

Flathead Audubon Society Monthly Meeting

November 3, 2008

Location: Jane Lopp & Associates, 295 Third Ave. E.N. Kalispell, MT 59901

Present: Mike Fanning, Chair; Brent Mitchell, Bruce Tannehill, Rod McIver, Bill Schustrom, Richard Kuhl, Marcy Mahr, Ansley Ford, Jill Fanning, Mary Nelesen, Paula Smith, Melissa Sladek, Linda Winnie and Linda deKort.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes from October minutes did not include attendees. No other corrections were noted. A motion was made that minutes be approved. Minutes were proved unanimously.

Bruce discussed the Treasurer's report that was handed out.

Education

Ansley said that the Education Committee will only meet 3 times a year now, less than when Sonja was here. She also told us about her field trip taking 66-sixth graders from the Somers school to Owen Sowerwine and the kids loved it. They were broken into groups. If a field trip is co-sponsored by Flathead Audubon, than field trip participants would not need a DNRC recreation permit. Flathead Audubon members do not need the DNRC recreation permit to go to Owen Sowerwine. Brent will look into trying to get a grant to cover the cost of orange vests to use for groups- possibly 60 vests. Susannah Casey printed us a new OSNA map to replace the stolen one. We would like it be displayed under plexiglass. Maps can be printed off the FAS website.

Ansley has a special needs friend named Al that sometimes needs transportation to FAS field trips. Ansley will email the board his phone number to call when someone goes on a field trip and can give him a ride.

Sales

Melissa and Bill will sell raffle tickets for the Christmas raffle at the next two meetings, including a pair of bird drawings from Josh Covill, a wreath from Kay Mitchell and bird feeders and walking sticks from Brent Mitchell. Anyone is welcome to bring baked goods to the December meeting for the sale table.

Birdseed

Mary checked all of the WBC stores for the FAS birdseed bag prices. One of the stores is cheaper than the other three. Each store has discretion on prices that they charge. FAS bags are still available for sale at WBC, Gresko's and Whitney's.

Fundraising

Mary discussed a fundraiser idea called “Special Gifts” that is used in a FAS Wisconsin chapter that she and Bob Lopp had looked into to see if the board was interested. The board was very interested. Bob Lopp and Mary Nelesen will write something to put in the December newsletter and FAS website soliciting tax deductible donations. Mike volunteered to edit the article. The most popular choice with the board was to use the following birds for giving categories: Eagle, Osprey, Snowy Owl, Merlin and Kestrel.

Newsletter

December program, board member piece by Jill Fanning, bird of the month, results of the Jewell Basin Hawkwatch, Christmas Bird Count, Christmas raffle, maybe science tidbit, book review of “Birds in Flight”, sunflower seed reminder emphasis, letters from kids, new fundraising effort (form from Mike), ad for Sales table.

Publicity

Paula asked for any suggestions or observation about the FAS website. There is a lack of event information to put on the website this time of year because there are not any field trips. Email any comments to Paula.

Mike will talk to Hillary about taking Pay Pal off the FAS website.

Conservation Recognition Awards

We usually award 3 recognition awards a year. The board agreed to award the first conservation award to the Foys to Blacktail Trails Group. Richard will write the article.

Field Trips

Bill Schustrom agreed to chair the field trip committee. Josh Covill has also agreed to help on the committee. Leslie Kehoe said she would willing to mentor anyone who would like her advice.

Programs

Programs are set up for the entire year.

Items in Desparate Need

Jill will talk to Nancy about how many copies she is having printed of the FAS brochure. Since Bob Lee probably won't be able to fill the president position next year because he is teaching classes on Mondays, let Mike know if you have anyone you may think could be a nominee.

OSNA

Brent said that someone has put up aluminum no-hunting signs at OSNA but no one seems to know who. The game warden says that fine for that is \$300 for posting no-hunting signs in an area where hunting is allowed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary