

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: PRESIDENT PAULA SMITH @ 6:00 PM

PRESENT - Paula Smith (Chair), Pat Allick (Glacier High science teacher), Ben Young (Glacier High science teacher/FAS Board Member), Ashley Mason (FAS Conservation Educator), Bob Lee, Kay Mitchell, Gael Bissell, Steve Gniadek, Lewis Young, Lois Drobish, Denny Olson, Jan Wassink, Bruce Tannehill.

MINUTES OF 12-3-2012 BOARD MEETING: Approved as submitted; (Bob Lee/Denny Olson).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bruce reported that we are roughly on track budget-wise and that in 2012, our investments grew fairly well, but predictions for the market for 2013 are slower. \$1000 Prudential grant was added in, and contributions seem to have been mostly from previous donors and those with a connection to FAS. Ashley will check out possibility of raising funds for the Education Program through the Day Naturalist program at Granite Park Chalet in Glacier this summer.

EDUCATION: Ashley Mason, Pat Allick and Ben Young made a presentation about creating native plant gardens at Glacier High through More Kids in the Woods. Pat explained the history of the initial project and structure of the plan and commented on the various benefits the students derived from the project. Ben explained the biological and avian habitat aspects of the site and reported that he had received a grant from the Kalispell Education Association for 24 pair of binoculars for use by the science students. Ashley showed the photo/video show she has assembled of the actual building of the gardens at Glacier High and Helena Flats Schools. The HF students were mentored by the older Glacier students and also had a chance to see the 3-year-old garden that the same Glacier students had planted as freshmen.

Denny Olson reported that Beauty of Birds class is scheduled in April and instructors are already lined up. They need a coordinator for the class (duties are fairly minimal). Committee members are working on an interpretive display for the kiosk at Owen Sowerwine NA and expect to have it finished by April 30. Board members are asked to voice their preference to the committee on selection of a hard-to-serve population for the Education Program to target this year (suggestions are Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Montana Veterans' Home, or Samaritan House again). Denny also reported on the progress of the 2014 calendar project and will bring proposals and \$ figures to the February board meeting. He also reported that the film he is making is underway.

Ashley reported a strong need for an Owl Trunk. The Education Committee would like to receive any materials that would be appropriate for this trunk. Ashley also encouraged people to come out for Winter Trails Day, January 12.

CONSERVATION: Lewis will assess an upcoming EA for a project on the Talley Lake RD. Steve said he had submitted his own comments to Glacier Park regarding use of heavy equipment for the culvert work on Going to the Sun Road.

FIELD TRIPS: Gael reported that Leo Keane will lead the Viking Creek field trip.

GENERAL MEETING: Paula will be gone, so Bob Lopp will lead the meeting. Gael will bring the speaker. Lewis and Jan will coordinate pickup/return of the speaker for the February meeting. Lois reported that Mike Fanning dislocated his hip and will need surgery; FAS will send a card when there are further details. Lois also noted that the Food Bank can use paper and plastic grocery bags; drop off at the Food Bank. Steve volunteered to bring juice for the treat table if he remembers and several board members volunteered to bring treats for future meetings.

NEWSLETTER: February issue will contain the usual sections, 2012 Jewel Basin Hawk Watch report, CBC wrap-ups, breeding bird abbreviations article and list of all 2012 appeal donors and sponsors with a thank you article. Jan and Kay discussed the need for a consistent policy regarding use of written materials by other people and chapters. They will write a draft policy for the board to consider at the February meeting.

WEBSITE: Jan will take care of adding the sponsors and bird abbreviation list to the website, will have the OSNA master plan put on the website and will replace the Cornell bird songs with Bruce's.

CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITIONS are pending. Leslie and Linda Winnie will coordinate when they will be presented.

WILEY COMMITTEE: Bob Lee reported that the committee is working on plans to build an observation/photo blind, develop a process for approval for projects with Dean, and clarify responsibilities, liabilities and money issues.

CONSERVATION ROUNDTABLE: Steve attended and spoke about Diane Medlar's presentation on eco/geo tourism.

MT AUDUBON BOARD MEETING: February 9; Bob Lee will attend.

PRESIDENT'S ITEMS: Paula noted that we have received a \$2000 matching grant from the Cinnabar Foundation, through the ConserveMontana website. The next grant submission period is January 15 - March 15. At the February board meeting, we will work on refreshing the stories on the website and any new material. We also need photos for the Whitefish Community Foundation banquet presentation. Board members are reminded to take photos during FAS activities whenever possible.

Adjourned 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Mitchell, Fill-in Secretary