

BPSA MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024



We had 35 members plus six guests in addition to our guest speaker and his spouse to start the meeting. With a quorum established, President Carl Jones called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

Guest speaker, Bill Easton, a retired Professional Wildlife Manager and Control Specialist, was introduced by Director Kat McCulloch.

Bill had been our guest months ago and he came prepared tonight to speak about fishers. Fishers were introduced onto the Bruce Peninsula in the 1980's by the MNR in large part as a control for porcupines, as the fisher is the only major predator of the porcupine. The weasel-type animal is very aggressive, a very agile climber, and pursue their prey into hollow trees or burrows in the ground. They are 20-25 inches long and can weigh 15 pounds. They are now trapped for their valuable brownish-black fur, which is especially fine in the female. Bill accompanied his address with a slide-presentation and brought a mounted fisher to show us the animal, a couple of fisher skins, and a skull to demonstrate their canine teeth. As he finished his address, Bill accepted questions from the audience. It was a very interesting 35-minute session.

After Bill finished his program, Pres Carl expressed our appreciation for Bill's address and presented a BPSA thermal glass to Bill. He then announced a small 15-minute break for a coffee and tim-bits, before reconvening for our business portion of the meeting.



Secretary Dennis Morton moved to accept the recorded minutes of our last membership meeting of March 28th, 2024; motion 2nded by Stu Paterson; motion carried.

Treasurer Jane Thibideau provided the Club members with a statement of our financial affairs. We have a Royal Bank account with a balance of \$33,389.64 consisting of working capital balance, \$27,846.15, plus archery funds, \$188.72; fish stocking funds, \$5.00; and reserve hatchery capital expense funds of \$5,349.77 The Ways and Means account balance is \$6,158.16. We still own 2 x \$15,000. Guaranteed investment certificates. Our income in April was \$19,321.80 from donations, \$335.00; membership dues of \$670.00; cash sales, primarily fruit tree sales, totaling \$3,316.80; and CHP funding cheque of \$15,000.00. Our expenses for the period, April 1-24, were \$8,182.25, for Hatchery, \$4,201.13; OFAH Insurance, \$422.00; Office expense, \$44.13; Property Expense, \$27.03; Fish for Pond, \$600.00; Fruit Trees, \$275.67; Prizes, \$147.00; and payment for chartered accountant invoice (BDO), \$2,430.29. Jane made a motion to accept her report; 2nded by Al Hunter; carried.

Treasurer Jane informed our members that she had had our BPSA annual budget approved at our February 29th meeting. Some expenses have already necessitated adjustment. The **budget for our accountant** had been set for \$2,000. but with the actual cost being \$2,430.29, Jane made a motion to **increase the budget to \$2,435.** to cover the increased cost; motion 2nded by Dennis Morton; carried. Our insurance budget had been approved at \$9,000. but our actual liability insurance cost is already over-budget by \$600., so Jane made a motion to **increase our**

insurance budget to \$10,000.00 for 2024 (liability budget of \$7,100. and property insurance premium of \$2,900.00); motion 2nded by Phyllis Laughland; carried. The total office budget for 2024 had been approved at \$1,100. but with 2024 expenses already at \$958.72, Jane made a **motion to increase the office budget to \$1,600.00 for 2024**; motion 2nded by Kat McCulloch; carried.

Membership Director Jerry Beaver reported on our membership. He was pleased to report that BPSA membership is increasing and that we even had 2 new members join at our meeting tonight; we are close to 300 members which is excellent news

Hatchery manager, Al Sutter, reported on the Hatchery operations. He was pleased to report that we had received \$15,000.00 from OFAH, for our Community Hatchery Program application. Their generous funding broke down as \$7K for operation expenses, \$5K for our new generator installation costs, and an additional \$3K to subsidize the generator project or future hatchery improvement projects. He reported that a BPSA team had been successful in obtaining about 90,000 rainbow trout eggs from spawning rainbow trout over at Denny's Dam in 2 trips in April and after culling, we still had about 80K good eggs in trays in the hatchery. Anticipating our Kid's Fishing Day, now planned for May 26th, Al and director, Chris Thompson, had gone to Hanover to a fish farm on April 20th and acquired 150 pounds of rainbow trout and stocked them in our pond at our site; we should be "good -to- go" for the annual event. On March 30th, some members had stocked some brown trout at the Warton Marina property. BPSA will host a fin-clipping day on Wed, May 1st, at our hatchery, to fin-clip approx 20K rainbow; will run an afternoon and an evening shift and volunteers are filling up the spaces to help. The same rainbow trout will be stocked in Colpoy's Bay and Barrow's Bay on Sat., May 4th. Help if you can.

Handgun Club president & BPSA director Al Hunter made a report for the Handgun Club. Their membership is 78 members but they have another 14 members who are completing their probationary shoots. The handgun club has a bank balance of \$29,320.61 Al mentioned that the .22 rifle program had been well attended. It will start up again in September. BPSA welcomed a group of Girl Guide Sparks (5&6 yr. olds) and some parents for an open house on April 15th and everyone had a good time hosting them. They had a look at the gun range, had a hatchery tour, planted a tree on our property, and Brenda McLean even had set up an archery shoot. Al mentioned a letter that he had received from one of the parents, thanking us for being such good hosts. A second PAL course will be held at our Club on the upcoming weekend & it is almost fully-booked!

Archery Club chairperson, **Brenda McLean**, reported that the archery program will start on May 7th and she was excited to get going. Pres Carl advised that the BPSA had obtained an equipment storage container which was now on site and it can serve as a storage area for archery supplies and targets; a few minor construction renovations will be done for maximum utilization. Thanks, expressed to OFAH's Community Conservation Fund for their grant and thanks to Pres. Carl for completing the grant request.

Fruit Tree Project Member, Ray Marklevitz, summarized the apple tree purchase made from Whiffletree Nursery **and the sale of the trees** to the BPSA members in 2024. About 40 members had purchased over 150 trees and he expressed thanks to all who had been involved in the program, especially Treasurer Jane Thibideau, who had worked on the delivery of the trees to the purchasers over 2 days. It was the 3rd year for the project and BPSA had a profit of \$456.67 after all expenses had been paid.

Invasive Species Director Eric Barker advised that the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club had **sought some volunteers** to help them in a work project that they are undertaking on Monday, May 6th; they are working on removing invasive English Ivy and Periwinkle and are meeting at Vanishing Stream and Wright's Point parking lot at Purple Valley in the afternoon. If you are willing to help, please contact Eric at "windburn354@gmail.com" or text 519-373-1684.

Property Director Chris Thompson made a property report. He confirmed that BPSA is assisting the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club with planting trees on the Vanishing Stream property on Saturday, May 25th. This is an excellent conservation project and Chris advised that he had 19 youths or capable adults to assist them on the project. Shovels and proper footwear and good work-gloves will be required. Chris sought some info from the members on the type of mower that BPSA should purchase to cut the grass at our site. The budget had been approved for a purchase price not to exceed \$6,000. last year. After discussion, we scheduled a work-clean-up party, combined with a pot-luck, for June 8th. More info will be provided.

OFAH rep Stu Paterson updated the members on his efforts on the Board of OFAH and as our club rep, as director in Zone H. OFAH has a new logo and he showed it to the members. He mentioned that members could obtain info on work that is being done at the Meaford Tank Range; a group, "Save Georgian Bay", has expressed concerns. He mentioned that Chronic Wasting Disease has not been found in the deer population in Ontario although it has been found in other provinces (this disease effects elk, moose, caribou and deer and is an untreatable brain disease and 100% fatal). Stu had been a guest speaker at the last OFAH Zone H meeting, held in Durham, and had advised other clubs on how to increase their memberships by getting youth involved in outdoor pursuits; he outlined many of BPSA's efforts such as youth firearms training, youth archery, kid's fishing events, and tree planting programs.

Website Director Kat McCulloch advised the members to **view our website** and read our articles and meeting minutes. She advised the members of the "how to" of retrieving the info and the use of our password to gain access to info.

In "**Other Business**", the following items were discussed:

- President Carl advised the members of 2 small changes that were going to be done to our revised **Constitution and By-Laws**. Director Marje Beaver outlined the 2 changes that were required – an adult member is 18 years or over and a youth member is a non-voting member. She made a motion to amend the constitution with the 2 changes; 2nded by Al Hunter; motion carried.
- Pres Carl invited someone to **volunteer to look at "safety issues"** at our property and Wayne Musselman indicated that he would be pleased to help. He will bring any concerns of any of the members forward to the Board of Directors for review.
- **Charles Robertson** made a suggestion to the BPSA that we should consider another building on our property, such as a quonset structure, which could be used to conduct our archery program, even in inclement weather. We shall consider
- **Ty Henry and Tia Biro, partners in TNT Lures**, had come to this meeting and Tia addressed the Club to thank us for our fish-rearing efforts, which help stock Colpoy's Bay and Georgian Bay & likely some fish make it to Lake Huron. **TNT made a donation of \$250.00** to the BPSA Hatchery programs. Thank you so much!



- The Ways & Means committee (Alison Gibson and Karen Thomas) concluded the meeting portion with the 50/50 draw and draws for 3 meat prizes. Thanks to all.

A **motion** was made **to adjourn** the meeting by Alison Gibson; 2nded by Charles Robertson; motion carried. The meeting ended at 9:37 p.m.