Buffalo Lake Nature Club

Annual General Meeting

January 17, 2019

 Chris P called the meeting to order

 Minutes of the Jan 18, 2018 meeting were distributed via email

 Dave G moved they be accepted as presented Bob R 2nd carried

Treasurer Chris Verhoeven has had to step down; Wilma Z is filling in until a permanent volunteer is in place. Wilma was not able to make the meeting tonight. Fiscal Year end is January 31. The new Treasurer will complete the fiscal reports for the February meeting

Chris presented the President’s report of all of the presentations, activities and events and outings of the last year.

At our January AGM, the executive from 2017 was elected to continue for 2018.

Our monthly meetings provided a variety of interesting and informative presentations:

* Foraging for Native Plants (Alex and Tina)
* Fascinating Backyard Birds (Myrna Pearman)
* Alberta Lake Management Society report on Buffalo Lake (Bradley Peter)
* Battle River Watershed Alliance “Finding Common Ground” (Susanna Bruneau)
* Native Range Plants of Stettler Area (Karin Lindquist)
* Banding Birds: Hummingbirds to Owls (Suzanne Maidment)
* Fungi of Rochon Sands Provincial Park (Charley Bird)

We continued with our annual owl and grouse counts, May species count, Schuckburgh Slough bird count, Christmas bird counts, and the Erskine and Ewing Lake IBA count.

We again conducted to stewardship surveys of the Buffalo Lake Conservation Area (Churchill-Welsh).

Member Charley Bird led the spring walk of the JJ Collett Natural Area and organized and led the Dry Island Buffalo Jump Butterfly count (its 19th year), as well as a presentation for the Ellis Bird Farm at their bug jamboree.

For the second year we had a table at the Stettler Trade fair, giving us a chance to present and meet a great variety of the public. The Trade Fair was not as successful for the club this year due to increased cost and poor location.

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Club outings this year included:

* Owl counts
* Grouse counts
* May species count
* Shuckburgh Slough bird count
* Lady slipper walk and canoeing
* World Migratory Bird Day at West Stettler Park
* June BBQ at Rochon Sands
* Dry Island Buffalo Jump butterfly count
* Big Knife nature walk
* Shorebird Survey
* Alix Lake Nature Trail
* Buckle Up and Say Goodbye to Buckthorn (Nature Conservancy of Canada)
* JJ Collett natural area walk
* Linear bird trail nest box clean out
* IBA bird count
* Christmas Bird counts

Club member Claudia Lipski received the “Frank and Alice Harper Memorial Award” from Nature Alberta.

The club received the “Otis Award” from the Battle River Watershed Alliance for our work on the IBA.

We were featured In Nature Alberta’s News Letter.

In Nature Alberta news; BLN members Claudia Lipski has continued in her role as secretary, and Linda Howitt-Taylor as president.

The Nature Alberta e-magazine was made available to all club members.

The East Central Alberta Heritage Society has put club member Bob Richardson on their board.

We took some action with regards to the Paradise Shores Development on Buffalo Lake.

A chapter of Nature Kids was inaugurated in the Stettler area.

I wish to thank the executive for your support and leadership through the past year.

* Thanks to Mark for continuing to facilitate our meetings for us.
* Thanks to Chris Verhoeven for her work as treasurer, who is unable to continue in this position, she is off pursuing higher education
* Special thanks to Claudia and Marie for getting published various articles throughout the year, and an extra thanks to Marie for keeping things running smoothly again this past year.
* Thanks to all the club members and guests for your support and participation, and welcome to new club members, I am sure that with your continued contributions, 2019 will be even better.

Chris Pfeifle

President

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Discussion on year- end report:

* Buffalo Lake Survey

Marc deCnodder and Tina went out with the Alberta Lake Management team on Buffalo Lake 2 or 3 times over the summer. It was a very interesting experience. They also attended the Alberta Lake Management Society Annual Meeting and Conference. Tina and Marc are interested to do a presentation for the club.

* Dry Island Butterfly count

Last year had a great turn out t of 42 volunteers and professionals. The July 7, 2019 count 7 will be the 20th year! Thank you to Charley Bird and the Alberta Lepidopterists for hosting this event.

* Important Birding Area Bird Count

 Needs more people to help do surveys in the Spring and Fall Katie completed a online questionnaire for the IBA in early January

* Christmas bird Counts

Dec 16 we had a great attendance count, 18 people drove over 360 km in

Six vehicles. We counted 572 individual birds in 19 species

Many other people joined us for pot -luck dinner at the St George’s Anglican Church basement

Dec 23 only 6 people in 2 groups covered 225 Kms of the Buffalo Lake area

Low volunteer turn out due to so close to Christmas and also the same day as Red Deer River Naturalists Count

 We did count 12 species with 340 individual birds

 Dec 31 Red Deer River Count was cancelled as the snow was blowing and temperature very cold. Charley and Ann Bird did complete a bird feeder count of 7 species with 22 individual birds observed .

* Nature Kids Stettler chapter - have not heard if they have any upcoming activities

Discussion of ideas how to get children and families involved and interested in nature.

 Feb 13 Chris has been invited to talk to Clearview school district teachers about nature for kids and how to engage them in the outdoors.

 Dave G suggested the BLNC try to get more active in Stettler community events. The Library / museum in Stettler have Ghost walks ; maybe the BLNC can have nature walks. Let Dave know if you are interested We should try to invite youth groups and children to our events. Melanie suggested we could invite the Jr. Forrest Wardens or other youth groups. Or maybe help youth groups with an outdoor nature themed activity. Nature Kids program hopefully will help increase the awareness of the BLNC and encourage new younger members.

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Election of Executive

President No nominations form the floor. Chris Pfeifle agreed to let his name stand as President

Vice President Chris Pfeifle nominated Bob Richardson he agreed. No other nominations

Secretary - No nominations from the floor Marie Payne agreed continue as Secretary

Treasurer - Birthe McLean nominated Simone DeCnodder, she accepted

Nature Alberta Representative- Claudia would like to step down. Melanie Koch said she would be interested in mentoring with Claudia for a year.

 East Central Heritage Society Representative- Bob Richardson will continue as Rep.

 Directors at large Marc Higgins agreed to stay on Charley Bird agreed to stay on. Charley Bird is also the BLNC liaison with JJCollett Natural Area

 Bob Richardson moved the slate of officers be accepted 2nd by Charley carried

Thank you to all those who have volunteered for positions on the executive for 2019.

 Simone DeCnodder Chris Verhoeven and Chris Pfeifle will need to meet to sign over bank approval and financial records. Simone will have accounts audited and a report ready for the fiscal year end.

Membership

 Fees for 2019 January to December will stay at $10 person or $20 a family. Please ensure your membership is paid up for the year.

 Monthly coffee fee will stay at $2 per person in attendance - covers the monthly hall rental

Discussion of ideas for speakers

Bob Thompson or someone from Ducks Unlimited

Tracy Scott wetland policies

 Bob Spence Stettler community garden/ orchard

 Myrna Pearman - Ellis Bird Farm -birds

 Charley Bird- available as a back up speaker on the topic Mushrooms

 Next meeting February 21 2019

Karen Lindquist Adjourned the meeting

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Wayne - Bashaw- Waxwings are around town

Simone- Pelican Point - 2 moose in the fruit trees and around the yard regular winter feeder birds, Snowy Owl

 Birthe- Pelican Point - Wax wings at the Lake. She saw a skunk at her door thought it was a cat but they are getting along fine Pileated Woodpecker and grouse

 Tina from south of Calgary has seen pileated woodpecker there too. The Red polls have arrived at Pelican Point.

Karin -3 weeks at Barhead - Red polls, Wood peckers, Magpies, White breasted nut hatch, 6 Blue Jays and a Northern Flicker

Melanie - Blue Jays in the yard love the peanuts and will stay until they are all gone. A few magpies help too. Saw 13 Partridges in her parents yard east of Stettler

Bob R Enjoys watching the pecking order of birds at his feeder, anecdotal information: the longer the bill first to have choice

 2 cow and 1 bull moose are enjoying trimming fruit trees on the North side of Stettler

 Ann present moose seen on the West side of Erskine

 Charley - Erskine - feeders are needing to be filled almost every day. Still no Redpolls or Waxwings in Erskine Have Northern Flicker at the suet feeders If you look closly at the tail feathers of the Northern Flicker you see the last inch doen not have bards on the edge. When the bird sleeps at night it finds a crack or fold in the tree bark to tuck in the tail feathers to help it stay on the trunk .

John usual birds at the feeders in Stettler, have seen jack rabbit tracks in Stettler but not seen any rabbits.

 Dave G while visiting in Ontario they enjoyed watching the squirrels and saw both the male and female Northern Cardinal

Thomasina- Tees area -2 or 3 moose going thru the yard. Friday Jan 12 the Red Polls arrived

Marie Tees area Bald Eagles along Highway # 11 usually close to road kill

 Chris Erskine many chickadees at the feeder One he can identify as it has a bent tail.

Minutes and notes by Marie Payne