

Society of Grassland Naturalists
Minutes of General Meeting – May 26, 2015
Police Point Park

1. **Call to Order:** 7:02 pm. Hugh Armstrong (Vice President) – Chair; John Slater – acting Secretary.
2. **Review and Adoption of Minutes of General meeting April 28, 2015: Motion carried.**
3. **Exciting Sightings:** Sightings from members – 2 Caspian Terns, 2 Stilts and 2 Ferruginous Hawks (in Elkwater); Yellow Breasted Chat, 100 Bank Swallows, American Redstart, and Tennessee Warbler (in Strathcona Island Park); Rattlesnake and Bull snake (in Crescent Heights NE); Northern Saw-Whet Owl and 2 Bull snakes (in Police Point Park) and Vole (in Riverside).
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Eileen Cowtan reported end April 2015 - Total GN club: \$22,640.91; Interpretive Program: \$53,056.99. GST rebate received: GN Club \$31.61; IP \$751.46. Membership 76.
5. **Priority Business:**
 - a. **Call for two Directors-at-Large:** Ian & Angela Turner plan to attend next GN Board Meeting for appointing.
 - b. **Outstanding Committees and Projects:** Contact persons to call meetings to select chairs and draft budgets.
6. **Interpretive Program Report:** Corlaine Gardner reported three grants have been obtained and three summer employees hired to conduct projects on Baby’s Breath, Flood Baseline surveys, and Wetland study in Kin Coulee Park. Short Night with Full Moon Walk on June 2nd. Other upcoming events will be listed in the June Chronicle.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Indoor Program:** tonight’s presentation “Hiking the Coast to Coast (C2C) Trail” by Ian and Angela Turner, GN Members.
 - b. **Field Trips:** Milt Spitzer to lead “Birding in the Great Sand Hills” Saturday June 6th. Also Cypress Hills Bird Count on June 6th. Dave McKenzie to lead “Butterfly Outing” in Elkwater June 27th. Gary Martin to lead hikes in Cypress Hills during the summer. Check the May and June Chronicles for more details.
 - c. **Fundraising:** \$1200 grant received from Medicine Hat Real Estate Board for the Bird Tales project. Application being considered for renovations and upgrades to the Nature Centre.
 - d. **Bird Tales Project:** Dee Armstrong reported on meeting at the Masterpiece Corp. Bird feeders and birdbath installed. The program very enthusiastically received by the residents and staff. Commendation to Paul Thibault and Dee and Hugh Armstrong for initiating and setting up the program at the Masterpiece Corp. Currently considering other locations.
 - e. **Birding Trails Project:** Phil Horch reported that a meeting was held last Thursday May 21 to discuss the write up by Milt Spitzer and maps being generated by Paul Thibault. Plan to have a preliminary version available on the GN website later this fall for assessment followed by publishing a brochure likely next year or two when a grant application is completed and approved.
8. **Other Business:**
 - a. **Prairie Wildflower Walks:** Encourage members to take weekly walks to record wildflowers.
 - b. **Field Trip:** reported above in item 7.b.
 - c. **City Civic Recognition Awards:** presentation last Wednesday May 20, 2015 at the Esplanade. Sean Allen received the Environmental Award for the Baby’s Breath removal project. Article and picture to appear in the June Chronicle.
 - d. **Ranchlands’ Baby’s Breath & Leafy Spurge removal:** John reported that MH City has provided a grant to hire Lisa James to manage the project. Now hoping for rain to soften the ground and manpower from Calfrac to do the digging in early June.

- e. **GN 30th Anniversary Celebration:** the Board is planning to hold a special event at the General meeting September 27th. Suggestions were solicited from the members present. Check the upcoming Chronicles for further details.
- f. **Casino:** Advisor Krystal Bates summarized the benefits and dues of the casino. GN's date in 1st quarter 2016 should be known in early August. Contract was signed.
- g. **Next GN Board Meeting:** Tuesday June 2nd, 2015, 6:30pm at Eileen Cowtan's home.
- h. **Next GN General Meeting:** Annual Potluck supper Tuesday June 23, 2015, 6:00pm at the Nature Centre.
- i. **Meeting Adjournment:** 7:50pm.
- j. **Tonight's Indoor Program:** Ian & Angela Turner presented a very interesting slide show and talk on their "Hike Across northern England from Coast to Coast" in August 2007.
Attendance: 25

Hiking the Coast to Coast (C2C) Trail!

At our May 26 Meeting Ian and Angela made a presentation to an enthralled audience of 25. They detailed their 2013 hiking experience across northern England from St. Bees on the Irish Sea to Robin Hood's Bay on the North Sea; a total distance of 192 miles (320 kms). This trail was first established in 1972 and approximately 10,000 people hike this trail annually.

Ian and Angela took 18 days to hike this distance staying at Bed and Breakfasts, Inns or Hotels along the way. They took 3 rest days during the hike. On these rest days they thoroughly explored the nearby area. They arranged the whole trip before departure with the tour company making the arrangements for lodging and for transporting Ian and Angela's luggage each day.

Ian and Angela presented a great slide presentation that highlighted the spectacular scenery that they encountered along the way. I'm sure that if you are interested in making a similar trip Ian and Angela would be more than willing to provide you with more details.