

## **‘South Shore Wildlife Association’ 2016 Annual Report**

We continue to meet monthly 11 times a year. Minutes of every meeting are issued to all members so that everyone stays current with their club’s activities.

### **Fund Raising and Donations:**

- In June we hosted yet another annual giant flea market that saw vendors tables filled in the gym to capacity. Once again over 500 people paid at the door to enter. We netted over \$800 in just 4 hours, but it does require a lot of time and effort from our volunteer members to make it happen.

We also repeated our successful Xmas lobster raffle at year end, netting \$360 with minimal effort.

- For our donation list this year, in addition to awards or prizes for Big Brothers fishing derby and the TANS Trapper’s Rendezvous BB Gun Shooting Booth, SSWA contributed the following amounts:

\$500 to Hope for Wildlife Rehab center

\$300 to the Salvation Army Kettle campaign

\$188 to sponsor 3 participants at the DNR McGowan Lake Youth Hunting Camp

### **Guest Speakers:**

**March:** Peter MacDonald, large game biologist, to discuss the deer herd situation and the multiple extended seasons, also his trail camera survey efforts.

**July:** Terry Smith and Lisa Godin from Canadian Wild Turkey Federation to discuss their efforts to advance introductions of birds into Nova Scotia.

**Sept:** Andrew Breen of Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation to give a follow-up report, with slides, on the results of the Atlantic Whitefish study, in particular the stats/stomach contents of the predator fish we caught.

### **Fraternity Involvement:**

**Youth Hunting Camp:** This was held March 15/16’th. Five SSWA members met locally at 8:00 am and car pooled to the DNR depot at McGowan Lake, Queens County, 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. We provided lots of animal hides and skull props for the young people to examine and discuss, as well as instructions in making and setting snares, and actual field experience hanging snares. 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 event now in memory of late member Greg Tanner) to cover the course fees for three of the twelve participants. These were randomly drawn for on 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.

### **Annual Convention:**

In March, we once again sponsored two delegates to the Convention, in Truro this time. We submitted three resolutions to be discussed. Unfortunately none of them passed. SSWA received the Vice President's Award for the club which best promoted the objectives of NSFA&H.

### **BCAF Assistance:**

SSWA had the privilege of working with members of Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, at their request, in their efforts to save the now almost extinct Atlantic Whitefish. These fish are found in local waterways in Lunenburg County and no where else in the entire world. Existing stocks are fragile at best. Invasive species have entered the equation now, so SSWA was assigned certain lakes to fish under controlled conditions, to help staff of BCAF in their quest to prevent yet another extinct species. In addition to our physical involvement, SSWA has issued a letter to the Federal Fisheries Minister in a plea for help with this serious situation.

**Trappers Rendezvous:** SSWA again sponsored the BB/Pellet Gun Shoot booth at this annual event in August. Participant numbers were down this year despite agreeable weather but those that took part enjoyed the experience. Hats were given out to the young people who tried their skill with pellet or BB guns..

### **Community Involvement:**

**Earth Day:** One hundred twenty nine bags in total of road side garbage were collected by SSWA members in their respective areas. This year we received mention in a local paper to acknowledge our extensive efforts.

**Fishing Derbies:** Big Brothers / Big Sisters Fishing Experience was a great success. We had the most participants in the eighteen year history of SSWA doing this outing. There were 26 people registered with 47 trout and 10 goldfish caught, including one 17" trout and two 16" fish landed that day. SSWA provided sandwiches, a mixed fruit tray, and one tray of watermelon for their lunch along with juice and cookies.

- Our other fun fishing day was for participants from three Support Services Groups. The two morning groups, fishing from 9:00am until 1:00pm, caught forty-one fish but only one large 16" one. In the afternoon, the third group only managed to land 12 fish in 4 hours, so it was a very slow afternoon. Still, all had a great time, and that's what it is really all about! As a show of appreciation, we received a letter of thanks from directors of both Service Groups as well as a thank you card made by members of the ARK. And for us, that's what it's all about as well.

I take great pleasure in mentioning that our most senior honorary member of SSWA, Mrs. Ruby Bower of Lower Ohio, turned the century milestone of 100 years old on March 25'th this year. Three members of SSWA made the journey to visit Mrs. Bower on that special day to deliver flowers and gifts to a very remarkable lady who has been a loyal member of our club since 2007. We wish her continued health.

Yours in conservation  
Stephen Joudrey – President