

Minutes October 13, 2021 SAAS Meeting

First meeting for the new officers. Congratulations to Dale Giddings - President, Jim Bricker - Vice President, Rose Rynerson – Treasurer. The position of Secretary is open.

Kyle Bagnall, Park Naturalist at Mill Creek Discovery Park, presented an entertaining and informative history of the Mill Creek site. His talk went back to the geological features of the site as well as the abundant timber and limestone resources in the area. The Mill Creek site has a flowing stream that was used to power a saw mill that was useful since it's earliest days. The stream was exploited primarily for lumber production satisfying the needs of the surrounding area. Notably, the fort at Mackinac Island was a primary user of the lumber produced. There was a limestone quarry on the site and the stone was used for road construction and railroad beds. Through photos and description Kyle covered the natural features of the Mill Creek landscape. Also discussed were the numerous trees, wildflowers and plants of the area.

Mentioned in the talk was the diligent 1970's work of Ellis Olson, a local Cheboygan teacher and historian, making an amateur archaeological exploration of the location. In calling attention to the importance of the mill and pushing for development as a historical site he preserved and protected an important area historical resource. Many in the audience knew Mr Olson and his dedication to area history.

Field Trips for October:

Kyle will lead a field trip at the Mill Creek Discovery Park on October 14, 2021 with emphasis on the historical and natural features of the site.

Ed Pike and Steve Baker will once again lead a “Waterfowl Extravaganza” trip to the St Ignace area. This is a trip that many look forward to each year. Meet at the Mackinaw City Welcome Center at 8:00 AM on October 30 – rain, sleet or shine!

Announcements:

The November 10, 2021 program “How to Save a Billion Birds for \$1.98” by Gail Walter was announced.

Bev Kirby was unable to announce the impressive Raptor Watch statistics at the meeting due to technical difficulties with Zoom. These are the figures:

Owl Banders...so far as of today 237 Northern Saw-Whet Owls, 1 Long-Eared Owl, 1 Barred Owl. Calvin..Hawk Counter....Total birds as of today 10,404 with 3103 Sandhill cranes and 4492 Monarchs tallied. We had 5 Peregrine Falcons migrate over on Monday October 11 with a season total of 51. All of the numbers can be found on the Web Site for Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch. Bruce Seeger has agreed to take over my Sandhill Crane Survey that I have been doing since 2014. We ask that anyone seeing any Cranes in Cheboygan County October 25-Nov 3 contact Bruce (PHONE) or call me (PHONE) and I will give him the numbers. Jack and I saw 20 or more White-Crowned Sparrows yesterday all eating Goldenrod seeds and bending the stems down to the ground.