

Society of Grasslands Naturalists
AGM Minutes- March 22nd, 2016 at Medicine Hat Library

1. Call to order at 6:30pm by Dave McKenzie-chair. Anne Bernhardt-Acting Secretary. 22 members were in attendance.
 2. Minutes: The minutes of the March 24th, 2014 AGM minutes were reviewed by the Chair and acceptance was moved, seconded and carried.
 3. Annual Reports: Hardcopies of all the reports were to be available at the meeting and were posted on the GN Website. Selected reports will be printed in the GN Chronicle.
 - A. President's Report: Dave McKenzie highlighted specific points from his written report, which was printed in the March Chronicle.
 - B. Treasurer's Report: Eileen Cowtan- Reported financial statements for both the Society and the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program. Both showed a positive balance at year's end. She extended thanks to Hugh Armstrong and Dave McKenzie for reviewing and auditing the 2015 books. Adoption of the Treasurer's report was moved, seconded and carried.
 - C. Interpretive Program Report: Corlaine Gardiner- This report is online for all members to read. She is still looking for volunteers for the Easter Week Festivities and reminded all Nature Centre volunteers to fill out a "Volunteer Form".
 - D. Bird Tales Project Report: Dee Armstrong- Report is online. Masterpiece River Ridge has taken over the program in their facility and a new facility, Meadow Ridge Seniors Home, will be started this spring. But volunteers are needed to help.
 - E. Carol Porter Bluebird Trail Report: Milt Spitzer- Report is online. This project started in 1991 and is located on Eagle Butte Road. The project runs from May to mid August each year and has 22 dedicated volunteers checking the 92 boxes. For 2015 63 nests were successful with a total of 326 birds fledged.
- The chair, Dave Mckenzie, then thanked the Board members and everyone who volunteered on committees and the various projects over 2015.

4. Elections: John Slater and Bill Knibbs presented the nominations report. The results were:

President: Hugh Armstrong
Vice- President: Vacant
Treasurer: Eileen Cowtan
Secretary: Betty Rainville

5. Other Business:
 - A. Directors Appointments: The board appoints these at the first meeting following the AGM. The present directors at large have allowed their names to stand. These are:
Gary Martin, Ian Turner and Angela Turner.

B. Committees: All Committees are to meet in April, 2016 to select a Chair and set a budget.

C. 2016 GN Projects:

- Carol Porter Bluebird Trail: Milt Spitzer (this, technically, is not an exclusive GN project)
- Birding Trails: Phil Horch and Milt Spitzer
- Bird Tales: Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault
- Butterflies: Dave McKenzie and Jan Scott
- Wildflowers: Martha Munz-Gue and Cathy Linowski

D. Honorary Lifetime Membership Presentation: John Slater nominated Martha Munz Gue and presented a very informative bio. Martha joined GN in 1987 and has held all Executive positions of the club. She was also our Nature Alberta representative for many years. As well she has been very active in the environmental community and was awarded the City of Medicine Hat's Environmental Award. Martha stated she was honoured to receive this recognition from GN. Congratulations Martha!

6. Announcements:

A. Field Trips:

- Annual Birding Trip with Ben Verner to Manyberries-Saturday, April 2nd, 2016 at 6:00 AM. Meet at the Dunmore Road Tim Hortons.
- Gary Martin is looking into field trips to Cypress Hills as well as local Neighbourhood walks.
- Dave McKenzie is planning Butterfly field trips within the city.

B. Mixed Grass Forum: Saturday, April 14th, 2016, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at MH College, Room S159.

C. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 5th, 2016, 6:30 pm - Hugh Armstrong's house.

D. Next General Meeting: April 26th, 2016- Nature Centre at 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm Guest Speaker.

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

8. Indoor Program: A time of fellowship with members over coffee and cookies.