



South Shore Wildlife Association

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

Date: April 11th, 2016

In Attendance:

- Stephen Joudrey Linda Joudrey
 - Otis Scott Doug Joudrey
 - Jerry Read Annette Mader
 - Burt Schrader Gary Mader
 - Ron Johnstone Eugene Herman
 - Ron Thompson Lawrence Baltzer
 - Harley Conrad Barry Kelley
 - Greg Himmelman
- Regrets: Reg Archibald, Blair Molland

50/50 Toonie Draw

Harley C. = \$13.00

Door Prizes:

Shirt = Burt S.
Beer Book = Gary M.
Puzzle = Ron J.

Executive Phone List:

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

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Website:

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Stephen brought the meeting to order at 7:00. Eugene reviewed the minutes of the March meeting and moved for acceptance as read. Seconded by Ron T.

Old Business:

- **DNR's Youth Hunting Camp** was held March 15/16'th. Annette, Gary, Ron T., Greg and Stephen met locally at 8:00 am and car pooled to the DNR depot at McGowan Lake, Queens County, the first morning to do the rabbit snaring presentation, something we have taken part in for 4 years now. After last year's extreme winter conditions for that camp, we were thankfully blessed with mild weather and no snow this time around. Time was rushed this time however as the schedule was altered to cut our time enough that we could not include the rabbit cleaning part of the demonstration. We presented three checks (an annual practice now in memory of late member Greg Tanner) to cover the entrance fees for three of the twelve participants. These were randomly drawn for the final night of the camp when parents were in attendance. SSWA was acknowledged by the DNR staff for our participation and dedication in this program, as well as our generosity for the sponsorships in past and present.
- **BCAF's Andrew Breen** has been in touch with Stephen and a meeting has been called for 7:00 pm Wed. April 13 to discuss procedures for our assistance with their predator fish study, including rules, bag limits, type of gear to be used, where to drop fish off and how to record our efforts. Teams can start their part of the study anytime after that and must notify the collection depot when they are venturing out to fish specific lakes.

- Stephen, Linda and Doug drove up to Lower Ohio to visit Ruby Bower on March 25'th in honor of her 100th birthday (it was also Doug's birthday). In addition to personal gifts, they presented her with flowers and a card from SSWA. She is doing remarkably well and still basically living on her own in her home! Congratulations Mrs. Bower! You are an inspiration to us all.
- NSFA&H Annual Convention: Our SSWA reps, Gary and Annette, each gave a report on their respective workshops they attended in Truro April 01 - 03. This is the first time the Convention has been held outside of Bridgewater in several years, and is the first one that Tony Rogers was not involved with in many years. There were some changes in the overall format, but they reported that it went very well. Please see their reports at the end of these minutes.

Correspondence/Info:

Stephen & Eugene reviewed various letters, newspaper clippings and website articles.

Treasury Report:

Bank account balance to April 11th was \$3811.37.

New/Current Business:

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters fishing day is scheduled for April 23 with a rain date for April 30. Community Services fishing day is scheduled for May 4'th, rain date May 5'th.
- Robert Cross has requested a letter of support to stop the N.S. DOE from restricting access to public lands. We have already spent a fair bit of time investigating this cause. Harley Conrad has agreed to investigate this item further and report back at our May meeting.
- SSWA Giant Flea Market: We are set to go. Eugene will place an ad in the newspapers in the next week or so and again in June just before the market. Tables can now be booked by calling 902-543-5018.
- Our anti-littering signs have been exhausted. Stephen inquired if there was any interest in renewing this venture. He will investigate if this program is still available through RRFB or the D.O.E. to cover the cost of the signs being made.
- Earth Day is fast approaching. A quick discussion determined that we would take the same approach as last year. Four communities will be targeted again, and sections of roadways in need of litter clean up will be done when teams can be assembled.
- Michelin Health and Safety Fair: Stephen has received an invitation for SSWA's participation once again this year. No interest was expressed at the meeting for anyone to represent us at our table this time, so Stephen will decide if he will register us or not.

Meeting dates for 2016: We will meet on the following dates, in the same location - Sobeys' Store Community Room (back left corner by the dairy products). Meetings will generally be on a Monday. Our next meeting *May 16th*. The remaining dates are: June 13, July 11, August 15, Sept. 12, Oct. 17, Dec. 12

Dates to Remember:

Big Brother / Big Sisters Fishing Experience	April 23
Community Services Fishing Experience	May 04
Giant Flea Market	June 25
Trapper Rendezvous and SSWA BB/Pellet Gun Shoot	August

Smile of the Day: When you're born you lay around bald and in diapers. Eighty or ninety years later things haven't changed much!

How to prepare tofu: Step 1: Throw it in the trash. Step 2: Grill some steaks.

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

Thought of the Day: If you don't believe in miracles, perhaps you have forgotten that you are one.

You have a much better chance of changing people's minds with affection than with anger.

Some of the most important people in your life will be friends who loved you even when you were not very lovable.

I Believe: Everyone smiles in the same language.

There may be seven wonders in the world, but in a child's eyes it's more like seven million.

You should never listen to a jackass – get it straight from the horse's mouth.

Please note: At our March meeting, our guest speaker Peter MacDonald, Large Mammal Biologist with DNR, gave a talk and slide presentation covering a lot of information regarding our deer populations. Unfortunately he had very few current stats for the 2015 season at that time, but he felt that the deer herd in the province was overall in a healthy state. SSWA members around the table had a somewhat different opinion, but there was little time to discuss the matter. Peter asked that we pass any comments regarding thoughts on this issue to him for review. Stephen has been asked to assemble these comments and forward them to Peter. This can be done via email, or simply by writing a note that can be converted into an email message. There have been less than a dozen comments received to date. This would indicate that most SSWA members are in agreement with Peter and that the deer situation in our area is comfortable. If you are concerned or in disagreement, please take a few moments and pass on some comments to Stephen as soon as possible. All messages will be sent to Peter together at one time, so the more information assembled, the better chance to give a fair evaluation. Otherwise, look for nothing to change.

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters Annual Convention 2016

Mammals

The morning workshop was totally devoted to Natural Resources personal discussing wildlife issues, mostly deer by Peter Macdonald, large mammal biologist and Emma Vost large mammal specialist. The deer population was in great shape in late 2014 poised for a large increase, then came the winter of 2015. The total 2015 harvest was 7815, 25% lower than 2014 which was 10,453. Hunter success declined 16%. The general license accounted for 70% of license sales and 71% of the harvest. 700 NS hunters harvested a second deer (2.5%). Deer densities are still high in some areas for example only a 4% decline in Colchester County. Trail Cam surveys show a drop in the proportion of fawns in the population.

Deer tested for nutritional stress;

(13-14)	(14-15)	(15-16)
17.6%	49%	10.6%

This winter was very easy on the deer. DNR hasn't collected and calculated all the information to set the regulations for the 2016 season. They hinted that the only change for this fall would be reduced doe tags. When looking at deer populations there are two main items to consider.

1 Biological capacity, the number of deer the habitat can support.

2 Cultural capacity, the number of deer the population will tolerate, for example, farmers, gardeners, auto insurance and urban population. The second is usually lower than the first. Hunter reports not being turned in are becoming a big issue. DNR needs these reports to make decisions on seasons and bag limits. Return rates are very low. This past fall a number of deer hunters were requested to turn in jaw bones and antler base measurements. Only 53% complied even though almost all registered deer. Here's an example of what more reports can do.

DNR targeted bear hunters for 2015 by calling, email and visits by enforcement officers. This is very time consuming.

<u>Total Resident</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Reports Received</u>	<u>Calculated Harvest</u>
<u>Hunter Success</u>				
2014 9008	3844	5164	1615	2391
2015 8930	3602	5348	4918	67 plus 91snared
				21.68%
				6.23%

An unsuccessful report is just as important as a successful one.

The planning for a new Wildlife Resources card is complete and sitting on the minister's desk. When approved it will go to the contractor to set up. They hope to have it in place by spring of 2018. This will include electronic licensing. DNR can request a blocking system that will refuse you a license if you didn't send in your report.

Hunter courses were well attended.

Hunter Education – 1957

Bow - 293

Crossbow- 479

Fur Harvesters - 107

There were no accidents or problems reported with the two Sundays open for hunting. This will continue the same for 2016.

Youth hunting camps were discussed. South Shore Wildlife Association was mentioned and thanked for their involvement at McGowan Lake.

As for our resolutions, all three failed. There were 16 clubs represented at the table. The consensus around the table was that the deer population will rebound in a couple of years if winters remain like 2016. There were 12 resolutions in mammals and only 3 passed. 7 resolutions were on deer and only one of those passed. This was from Shelburne Fish and Game. It requested the Muzzle Loader season be shortened.

Here is a list of the groups that were at the table;

- 1 Bow hunters Association**
- 2 Archery Association**
- 3 Traditional Bow hunters**
- 4 Cross Bow Association**
- 5 Trappers Association**
- 6 Guides Association**
- 7 Big Game Society**
- 8 Cape Breton Wildlife**
- 9 Port Morian Wildlife**
- 10 Queens County Wildlife**
- 11 Shelburne Wildlife**
- 12 Halifax County Wildlife**
- 13 Lunenburg County Wildlife**
- 14 Kings County Wildlife**
- 15 Hants West Wildlife**
- 16 South Shore Wildlife**

We had a number of interesting guest speakers at our lunch breaks. The one that I feel strong about was by Mike Holland, the Resourceful Redneck. He stressed the importance of all groups in the outdoor sports to quit infighting and support each other. Together we are a force to be reckoned with. When divided we have no voice. Politicians and Antis are watching. It's up to us to define our future. We are our own worst enemy. It does not matter what weapon we chose to hunt with or what type of fish we pursue, whether we hunt bear or snare bear. No group is better or more right than any other group. Just imagine if a gun issue comes up and all the bow hunters, bass fisherman salmon fisherman and ATV riders support the gun owners whether they have guns or not. What goes around comes around.

The moose cull in Cape Breton National Park by Aboriginal Hunters went as follows; 37 moose harvested. All moose were retrieved by helicopter. Two moose were given to Feed Nova Scotia. Two moose were given to needy families close to the park. Some moose were transferred to Reservations on the mainland. The rest were divided among Reservations in Cape Breton. Natives used all copper bullets on the hunt with excellent results. Natives are also doing tree planting and other work in the park to improve the habitat.

Fish and Birds

We learned a lot at the Fish and Birds Work shop. Adopt a Stream gets 50 cents from the sale of 24 Keith's Beer and Crown Royal. **They are stocking Hutt and Beck's Lake in the fall for the winter fishery.** Any organization can contact Inland Fisheries for brochures and hats for field trips.

Learn to Fish taught 2300 students in 58 sessions.

BOW (becoming an Outdoor Women) fall and winter sessions focused on fish.

We saw a video on Cold Water Boot Camp. A half hour in 6 degree water, you can survive up to one hour but that relies on certain conditions. When you first get in the water you have to get your breathing under control first. If you do not have a PFD on it is difficult to put one on in cold water. After 10 minutes your movements slow down or can stop. Without a PFD drowning occurs. With a PFD you can survive ½ to 1 hour.

Ducks Unlimited take students to Wetlands to learn about many species. They also take students on field trips to identify song birds and migratory birds.

The federal fisheries talked about mackerel size. The rule is 10.5 inches or 27 centimeters. The onus is on the angler to release undersize fish with the least amount of harm. Many anglers think there should be a limit on the amount of mackerel taken and the fisheries agree, but it is difficult to enforce without a marine license and a lot of regulations will have to be changed. All agree the mackerel population is severely depleted and fisheries hope that people will regulate themselves until the fisheries can get more regulations in place.

The Marine license is still dormant. It has been talked about for 20 years. It seems to be very difficult to implement.

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation will give grants to projects designed to bring back the salmon population.

Common Eiders are being depleted. They have lost ½ their breeders in just a few years. Restrictions will be in place for the 2016-2017 seasons with a maximum of 4 per day.

In Fish and Birds only 4 resolutions were offered, none by SSWA. Only one passed. That one was about winter fishing for bass and chain pickerel at Blackett's Lake from Port Morien Wildlife Association.

SSWA received the Vice President's Award for the club which best promoted the objectives of NSFA&H.

The Auction raised \$4,600.00