

Minutes from April 13, 2022

The Role of Owls in Western Culture

Attendance: 30 in person (4 non-members), 28 zoom (10 non-members)

Dale Giddings opened the meeting with a heartfelt tribute to Kathy Bricker, acknowledging our loss and great sorrow with her passing.

Jamie Platt presented examples of owls around us – not in the woods, but depiction used in our society. He highlighted owls' unique eyes, necks and ears, which allow for their efficient hunting in the dark.

Association with the dark led to some evil connotations such as owls as a warlock's 'familiar'. He shared the story of Lilith the Screech Owl who was an infant-killing evil creature parents prayed "Lilith a-bye" towards, creating the word lullaby. He showed historical association of owls with education and wisdom through pictures of logos for organizations such as the Masons, in the US \$1 and \$2 bills, and possibly in the landscaping of our White House. He shared the story about a young Walt Disney who killed an owl, who thereafter represented his regret and appreciation with frequent depictions of owls in his animations.

Dale Giddings asked members for volunteers for the next season. In response, Eowyn Bates accepted the Secretary position that evening.

Dale announced the May program -- Nick Alito's presentation about MSRW tagged red-tailed hawks.

Bev Kirby led nature sitings with a report on the MSRW counts to date. Dale Giddings has bluebirds. Maureen Conklin has a crazy male grouse, whose actions Steve Baker informed us are not uncommon. The Crouses saw a dozen bald eagles together.

Dale Landes reported an income of \$40 with the raffle that evening, and winners were Janet Trudeau (accepted a wooden owl) and Steve Crusoe (selected honey).

Minutes by Rose Rynerson