

# FRIENDS OF SAVANNAH COASTAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

## Minutes of General Membership Annual Meeting of March 31, 2010

### **Call to order:**

The meeting was convened at 7:10 PM by President Rick Shields, at the Coastal Georgia Center, 305 Fahm St., in Savannah, GA.

### **Attending:**

Board members: Rick Shields, *President*; Allyn Schneider, *Vice President*; Twila Gray, *Treasurer*; Dot Bambach, *Secretary*; Hunter Hurst; Wasil Khan and Karen McGinty. John Crawford and James Gardner were unable to attend.

USFWS representatives: Jane Griess and Peter Range.

Members: Approximately 42 additional members were in attendance, exceeding the required quorum.

### **Minutes:**

Review of the minutes from the previous board meeting was omitted.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Total available funds stand at \$20,876.38 (net of accounts payable).

### **Board of Directors Election:**

Five openings exist on the Board, all for two-year terms.

The following candidates were introduced and their biographical information distributed in writing to members in attendance:

Susan Chapman, Hunter Hurst, Wasil Khan, Pat Metz and Allyn Schneider.

**MOTION:** Dispense with a written ballot and elect all five candidates by acclamation. Seconded and approved unanimously.

### **FWS Report (Jane Griess):**

1. A slide show of photos from the Grand Opening of the Savannah NWR Visitor Center was shown.
2. Updates were provided on the following topics:
  - Visitation numbers for the new VC
  - Monica Harris's appointment and start date
  - Current budget status and proposed funding level for next fiscal year
  - Refuge construction projects
  - Water control structure replacement
  - Invasive species control project
3. The "Pinckney Nine" volunteers have been selected to receive the Regional Director's Honor Award, which will be presented in Atlanta on May 13.
4. Projects for which Friends support (either volunteer hours or funds) will be requested include:
  - Congressional Field Day
  - Butterfly garden installation at Savannah VC
  - Invasive species control
  - Wassaw NWR trail maintenance
  - Trash cleanup on Savannah Wildlife Drive

### **Featured Speaker:**

Peter Range gave an interesting and informative slide presentation about his painted bunting research and banding effort on Wassaw Island.

### **President's Presentation:**

President Rick Shields reviewed Friends activities and accomplishments for the past year. Goals for the coming year include:

- Expand volunteer base for the Savannah VC and the Gator Hole
- Enhance activities around the Savannah VC: butterfly garden, bird banding, bird-feeding station, boardwalk trail?
- Develop trail maps for Savannah NWR
- Recruit new Friends members for a Harris Neck working group
- Develop next generation of Friends leadership
- Expand public outreach – e.g. hunters, fishermen, children

- Create professional printed materials – brochures, letterhead, newsletter, etc.

**Door Prizes:**

Members winning door prizes were as follows:

Tour of Wassaw NWR – Twila Gray  
Wood Duck banding – Karen McGinty  
Waterdogs Kayaking Trip – Hunter Hurst  
Tee Shirt – Wasil Khan  
Swamp Girls Kayak Trip – Jane Griess  
Raptor book – Gene Keferl  
Wildlife Print – Sally Stein  
Tour of Harris Neck – Linda Sue Babcock  
Jekyll Island Ramble – Sandy Haines  
Tour of Pinckney NWR – Henry Manning  
Birds & Butterflies trip – Judy Johnson  
Wildlife candlesticks – Dot Bambach & Matt Ryan

**Next Bard of Directors meeting:**

Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00 PM at the Savannah NWR Visitor Center (social hour begins at 6:00 PM).

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dot Bambach*  
Secretary