

Meeting of SMRAS Inc. Board of Directors Thursday, November 6, 1969, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln with the following present: President Stanley Lincoln, presiding, Vice President Dave Kayser, Chairman of the Board Willard Messiah, Mrs. Anderson, Naturalist, and Directors Jean Weiss, Catharine Holmes, (Stan Wecker), Allan Powell, Bee & Bob Ridgeway, Dorothy Kinaman, Lester C. Holmes, Thelma H. Smith, Wm. P. Osborn, Mary Curnen and Leon Nettleton.

1. Stan thanked Mrs. Anderson for notifying members of meeting place change.
2. In the absence of the Secretary, Kay Koste, minutes of the last meeting were omitted. Leon Nettleton was made temporary secretary.
- *3. Treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$2,768.30 on October 31 and a Sanctuary Endowment Fund balance of \$5,573.94.
4. Increasing our membership. The President invited our views on this challenge. Discussion: a possible junior membership? Same faces seen at all activities - field trips and program, indicating many passive members who are never seen. Example, Croton members who could help with and be interested in to Brinton Brook. What motivations are adults are supplied to for intense game for the young citizens to become called with our group, not necessarily as militants. Suggested, a \$2.50 junior membership, for which young members would receive annual directory and monthly bulletin. A public drive thru members of service clubs is a possibility; another, Directors and other members soliciting in our own businesses, have membership blanks handy, display BAN DDT posters.

Membership Drive Committee of volunteers to report at January meeting: Thelma Smith, Chairman, Stan Wecker, Let Holmes, Kaye Anderson, Catharine H.
5. Programs. Chairman Stan Wecker reported need to change Feb. 27 meeting date to Feb. 20, still at Roselle Avenue School, due to Feb. 27's being civil service employees' holiday.

Christmas tea. Mrs. Buchanan is social chairman, needs second silver service and more helpers. Mr. Kayser volunteered to furnish silver service. President Stan will review previous volunteer list for more helpers.

November paid meeting preparations complete. Admission price now \$1.50. Pancake supper including Powells' film on maple syrup planned for Jan. 23 at Pleasantville Methodist Church, Chairman still to be appointed.
6. Field trips, Chairman Dave Kayser reporting. Bald eagle, sandhill crane, avocets, others, reported at Brigantine & Cape May; Bombay House was headquarters, Spindelows joined the group.

Rye Lake Nov. 23, meet at fishing dock.

Mrs. Curnen reported and recommended latest Scientific American article, "How Birds Sing".
7. Sanctuaries. *Sanctuaries Director report, chiefly on Brinton Brook Advisory Committee meeting Oct. 19. Added orally: recommended, a get-together of Croton members to promote participation at Brinton Brook.

Mr. N. Received curt card from a L.I. resident asking facts about SMRAS with no indication of reason for inquiring.

*Naturalist's report distributed. Comment from V.P., how was it possible to accommodate 217 children & 40 adults in 42 hours? Commended.

Let Holmes reported having prevailed upon boy, thru parent, to return jar in which he had planned to collect frogs at BB

*Brinton Brook Sanctuary Co-chairmen's report from Mr. & Mrs. Ridgeway read by President

on motion
resting
to sit

(7. Sanctuaries)

- Discussion of Brinton Brook Sanctuary rules restricting group visits:
- continue practice of school group visits 1 day a week?
 - similarly restrict all groups, including Scouts & Cubs?
 - would Sanctuary be harmed by more frequent group visits?
 - How does National Audubon Society feel about using it for educational group trips?
 - we have been violating original concept as stipulated by Mrs. Brinton when land was transferred to NAS & SMRAS
 - the area will change, already has changed, no matter what we do as to ecology and factors contributing to it
 - our basic aim is to promote practice of conservation
 - how about asking for Mrs. Brinton's present views on group visits?
 - should we have more small groups, fewer large groups, visiting?

The President brought the discussion to a close by suggesting a breathing spell before any Board decision confirming or suggesting change in original policies, perhaps in January or February. He emphasized that there has been no change since publication of the original summary of policies. A letter will be sent all Board members restating the original concepts. Agreed upon by motion presented by Mrs. Kinaman, seconded by Mrs. Curnen and passed.

8. Membership. Chairman Let Holmes reported the following new members: Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Dienst, Jr., Chappaqua; Mrs. Clemency Grady, Thornwood; Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Smiley, Pleasantville; Jeffery Spendelow, Marlton, N.J.; Mrs. Hallie Stadfield, Chappaqua Rd., Briarcliff Manor. Nov. total, 477.

9. Mr. & Mrs. Ridgeway were thanked by the President and applauded by the card for fine work planning and carrying out tea at Mrs. Brinton's Oct. 19.

10. Annual NAS Dinner. President or substitute to attend as guest of our Society. Moved by Catharine Holmes, seconded by Leon Nettleton and passed.

11. Tax exempt status situation discussed at length with our legal counsel, Mr. Brisson, the President reported. At issue, proof that in years 1960-68 1/3 or more of our support came from public at large, no more than 1% from a single individual. Proofs of such status are now at hand, to be reported to Internal Revenue Service.

12. Letter expressing Board's sympathy to be sent Coggeshall family. Motion, Leon Nettleton; 2nd, Cath. Holmes

13. Several items:

Next Board meeting at home of Mr. & Mrs. Powell. Route map distributed.

Unusual birds should be reported to Donald Abb

Books for Christmas gifts should be ordered from Catharine Holmes now

Stan Wecker showed slides of birds and other views at recent field trips after

Meeting adjourned at 10.22 p.m.

Leon D. Nettleton

Leon D. Nettleton,
Secretary pro tempore

Oct. 10: Conducted a bird walk for the County at Ward PoundRidge Resorvation. 20 people attended including SMRAS member Mrs. Plumleigh of Tarrytown. Ed McCrea is new Assistant Curator at Trailside Museum, expressed much interest in SMRAS activities

Oct. 11: Torrey Botanical Club walk at Brinton. 17 people from as far away as New Haven, Conn., & Summit, N.J., well informed & I learned a lot, including identification of big grass along trail to pond (Indian Grass, Sorghastrum nutans)

Oct. 14: Worked on trails at Gedney. Peter Spindel^{ca}ow disposed of dead racoon in lumber pile at parking lot

Oct. 15: to Brinton, cleaned up cabin and put up new display. About 6 college age hippies were in cabin, left pleasantly when told I wanted to clean it up.
Afternoon: Junior Scout troop from Chappaqua at Gedney

Oct. 16: Miss Greenstein's 1st grade at Gedney. Beth Whittaker, fairly new member from Peakskill, assisted, taking 10 children on her own.
Afternoon: Pleasantville Brownie troop, also at Gedney

Oct. 18: Walk with emphasis on forest succession at Brinton, with Cary and Chris Dollard, Gregory Dow and Mrs. Underwood's Cub Scout Den. Mrs. Underwood, a member, had asked me several times to take her Den, brought 12 children instead of the 6 she said she would bring. They were generally uncontrollable and destructive. Unfortunately, this is typical of Cub Scouts, for some reason, and the few interested ones are unable to counteract the influence of the others. For this reason I do not plan to take any more Cub Dens.

Oct. 19: sent 10 letters with SMRAS patches to children in Gedney Brook Neighborhood who completed classes last spring.

Oct. 21: Mrs. Sussman's 1st grade from Rearing Brook School at Gedney. Mr. & Mrs. Ed McCrea trailed along to see what methods I use with children, since they have not had much experience. Planted some blue lobelia at Gedney. Brownie troop at Brinton in p.m.

Oct. 23: To Teatown Resorvation to help Warren Balgocyen, who had 120 6th graders from Yorktown. He had plenty of help and it went smoothly

Oct. 25: Forest succession walk at Gedney. Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Friedman with their two children, the whole Dow family, JohnCox & a friend.

Oct. 27: Mrs. Seaton's 2nd grade from Carrie E. Tompkins School at Brinton. Afterward walked the upper Red trail and the Yellow trail; no sign of hunters. Mowing was done to an extent that makes the whole place look very inviting for cross-country in a Volkswagen.
Afternoon: Brownie Troop at Brinton

Oct. 20: cleared trail at Gedney. Afternoon, Brownie Troop at Brinton

Henry Zaranski, Supt. of Recreation for Town of Mt. Pleasant, has asked my help in laying out Nature trails in Stonegate, one of the small parks, hopes to hire 10 boys to do the work next summer

I have an appointment to see the Recreation Director at Blythedale, as mentioned by Mrs. Coggshall last month, to find out what they would like to have in nature program line.

Total hours, 42. Children, 217. Adults, 40.

Kaya Anderson

BRINTON BROOK

Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting Oct. 19 at the cabin with Mr. & Mrs. Ridgeway, Chairmen, Mr. & Mrs. Holmes, Leon Nettleton present. Following most of the discussion we were joined by Mr. Hars, former Chairman, and Mary Forsyth, Chairman Emeritus

Committee Recommendations:

- 1 Erect new sign, "Open from Dawn to Dusk"
- 2 Keep in mind Brinton Brook "as is", not as educational center
- 3 School groups limited to once a week
- 4 Every group to be accompanied by an SMRAS member
- 5 BB recommended as site for school group leaders instruction in small numbers and training for adult volunteers as group leaders

6 → *organize a get-together to establish in BB.*

Interest Croton members - maybe a trip to the one introducing Sedney Brook

Discussion & comments preceding recommendations:

Sanctuary was given by Mrs. Brinton to be used in natural state
 Letters read from George Porter & Mary Forsyth emphasizing above principle
 No one knows for certain what people comprise committee; about 30 invitations sent
 There are two Red Trails because Mrs. Forsyth, then chairman, so decided
 Complaint: visitors pick flowers in Sanctuary; actual example occurred during discussion; visitor politely admonished, was most apologetic
 Groups should be warned, before trips, not to pick anything
 Suggested limit of 12 in a group per adult excepting school classes with teachers
 Mrs. Ridgeway reported leading field trip at Croton School on its own grounds, which have promising nature study potential between building and river
 Sedney Brook mentioned as main educational center of SMRAS Inc., supported by annual contributions from Dr. & Mrs. Pruyn
 Bulletin boards recommended as worthy projects at Sedney Brook, perhaps other areas; another suggestion was adding small structures such as builders place on sites, which can be purchased or rented, Mr. Ridgeway mentioned
 Are we getting our money's worth from wardens' visits? (question from Let Holmes)

Then we joined other Directors as guests of Mrs. Brinton at tea, very pleasant post prandial.

Leon Nettleton

SAW HILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

November 5, 1969

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Coggeshall,

The following resolution was unanimously carried as regularly moved at the November meeting of the Saw Hill River Audubon Society, Inc.:

Be it Resolved that the members of the Board of Directors of the Saw Hill River Audubon Society, Inc., assembled tonight, November 5, 1969; note with deep concern the bereavement of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Coggeshall in the loss of their son,

and, as further indication of their affection for Mrs. Jonathan Coggeshall, their fellow board member, they direct that this expression of their sadness be spread upon the minutes of this Society, and conveyed to her and the members of her family.

Saw Hill River Audubon Society, Inc.

Stanley L. Lincoln
President

ENCLOSURE