



# South Shore Wildlife Association

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

Date: April 13th, 2015

**In Attendance:**

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| • Stephen Joudrey  | Linda Joudrey |
| • Billy Hirtle     | Otis Scott    |
| • Annette Mader    | Ron Johnstone |
| • Lawrence Baltzer | Ron Thompson  |
| • Burt Schrader    | Gary Mader    |
| • Greg Himmelman   | Eugene Herman |
| • Barry Kelley     | Jerry Read    |
| • Doug Joudrey     | Ron Seney     |
| • Bev Russell      |               |

Regrets: Reg A.

**50/50 Toonie Draw**

Lawrence Baltzer = \$16.00

**Door Prizes:**

Ron T. = Fisherman's Diary

Gary M. = Carry Bag

Doug J. = T-Shirt

**Executive Phone List:**

Stephen Joudrey (President) 543-9891  
Eugene Herman (Sec/Treas) 543-2893

**Email:**

southshorewildlifeassociation@  
hotmail.ca

**New Website:**

southshorewildlife@weebly.com

Stephen brought the meeting to order at 7:04. Eugene reviewed the February minutes and moved to accept them as read. Seconded by Greg H.

**Old Business:**

\* **Peter MacDonald**, large mammal biologist with the DNR, was to be our guest speaker at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Unfortunately, due to a snow storm, Peter was unable to get to that meeting so there was no point in holding it as this meeting was strictly scheduled for him. Stephen did not reschedule him because most of the information we were expecting to get from Peter was presented at the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters Annual Convention held in late March. Our two delegates had all of that information from the Convention to report at the April meeting. If there is a need, we will invite him to a meeting later on this year.

\* **Youth Hunting Camp:** Ron T. gave a report on how the SSWA portion of the camp went at McGowan Lake on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Four SSWA members, Greg, Ron T, Gary and Stephen, drove up in less than favorable conditions as another snow storm had dropped a new load the day before. Ten of the twelve registrants made it to the camp in spite of the bad driving conditions. SSWA did our usual introduction, snaring instruction, rabbit cleaning demonstration, and snare setting guidance. This was the first time that snow shoes had to be used to take the kids out to set rabbit snares. DNR staff provided enough shoes for everyone for this. Special thanks to Gary and Ron for great jobs with the snare making/setting instruction and the cleaning demonstration. Gary also provided lots of animal hides and skull props for the young people to examine. Thankfully Gary had also provided a thawed snared rabbit for Ron to clean because the ones provided by DNR were still frozen stiff. The young people really enjoyed the whole rabbit presentation. It is really good to see these young people

respond to the challenge of being thrown into these somewhat less than desirable conditions, amongst complete strangers, and in an almost boot camp-like environment, to learn and bond over their two day adventure. Because of the wide interest and support these Youth Hunting Camps are receiving from participants across the province, there is a glimmer of hope for the preservation of our hunting activities in future years. SSWA will undoubtedly help out again next year as we value the importance of this effort. There were two other Youth Hunting Camps scheduled across the province that week but unfortunately for the first time both had to be canceled due to too much snow. Stephen passed out pictures at the meeting to Gary, Ron and Greg that he took during this event. They will be added to our website at some point when time permits, and everything cooperates!

\* The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters Annual Convention: Annette & Gary gave a formal report on the main topics discussed. (Reports included at the end of these minutes).

Gary also reviewed all resolutions passed at the Convention. There was only one submitted by SSWA this time and it was withdrawn due to a similar resolution submitted by another club. As a reminder, this was to request a regulation to make mandatory the presence of waterfowl hunters whenever decoys are set up. If anyone is interested in reviewing the various Resolutions that did pass at the Convention, please contact either Stephen or Gary for the details.

Our club was again awarded a trophy, this time the Tobin Trophy, for our “continuous education of the public about wildlife and environment.”

Winner of the 14’ boat, motor, and trailer in the 2014 NSFAH Funding Lottery draw was the Big Game Society.

**Correspondence:**

As usual, Stephen reviewed a stack of newspaper clippings and website articles on various subjects pertaining to our interests including: DNR and forestry issues, lyme disease, gun registry records, salmon fishery changes, winter wildlife starvation, and many other misc. topics.

**Treasury Report:**

check #   withdrawals   deposits

2015-02-20	Deposit			\$ 274.00
2015-02-02	Interest			\$ 0.10
2015-03-02	Interest			\$ 0.08
2015-02-23	Bank Service Charge		\$ 12.00	
2015-04-07	Deposit			\$ 45.00
2015-04-13	N.S. Joint Reg. Of Stock Companies	151	\$ 30.25	
2015-04-13	Sheila Herman	152	\$ 47.08	
2015-04-13	Gary Mader travel to McGown Lake	153	\$ 30.00	
2015-04-13	Stephen Joudrey travel to McGown Lake	154	\$ 30.00	
2015-04-13	Linda Joudrey Postage and NSLC card	155	\$ 96.58	
2015-04-15	Deposit			\$ 300.00

**Balance for April 13, 2015 is \$3496.16.**

## New Business:

- **Michelin Health and Safety Fair applications are out. We need to decide if SSWA wants to enter a booth again this year. It seems the numbers are down each year and many of the people coming through are just looking for tickets for the door prizes. Interest levels are way down from where it used to be. A fair bit of work is required to gather and prepare the handouts. If anyone would like to take over this complete effort contact Eugene for what he has left from last year's booth. Although this event provides good exposure for SSWA to the public, it is basically a rerun every year and really needs a major change to revitalize the whole event.**
- **Eugene purchased 13 camo hats from a gun dealership in the US for about \$3 per hat with a big buck's head on the front. He plans to give them to the first 13 young people who come to the SSWA sponsored BB gun shoot in Hibernia at the "N.S. Guides Rendezvous" in Aug. if the event is held this year.**
- **Earth Day: Last meeting we all agreed that we would clean up in our own neighborhoods as we did last year. The only change is that the Earth Day clean-up drive will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup> this year due to the extended winter. Stephen will register SSWA teams and acquire the gloves and bags from the waste site facility. At present, we will be doing portions of highways in Whynott's Settlement, Pine Grove, Hebbville, Camperdown and Lapland. If you would like to join our efforts and add to these locations, please give Stephen a call so that he can add the info to the schedule, and SSWA will get credited with the additional effort. Last year we turned in 108 bags of Earth Day clean-up garbage from our roadways. Let's try to top that this year.**
- **Black Hat Award: Each year at the Annual Convention, the Federation presents each affiliate club with a NSFAH black hat. This hat is to be used by the clubs to recognize members who show support for their club in some noticeable way. SSWA has presented these hats to many deserving members over the years, but does not present these hats each and every year. The effort is made to try to select a different candidate every time. Therefore, this year we presented the SSWA Black Hat Award to two of our members who show a valued interest in helping out with club activities and have good club meeting attendance. Congratulations go to Doug Joudrey and Ron Thompson as SSWA Black Hat recipients for 2015.**
- **Club Hats/Vests: Discussion revolved around the idea of some new club clothing that could be used at club functions, such as the fishing derbies, to show identification of club members helping out. Stephen will get updated prices on club hats, and others were asked to check around for costs on vests. This will be further discussed at next meeting.**
- **Fishing derbies: Final plans were put together for the upcoming Big Brothers event on May 02. The remaining events have yet to be scheduled due to the extended winter this year.**
- **SSWA Raffle: Stephen brought in some prize suggestions the he has on hand if we want to assemble a spring raffle fund raiser. Discussion was not very positive for this. A decision will be made at the April meeting as to what we will do.**

## Dates to Remember:

<b>Big Brothers/Big Sisters Fishing Event</b>	<b>May 02, 9:00 am to 12:30pm</b>
<b>Two Community Services Fishing Events (now scheduled)</b>	<b>May 12, 9:00 am to 17:00pm</b>
<b>Rain Date</b>	<b>May 15, same times</b>
<b>Giant Flea Market at the Michelin Social Club</b>	<b>June 27, 8:00 am to 12:30pm</b>
<b>Set-up for Flea Market will be</b>	<b>June 26, 6:00 pm to 10:00pm</b>

**Meeting dates for 2015:** We will meet on the following dates, in the same location - Sobeys' Store Community Room (back left corner by the dairy products). All meetings will be on a Monday. Our next meeting May 11<sup>th</sup>: The remaining dates are: June 15th, July 13, August 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Dec. 14.

**Did you know?**

- Moose Hunting Applications are accepted until May 31. June 18 will be the draw date for 345 licenses. For more info contact your local DNR office or go to their web-site online.
- Wildlife Resources Card expiry date has been changed from Dec. 2015 to Dec. 2018. (this is an indication of problems in either finances or system development)
- The province of N.S. took in \$874,000 on Deer License sales in 2014 and \$202,000 on Habitat Stamp Sales.
- Prices of ammo in the USA have reached or surpassed the Canadian prices, if you can even find ammunition in the US stores. Our secretary, Eugene, recently took a trip through the States and this is what he found: "Many Walmarts have very bare shelves as people are buying it up as it hits the stores. Almost no copper ammo to be found even at Cabela's or Bass Pro Shops all the way from Maine to Texas! The only ammo readily available seems to be shotgun shells for target practice. I used to pay \$13 US a box for Remington 308 sftp, now they're \$27 US if you can even find them."

A good suggestion would be that if our club ever gets the chance to trade lead for copper again, we need to take full advantage of it!

**Smile of the Day:** Old age is when: - it takes longer to rest than it did to get tired;

- tossing and turning in bed is considered an aerobic exercise;
- your train of thoughts frequently leaves the station without you.

**Thought of the Day:** - Never believe a jackass until you hear it from the horse's mouth.

- The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
- Many people in life get over the hill without ever reaching the top.

**I Believe:** -Long walks are best taken by people who annoy you.

- A mouse trap set on top of your alarm clock will prevent that snooze button temptation!

- Saying he's a nice person after you get to know him is the same as saying he's an A-hole but you'll get used to him!

**NS Federation of Anglers and Hunters Convention March 27, 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> 2015**  
**Reports from SSWA delegates Gary and Annette Mader**

**Mammals Workshop:**

Hunter Ed. Courses were well attended; numbers are up slightly from last year. Hunter Ed. – 1990, Bow hunter- 281, Crossbow- 575, Trappers – 145.

The whole morning was devoted to deer issues. License sales General- 38,785, License sales Archery and Muzzle Loader- 6,215, Harvest General License-7,842, Harvest Archery and Muzzle Loader License- 2,611.

**Total Registered Harvest**

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
10,075	12,568	10,333	10,280	9,071	9,036	10,730	10,453

The Harvest level has increased over last year but not dramatically. Approximately 1000 NS hunters harvested a second deer, that's 2.5% of hunters. Hunter success continues to be consistent at 25%. The General Deer License was the biggest seller at 75%. 72% of all deer harvested were taken with rifles. 66% of all deer harvested under the A& M license were taken with Muzzle Loaders.

The deer population appears to be trending upwards. An in depth presentation was given on how D.N.R. judge deer herd populations. The tools they use- deer pellet count, jaw bone aging along with antler measurements, hunter harvest reports, hunter abundance reports, examining road kills, and trail cam surveys. They hope the trail cam survey will expand. It's very helpful in showing the % of fawns that survived. The number of jaw bones& antler measurements being turned in are disappointing. This is an important tool, all sizes are needed. A lot can be learned by comparing antler measurements with deer age especially on 1 ½ year olds, which make up most of the harvest.

The 2014 hunt was the second under the 2 license system. D.N.R. will be closely monitoring this system and assessing after a three year period. However this does not preclude making changes before that time if required. Options available include adjustments to the antlerless stamp allocations and adding time restrictions for certain weapons. There seems to be some concern about the success rate of modern muzzle loaders. When they introduced these to the early season, they didn't take into account the accuracy and range of modern muzzle loaders. In 2014 D.N.R. introduced a nuisance deer tag that can be purchased by a farmer or a hunter, working on behalf of the farmer, if the farmer can prove damage done by deer to his crops. There was a lot of discussion on the effect of this winter's snow on the deer herd. Only time will tell.

From a sample of 8,443 deer hunting licenses sold, here are the age categories of licenses bought.

<u>Minors</u>	<u>18-64 years</u>	<u>Seniors 65plus</u>	<u>90 plus</u>	439 were
34	4,810	3,580	14	women - 5.2%

A total of 1,423 coyotes were harvested this past year (2013-14) - a decrease of 607 animals or a 31% decrease over last year. Average abundance rankings decreased from 2.13 to 1.99. Results

for 2014-15 seasons are not in yet but early reports look like another decrease in numbers. There were 391 coyote carcasses voluntarily turned in for the 2013-14 season. 186 were males, 203 females. Average weight of males was 38lbs., 34lbs. for females. The females averaged 5.3 pups per litter, up from the past few years. 25% were bred, down from the past few years. Matthew Smith, Park Ecologist with the Cape Breton Highlands National Park did a special presentation on Moose populations threatening the health of the park. Slides and video showed how over-grazing is turning the Boreal Forest into grassland. A hunt is being planned for the park. They have chosen a 20 square kilometer area and plan to harvest 30-40 moose per year for 3 years. This will be a test hunt using Native hunters. After the 3 year hunt, if they decide to open up more area, the hunt may open to the public through a draw system.

### **Fish and Birds:**

They are finding the Eider Duck population is down. They are not sure why. The regulations saying how many can be kept is decided in December to January. Next year they may decide to lower the bag limit if the trend continues.

On Inland Fisheries, they are trying to get it up and running that you get your license electronically. If you do not have access to a computer you will still be able to buy them at corner stores, where they will go on line for you. This should be in effect for next year. Resident fishing licenses increased 33% to 62,108. Non- resident 1,530 for a total of 63,638 licenses sold. Salmon resident licenses sold were 1526, non-resident 507 for a total of 2,033 sold. They want to change the age of getting a free license from age 16 now to 18. This is because they think some parents can't afford the price so the teens sometimes drop fishing. At 18 a lot of teens are indoctrinated to fishing and many have part time jobs so that they can buy their own license.

The Habitat Fund money goes to boat launches, Adopt-a-Stream, barrier free access to lakes. NSLC donates \$100,000.00 to Adopt-a-Stream. They have been doing this for 10 years now with a total of \$2,535,000.00 donated. Students and volunteers are trained to do restorations on streams.

The LaHave River Watershed Association restored the boat launch at New Germany Lake for \$1,540.00.

In the 2015 Angler Regulation book, a mistake was made. In South River Antigonish it should state that from October 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 2 trout can be kept.

John MacMillan told us that 1.1 million hours are spent angling despite the decline in fish. Reasons for the decline range from habitat loss, pollution, over fishing, and introduced Small Mouth bass and Pickerel. 40-50% of fishers practice catch and release.

Biologist Jason LeBlanc tells us that bass in Fancy Lake have a parasite only on the bass. It doesn't seem to have hurt them. White Fish have persisted in the Petite water system despite bass and chain pickerel.

The department of Fisheries has not confirmed that Kedji Lake has bass, but they have confirmed Cannon Lake has them and there is access to Kedji Lake from there. Chain Pickerel are in the Jordan River watershed which has decimated native species. Lake Rossignol has not been confirmed to have bass, but Fisheries will spend several weeks there this year to confirm. They plan to keep three fish hatcheries open - McGowan Lake, Margaree and Fraser Mills. Salmon populations are down in Cape Breton rivers, and studies are being done to try to find out why. Thanks to the hunters and anglers who fill out their cards and surveys as they contain valuable information.

**Regarding the resolution SSWA submitted, it was withdrawn by myself, due to the fact that NS Guides submitted a resolution that was very similar. The Guides resolution passed.**