



‘South Shore Wildlife Association’ 2018 Annual Report

SSWA celebrates a milestone in 2018 with our Silver Anniversary. This club was founded in the fall of 1993 and is now officially 25 years in existence. To acknowledge this major accomplishment, all members in good standing were rewarded with special gifts of engraved pens and silver key chains. In addition, special anniversary mugs and club hats were made available to members at a reduced cost. Our association continues to meet monthly eleven times a year, and meeting minutes are still distributed to the membership to keep all informed of their club’s interests and ventures.

Club Activities :

Youth Hunting Camp: Since 2013 SSWA has taken part in this wonderful program held during March at the Lands and Forestry McGowan Lake facility in Queens County. Unfortunately, the weather was a factor this year in that wide spread power outages prevented two of our members from attending. However, we were still well represented with two of our regular instructors who covered the event and gave a great class to the twelve attendees on rabbit snaring techniques, snare setting, and proper handling and cleaning of the animals. We issued cheques to cover the registration fees for three of the participants, in memory of departed member Greg Tanner.

Annual Convention: In March, we sponsored three delegates to the Convention in Truro, and donated \$100 worth of items for the silent auction.

Trapper’s Rendezvous: Although we were requested and prepared to set up our BB gun shooting booth again this year, for a second year in a row unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and this event had to be canceled.

Earth Day: After a total of 91.5 hours was contributed by SSWA members in their respective areas, a total of 10 kms of highways - 20 kms of ditches - was cleaned, and our bag count totaled 186. We started a special project for the Lunenburg Recycling Center to monitor how much waste accumulates annually over a designated section of highway.

Fishing Derbies: On April 25th we hosted four groups of Community Services Clients who had a ball. The two morning groups caught a total of 96 trout, some 16” in length, and although the afternoon groups didn’t catch as many they had just as much fun!

On May 12th we hosted the Big Brothers/Big Sisters group, combined for the first time with the Mahone Bay Cubs and Beavers. A great time was had by all with 106 trout being caught. The weather cooperated nicely providing sunshine and pleasant temperatures.

Michelin Health and Safety Fair: There was a good crowd in attendance again this year, in part due to the antique car show held in conjunction with the Fair. Two SSWA members had lots of hand-out material on display again this year, and Sarah Kucharski the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg’s Communications Officer helped work our tables as well and did a wonderful job discussing Lyme and ticks with the public. Most of the interest from people was again directed to this topic even though we had lots of info on other concerns such as poisonous plants, rabies, West Nile, coyotes, etc.

South Shore Expo: This 3 day weekend event held at the Queen’s Emera Center in Liverpool was a first for SSWA’s involvement. We assisted the NSFHAH in manning their booth for the weekend. A total of eleven members took turns working the tables to help sell License of a Lifetime tickets, and our own raffle tickets and memberships. We managed to sign up four new members to SSWA.

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation : Three SSWA fishing teams spent time on one particular lake this spring following instructions from BCAF coordinator Andrew Breen to assist in his endangered Atlantic Whitefish project study.

Forest Biodiversity Meeting: SSWA paid the \$20 registrations for two members to attend this special meeting in April, hosted by then DNR staff from Halifax and the valley.

CWTF Bluenose Long Beards Chapter Wildlife Expo: SSWA facilitated the ground work with local schools in Lunenburg/Queens to arrange for several to host this wonderful event for the young students. Unfortunately, availability of this Expo only permitted one session locally this time, which was attended by myself. It is hoped the opportunity will be available next year as there were several disappointed schools this time around.

In addition, we continue our involvement, through communications with various contacts, to combat the serious issues regarding several main bones of contention for us. These includes black legged ticks and Lyme Disease, forest harvesting (clear cutting), and littering.

Fund Raising and Donations:

- In June we hosted yet another successful annual giant flea market. Attendance was notably lower this year despite the sold out tables. Revenues were down slightly but still made for a very worthwhile venture.

- Other sources of income include membership fees, 50/50 draws at each meeting, prize raffles, and our annual year end Lobster Raffle draw.

- For our donation list this year, in addition to the DNR Youth Camp where we sponsor three of the participants through a draw, and to the NSFAH Annual Convention silent auction contributions, SSWA donated \$200 to Cobequid Wildlife Rehab center in memory of Helene Van Donninck. We also purchased fishing licenses for three staff members of the ARK so they could take their clients fishing at various places. We regard this as an extension of our fishing outings with them at the MARC, and a very worthy investment. We contributed \$250 to the MSAC floor replacement project so we can continue with our Giant Flea Market fund raisers there.

Guest Speakers:

March: Angela Taylor and Kirk Symonds from Region 6 Waste Facility Management to speak on our concerns regarding litter, and to get an update on Angela's progress as the new Waste Compliance Officer with regards to illegal dumping and any charges laid.

July: Darren Reid, Federal Fish Biologist working in Keji Park, to discuss the alarming news regarding the first pickerel being found within the park's boundaries, and the steps he is instigating to prevent further spread of this invasive species within the park.

August: Amber Creamer, Dept. of Fisheries, to discuss various topics including the L2F program, their stocking program, some little known regulations, and the rapid and alarming spread of invasive species in Nova Scotia waters.

September: Wanda Baxter of Watch for Wildlife, to speak on the purpose of the program, and to relay stats for wildlife collisions and the structure for reporting to different government depts.

I take great pleasure again this year in mentioning that our most senior honorary member, Mrs. Ruby Bower of Lower Ohio, turned 102 on March 25'th. Two members of SSWA visited Mrs. Bower on her special day to deliver flowers and gifts. Mrs. Bower has been a loyal member of our club since 2007 and enjoys reading the minutes of our activities.

Stephen Joudrey – President
South Shore Wildlife Association