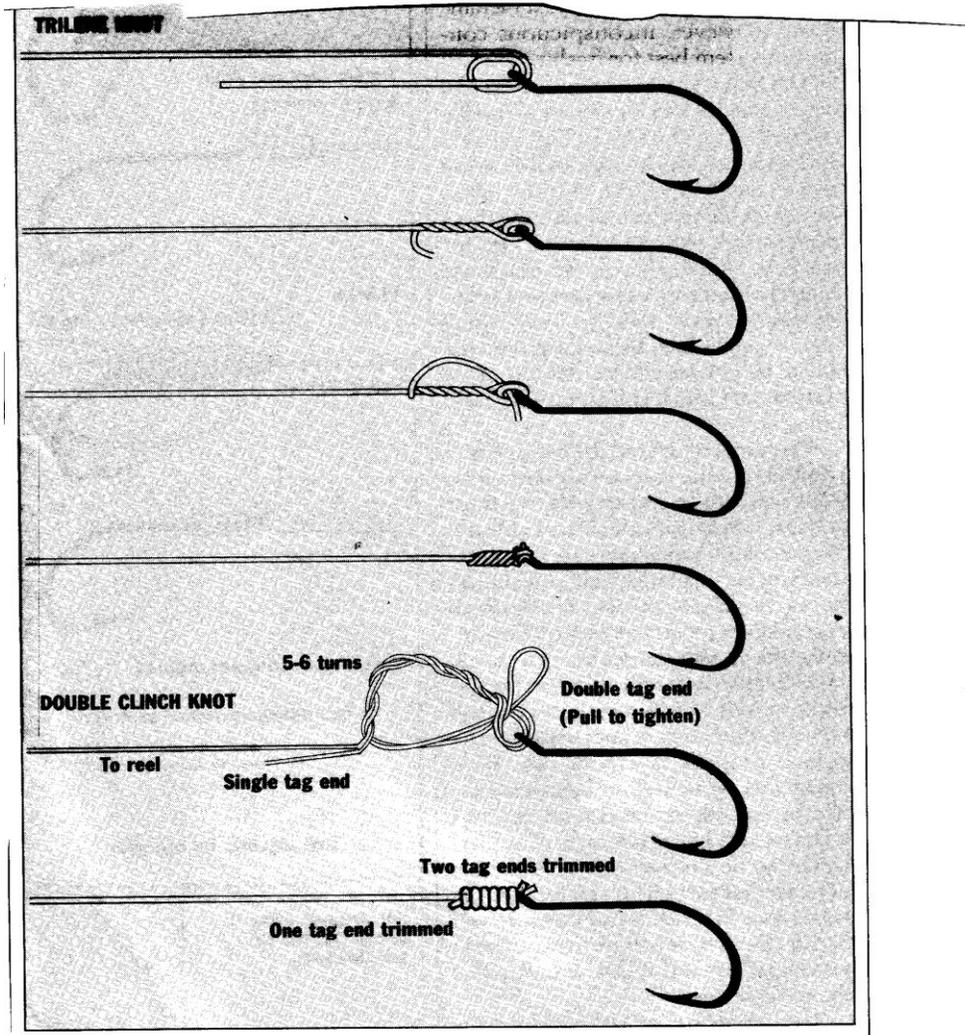
NEXT MEETING **May 14th** at 7:00pm in Sobey's Store meeting room – back left corner by the washrooms and up the steps, or use the elevator (key required from front desk). Meetings are open to all members and friends and are scheduled for Mondays: June 11th, July 16th, Aug. 13th, Sept. 10th, Oct. 15th and Dec. 10th. **MARK THE DATES!**

For Sale: 12 ft. Princecraft aluminum boat with deep sides, like new, along with a factory trailer for it. Also a 15hp Evinrude motor, either included with boat or separate. All in excellent condition! Call 543-1822 after May 9th.

Smile of the Day - What is orange and sounds like a parrot? A carrot.

Thought of the Day – The very best time to give advice is when it is asked for.

I Believe: - That no credentials on a wall can make you a decent human being.



NSFAH 2012 Annual Convention Report

The convention was held again this year at the Bridgewater Days Inn March 23-25th. As usual Gary and I enjoyed it and found it very informative and hope to share what we learned with the members. There was a big discussion on invasive species and maybe one solution would be to ban live bait. They are experimenting with using barriers to keep the invasive species out by using bubbles, acoustics, electronics, strobe lights, explosives, biological, environmental (draining lakes where there is a problem), and chemicals which seem to be most effective but may not be best for the environment.

There is a University student who is tracking sea run brook trout in Antigonish Bay. He has been catching and tagging the fish to see where they go and when. He has sunk some computers into the Bay and uses them to track the fish. What he has found out so far is most of the fish stay in the harbor most of the time within several hundred meters of where he first encountered them, but sometimes makes a dash out to the sea but always return to the same area.

Proposed changes to the Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations for the 2012-2013 seasons are as follows: Barrows Golden Eye, the possession limit is for one bird only. It is proposed to limit the current restriction to farmland hunting only during the September goose season. Under existing regulations, hunters are allowed to possess six additional Canada geese harvested during the period for which early (September) goose seasons are open. At midnight on the last day of the early season, the possession of these six extra birds is no longer allowed. In Zones 2 and 3 it is proposed to delay the opening date by two weeks for some ducks that will be listed in the rulebook. A notice of intent is given that further consideration may be given to a proposal to increase possession limits to three times the daily bag limit for selected species of migratory game birds. Studies will be done in 2012 to determine the appropriateness of this action. There is some talk of a Cormorant cull in the near future.

There are wild turkeys in all fifty states and every province in Canada except Nova Scotia and PEI. The Turkey Federation is still trying to work with the NS government to have them legally introduced to NS. There have been 100 spots across NS that have been identified where up to 300 turkeys can be released at one time. One of the arguments against this from the Agricultural community has been that they will eat crops including blueberries. It has been proven that they eat the bugs on the blueberries which should be a good thing. It would take five years after a legal release for hunters to have a season open.

A Marine license has been discussed for a number of years. There is not going to be one for now but some think it would be a good thing so there could be a count of how many fish are taken and how big the fishery is. If there would be a Marine License it would not include lobster or any other species that now has a special license. Striped bass are still not on the threatened list for at least the next two years. There may be some closures of certain areas as last year there were people jigging then in breeding areas which brings an enormous fine.

Mammals Workshop

The morning was spent with DNR personal discussing wildlife issues.

A report was given on the success of coyote trappers in 2011. Three hundred and sixty six trappers caught 2643 coyotes. The DNR trappers trained to deal with complaints in urban areas caught six coyotes with an average of 148 trap nights per coyote. The voluntary carcass collection produced 235 in 2010/11 and 416 in 2011/12.

An extensive report was given on mainland moose with maps showing locations of sightings and the areas of highest densities. The population doesn't seem to be changing either up or down. DNR wants reports of any moose sightings including tracks and scat. The Pollets Cove, Aspy Fault Area in Cape Breton is now a protected area with no motorized vehicles allowed. This area covers about 90% of Zone 1. It is high rugged country with limited access and the highest density of moose on Cape Breton Island. There is concern that the moose herd is so high they are distressing the vegetation and may eventually run out of food. A major die off would result, along with altering the landscape of the protected area. Unless you are prepared to backpack your moose or have access to horses, your best bet is to hire a guide. The guides have to raise their prices to cover the extra expense of keeping and training horses or mules for this type of work. At this time there is no idea what the price of a guided hunt will be or how many guides will be available. Anyone applying for a moose tag in Zone 1 in 2012 needs to be aware of the situation.

There were two youth hunting camps held this past winter with 16 kids per camp. Three females took part. The camps are very popular, offering experiences in all aspects of hunting, trapping, camping and survival skills. They hope to hold 3 camps next year.

Education courses are down slightly from the year before:

Hunter Education – 938

Crossbow – 438

Trapper – 127

Deer Harvest for Zone 102:

2009 – 2403

2010 – 1950

2011 - 1769

By County (Lunenburg)

2009 – 3104

2010 – 2505

2011 – 2314

The resolution South Shore Wildlife Association put in was passed, 19 for and one abstained. Let's hope DNR agrees with eliminating the bonus deer stamp in Zone 102 for the 2012 season until it is needed again.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was awarded the Gilbert Knickle Award for his tireless efforts to eliminate the gun registry. The Gilbert Knickle Award is presented annually to a non-member individual for outstanding efforts in furthering the aims of NSFAH. The MP for our area Gerald Keddy was at the convention to receive the award and will present it to the Prime Minister.

The South Shore Wildlife Association was presented with the Valley Shield that is presented for outstanding effort toward the advancement of freshwater sport fishing.

Gary and Annette Mader