

NEWS AND NOTES

MAY MEETING REPORT. The final meeting of the season, held on May 4, was attended by a large turnout of almost 40 people. Members were brought up to date on recent society involvements and on planned spring and summer activities. The secretary reported that membership now stands at about 120. The program featured a showing of slides entered in the nature slide contest. Wayne Barrett, the contest judge, offered helpful comments on the entries and presented prizes to the winners. First prize went to Andy Dean for "Flower Silhouettes in the Sunset", second prize to Gerald MacDougall for "Morning Mist Rising" and third prize to Andy Dean for "Monarch Butterfly on Goldenrod". Congratulations to the winners and thanks to the judge.

CAPE TRYON FIELD TRIP. The wind, rain and fog of May 15 must have dampened members' spirits, for only two showed up. Due to the weather it was decided to cancel the Indian River portion of the trip and visit only Cape Tryon. At the colony some cormorants were busy gathering nest materials from the cliff tops, while others were already sitting on nests. As usual the Great Cormorants were occupying the top-most sites while the Double-crested Cormorants nested on the lower portion of the cliffs. Although no counts were made, the colony seems to have expanded from past years.

ISLAND NATURE TRUST. The annual meeting of the Island Nature Trust was held at the Charlottetown Hotel on May 20. A new General Council was voted into office and reports were presented on the various endeavours of the Trust in the past year. A fifty year lease for management rights at Deroche Point has been signed and plans are now being developed to limit vehicular access to the dunes. The Royalty Oaks Management Committee has been active and hopes to have a draft management plan for the area ready shortly. The Trust presented submissions to the Land Use Commission opposing the proposed Basin Head development, which has subsequently been turned down. Priority is to be given to the hiring of a part-time Executive Director for the Trust during the next year.

VALLEYFIELD WOODLOT FIELD TRIP. Undaunted by the bone-chilling November-like weather on the 12th of June, 20 hardy members and friends gathered in Valleyfield for a tour through the P.E.I. Dept. of Forestry Demonstration Woodlot. Capably led by Sid Watts and Debbie Petres, we spent the morning in a beautiful stand of hardwoods, where we could see examples of various management techniques in practice. For added interest the canopy was alive with bird song, and the forest floor carpeted with woodland flowers. At noon time the group adjourned to John and Mary Wright's where a hearty lunch and lively conversation were enjoyed. In the afternoon we visited the other half of the woodlot, the so-called 'white spruce desert', where trees grew so densely that nothing else could grow beneath and only the top most portion of the canopy was green. Here various harvesting and replanting techniques were to be seen, all aimed at the eventual improvement of the woodland stands. Many thanks to Sid, Debbie, John and Mary for a most enjoyable day.

* * * * *

COMING EVENTS

* * * * *

* ANNUAL GREAT BLUE HERON CENSUS. late June and early July. Contact Rosemary *
Curley at 651-2585 for more details. *

* UP-WEST TRIP TO TYNE VALLEY AREA. an all day outing tentatively set for Sat. *
Oct. 2. Watch the Sept.-Oct. Newsletter for further details. *

* * * * *