



**Minutes for the Maine Falconry and Raptor Conservancy  
Picnic and Business Meeting  
August 10, 2019**

**Hosted by  
George Eyerer  
North Road  
Newburg, ME**

**Members Present:** David Blethen, George Eyerer, Cindy Fanning, Mark Fanning, Mike Gregston, Corey Hamilton, Dick Hutchinson, Scott Keniston, Dennis Kerekes, Tammy Kerekes, Marek Plater.

**Call to Order:** George Eyerer called the meeting to order noting that there were numerous guests in attendance, and urged everyone to introduce themselves. In addition to the regular members present, three interested parties were in attendance: Nathaniel Porter from Morrill, Pearl Sapirstein from Cape Elizabeth, and James Rainey of Bucksport. (Sec. Note: The group was later joined by Kelsey Sullivan and Erynn Call both from Maine IF&W.

**1. Secretary and Treasurer's Report.** Dave highlighted the minutes from the 2018 meeting as published. Dave read the treasurers report: Balance reported at last year's picnic was \$2090.75. Income for the year was \$110 dues collected at the picnic. \$50 sent in advance of the picnic. \$310 from the raffle, \$10 dues collected post picnic and interest \$1.06. Outlay was \$50 for the McNeff plague. Donations to Avian Haven \$200; Hawk Mountain \$50; Friends of the Maine Wildlife Park \$50, and the Falconry Fund \$250. Website expense was 122.84. Current balance was \$2048.97. Mark Fanning moved the report be accepted as read. Corey Hamilton seconded. Motion passed.

**2. Liaison update:** Scott Keniston reported that the total number of inquiries were lower this year due to the website being down for an extended period, but noted that it has picked up again now that the site is restored.

**3. Historical Archives committee update:** Mark Fanning reported that his collection of anecdotes was nearly complete. Dave Blethen reported that his work consolidating Maine related excerpts from the NAFA CD was advancing. Dave told the group that he failed to find an automated means of doing so, but by using a cut and paste method, he could manually extract

excerpts into one document. He went on to note that the resultant document would be in Microsoft word, and that photos could easily be added. He told the group that he would like to scan member's old photographs for the project.

**4. NAFA Update:** There was no update offered attending members.

**5. Website** Tammy Kerekes briefed the group on work on the website, which was followed by numerous accolades from the group for her effort. Scott Keniston noted that we are now the first item to show up when using internet search engines for falconry in Maine. The guests acknowledged that they found our group via the website, some noting the direct links from NAFA's website.

**New Members:** Associate members James Rainey, Pearl Sapirstein, and Nathaniel Porter offered a brief bio for the group. James has been hawking with Scott and George for a few seasons now. Pearl has read numerous books on the subject and wishes to participate more in the hobby. Nathaniel is an avid sportsman and wishes to peruse a career as a game warden. Each of the guest filled out membership applications. Some learned at the meeting that NAFA membership was required as a member of our organizations. Tammy Kerekes moved that their applications be approved pending NAFA membership. Cindy Fanning seconded. Motion passed.

**6. Annual Donations:** Discussion on donations began with Cindy Fanning proposing the annual donation to Avian Haven be increased, citing the great work done at this facility. Dave supported Cindy's proposal, adding that our membership interacts with the organization more than any of the other places we donate to. James noted that their presence makes it possible for citizens to rescue birds and keeps game wardens on the job. Marek spoke on Hawk Mt. behalf. The eventual motion settled on donating \$250 to Avian Haven and making the same donations as last year to Friends of Maine Wildlife Park (\$50), Hawk Mt. (\$50)

**7. Special Donation:** Mark Fanning explained that Ed Hepp had recently passed away. Mark noted that he was a close friend to the more experienced falconers in the area and to that extent a friend of the MF&RC. After an explanation of logistics at the Archives of Falconry, Mark made the motion to donate \$250 to the Archives of Falconry in memory of Ed Hepp, specifically to affect his name placed on the Wall of Remembrance there, calling for a copy of the letter to the Archives be sent to Ed's widow. The motion was seconded by Scott Keniston and passed unanimously.

**8. Of General interest to the club:** Dick Hutchinson offered a large collection of old Hawk Chalk's to the group. Mark urged the younger members to take advantage of the offer as the Hawk Chalks are a valuable resource.

Merek Plater offered his Kestrel Project report: 19 boxes netted 58 eggs, and 35 banded kestrels. He noted that there were numerous abandoned boxes this year.

Marek introduced Erynn Call. She explained that she took the job formerly held by Charlie Todd. She is now working on the peregrine survey. She started at the beginning of the year, and went full time in August. Erynn offered printed reports. She highlighted the statistics noting 38 known pairs, 23 breeding pairs. Twenty pairs hatched 51 chicks. 15 were observed at flight stage.

Scott Keniston advised the group that import permits and associated fees are no longer required. Scott learned this through interaction with Maine IF&W when importing his new bird from Washington State. He noted that standard reporting was still necessary, including a hard copy of form 3-186A to the state.

Cindy shared her observations of the New York falconry club where she and Mark recently attended a meeting there. They noted they had a guest speaker, and openly welcomed non-falconers. She noted that Maine falconers enjoy a good reputation there as being great game hawkers. They have adopted our apprentice policies. They offer beginner falconry courses. Mark added that they had prepared materials and instructors for the courses.

George introduced Kelsey Sullivan from the Maine IF&W. Kelsey's discussion centered on the timing of the Peregrine Take and the application process. The club recommended that process begin earlier in the year. Many members explained that the lottery is too close to the trapping season to make adequate plans. (including vacation or time off from work) Kelsey noted the problem and told the group he would attempt to affect policy change at the department to improve the current situation.

**9. 2020 Falconry Meets.** The Mike Monahan Memorial Hare Meet is scheduled for the weekend of MLK day, Saturday January 18, 2020. The Annual Longwing Meet will take place on after the Presidents Day weekend, depending on tides on or about Saturday February 22, 2018

**10. 2019 Picnic.** Taylor Lumina sent word indicating he would host the 2020 picnic at his home in Cape Neddick.

**11. Election of Officers** A new slate of officers were nominated. As only one person for each position was nominated an oral vote was taken. The new officers are: Cindy Fanning, President. David Blethen, Vice President, Corey Hamilton, Secretary Treasurer.

**12. Adjournment:** George called for other business. When none was offered, Scott Keniston moved to adjourn. Mark Fanning seconded the motion. It was voted to adjourn.