

**Friends of the Bluebirds Fall Meeting**  
October 29, 2023  
Riverbank Discovery Centre, Brandon

The fall meeting of the Friends of the Bluebirds was held at the Riverbank Discovery Centre in Brandon on Sunday, October 29, 2023. 27 members present.

Chair, Phil Weiss, called meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Welcomed everyone back. Went around the room with introductions.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** GOULDEN,Herb/Hammell, Gord - that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

**MINUTES**

**Motion:** DANARD,Barry/Boys,Linda – that the Minutes of the October 30, 2022 meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried

**REPORTS**

**Chair** - Phil Weiss

- Another season has come and gone, thank you for everybody's contribution. One of best volunteer driven citizen science projects on the prairies.
- Friends of the Bluebirds organization was formed mid 1976 which means 2026 will be our 50th Anniversary. Need an Anniversary committee, think over winter, what should we do to mark the occasion.

**Financial** – Wendy Bulloch

- Receipts and expenditures for past six months were reviewed. Balance as of September 30, 2023 is \$1,710.27 plus \$5.00 share
- Haven't applied for any funding from Nature Manitoba Bluebird Fund.
- Herb suggested we – hire a student for geo lines. Agenda item for executive to come up with ideas and options.

**Membership** – Carole Sangster

Carole asked everyone to check membership list so ensure accuracy. 129 members, 84 lines, 2023 - 4 new members, 22 friends, 5 members no line. 6 have boxes don't send in data.

Lloyd and Barb Stankey, passed.

Membership List is internal to club members, not on our website. Discussion on whether this was infringing on members personal information or not. Consensus to leave as is.

**Data/Web Management** – Linda Pearn – email report read by Phil.

24 annual reports received, slightly more than half of what was received in 2022. Not enough data to say if results better or not than last year.

Website, Blue Host, paid to July 2025, Fees domain name Pd. 2029. 13,700 visitors to our site.

Linda Pearn would like to give up website duties, and just do data. Pivitol Elements in Brandon is maintenance provider. Deadline for reports end of October. Having a reminder go out about this is helpful to members.

**Line Managers** – Dan Chranoswki, Bruno Bruederlin

New line, new number, take over a line the number remains the same for some longevity.

Contact Dan or Bruno if you have a new line.

GPS locations of lines – map showing beginning and end of lines. Try again this summer. Need to call everyone first make sure line is active; executive duty.

GPS the line, not individual boxes. Line info does not need to go on website, just for our information. Discussion on what should be showing on website. Consensus was start and end point, no road numbers, give a general idea of where the lines are.

**Motion:** BRUEDERLIN, Bruno/Barclay, Ken - that the reports are approved as presented.

Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Co chairman/Vice chairman.** - anyone interested to let Phil know.
- **Annual Monitoring Data** – info goes to Bluebird affiliates. 6 out of 61 in Canada, rest in USA. 2023 data will go out. Nature Saskatchewan also receives our data. Data also goes to CWS; Tim Poole, Species at Risk; NABS, Vice Chairman Mike DeBruhl, important for education purposes for general public.

**Nesting Box Construction**

- Some club members are building their own boxes, refreshing lines.
- Westbran – 2 sheets plywood delivered, building again, trainees very proud accomplishments.
- Minnedosa Men’s Shed, building boxes, will build as needed.
- Seniors for Seniors, Brandon, built 25 boxes, can go back if needed.
- If inventory gets low, will contact groups to rebuild.

**Newsletter Committee**

- Erica Alex passed template onto us. Herb/Phil produced one.
- Re-energize newsletter committee – Herb, Phil and another member. If interested, let Phil know.

**Miscellaneous**

- 3 caps left \$15.00 each
- Ian Milliken has racoon guards if anyone needs them, Barry Danard also has some.
- Draws for door prizes done. Break for coffee, etc.
- Resale of game licences – Barry Danard. Fishing licenses of minimal value.
- Edith Parsons suggested we bring our own cups for coffee at the meeting. Members also encouraged to bring something for goodie table.
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- Bruno – suggesting purchase and resell insulated coffee mugs with our name on. Chairman will investigate.
- Herb – suggested going back to having a spring meeting. Gord Hammell suggested having a guest speaker; adds interest and a good time for out of town members to get boxes.
- Article in Brandon Sun about group. Generate new members. Donna write an article for the Cooperator for the 50<sup>th</sup> year. Contact Brandon Sun
- Dan had a 80 slide carrousel digitized; contacted company Digital Treasurers. Should add info on slide to digital record.
- Barry slides, to Dan to digitize
- Linda Pearn will have compilation of the year done in November.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Sharing of 2023 nest box results.

**NEXT MEETING**

Sunday April 21,2024 Riverbank Discovery Centre, Brandon

**Adjournment** by Edith Parsons at 3:30 pm