



# Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

March 2020

Vol. 42 No. 3

## March Meeting

### Annual General Meeting and Members' Images Night 7:30 PM Thursday March 19

Room 1130 Health Sciences E-Wing, U. of S. Campus

The evening will begin with a business meeting including the election of the 2020/21 Board of Directors and a presentation of the 2019 financial statement.

Following the business portion, the meeting will move on to the annual Members' Images Night, one of the highlights of the year. Any member may show up to 10 images that illustrate natural history interests and activities, and may speak briefly about them (no longer than 2 minutes please).

Digital images should be left with the projectionist before the start of the meeting. Images may be individual files, assembled as a PowerPoint or similar type of presentation, or an executable file if you are using a slideshow editing program. Please be sure your presentation runs on a standard PC. Individual images must be in jpeg format with the longest dimension of no more than 1500 pixels. Name your images so that they display in the correct order. Images should be stored in a folder indicating your name and saved on a USB flash drive.



## Field Trips

Everyone is welcome to participate in any field trip. Bring your friends. Carpooling for out-of-town trips is arranged at the meeting place; there is no charge other than to share gasoline costs. Phone the trip leader if you have any questions. Participants are free to depart early if they wish. Members with FRS radios should bring them on out of town trips. For last minute changes or cancellations and to download checklists, visit <https://saskatoonnature.org> or [www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety/)  
Bus Information: 306-975-3100.

Many of our trip destinations are described in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of "A Guide to Nature Viewing Sites in and around Saskatoon" available from <https://saskatoonnature.org/special-publications/>

### Sunday, March 15, 2:00 – 3:30 PM City Park Bird Walk

We will walk the riverbank trail above the weir and then some back alleys in City Park looking at winter/ early spring trees, as well as for woodpeckers, finches and other winter songbirds. You may optionally take a break at City Perks after the walk.

**Meet** at the weir parking lot on Spadina Crescent. Wear your binoculars.

**Bus:** Route 12 River Heights departs downtown terminal at 1:16 PM and arrives at Duke Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue about 1:23 PM. Walk east to the weir parking lot on the riverbank.

**Leader:** Sara Bryson (text: 306-261-6156)

**Guide to Nature Viewing Sites:** Page 100.



*More field trips on page 2*

## President's Message

The Swales (Northeast and Small) have become a hot topic lately as there are plans to develop the areas in and around them. There have been numerous meetings in the last year on this matter. These development plans include the new highway and another new neighbourhood (University Heights 3) and will have a negative impact on the prairie ecosystem of the Northeast Swale. In an effort to prove the value of conserving the Northeast Swale to the public and our government, local and provincial, a few research projects have been undertaken. One such project, by Farzana Q. Nijhum, Dr. Cherie Westbrook, Dr. Kenneth Belcher, and Dr. Bram Noble, titled 'Valuing the Ecosystem Services of Saskatoon's Northeast Swale' identifies ecosystem services provided by the Northeast Swale and found the value placed on them by people in nearby neighbourhoods.

Slightly over 100 homes in Aspen Ridge, Evergreen, and Silverspring were surveyed. The ecosystem services identified in the North East Swale were *stormwater runoff storage, biodiversity and habitat for plants and animals, scenery and sense of place, educational and scientific benefits, and recreation and enjoyment*. The *Societal Benefits* from these services were *reduced damage from flooding, opportunities for access to nature, and land available for urban development*. The *NE Swale Attributes* from these benefits were *total wetland area, paved or unpaved trails and green corridor, and future neighbourhood*, respectively.

Results from the survey included the following:

- 92% said the Northeast Swale is an important natural area in Saskatoon as well as it should be a protected space
- 93% said impacts to the Northeast Swale should be assessed before any development plans are implemented
- 88% said the ecosystem services provided by the Northeast Swale are important
- 91% said good city planning can help protect the ecosystem services provided by the Northeast Swale

Over 70% of the sample population were not aware of development plans in and around the Swale, including University Heights 3, the Saskatoon Freeway, the North Commuter Parkway, trail connections within the Swale,

the greenway around the Swale, and the Swale Master Plan.

Monetary values were assigned to ecosystem services and the result of asking *how people want to be compensated for the loss of them* was that they would want \$45 per year per household if a new neighbourhood is developed around the NE Swale and \$366 per year per household if there is a major loss of wetlands in the Northeast Swale.

Finally, the sample population was asked what future scenario they wanted to see for the Swale as well. Features they liked the most were *no new neighbourhood, a 60-meter wide green corridor surrounding the NE Swale, no change in wetlands, and some natural grass trails*. The least liked scenario had *a new neighbourhood along the west side of the NE Swale (University Heights 3), no green corridor surrounding the NE Swale, a major loss of wetlands, and no change in recreational trails*.

This study contributes to other local views as further support to conserve the area in and around the Northeast Swale, identifies benefits specific to the local neighbourhoods, and further proves that citizens of Saskatoon support the conservation of the Swale and its wetlands. This prairie ecosystem is one of the most endangered and, as such, I feel we need to voice our concerns and encourage the conservation of our local natural lands.

Sara Bryson

### Field Trips continued

**Sunday, March 22, 2:00 – 3:30 PM**  
**Montgomery Place Bird Walk**

This city neighbourhood has many mature spruce trees that attract winter finches.

**Meet** at parking lot for the outdoor rink on Caen Street near Crerar Drive.

<https://goo.gl/maps/9K1viHLDtEV8Gn4r6>

**Bus:** Route 9 Riversdale departs downtown terminal at 1:31 PM and arrives at 11<sup>th</sup> St and Crescent Boulevard about 1:50 PM. Walk 1 block south and 1 long block east to the meeting point.

**Leader:** Janine McManus (647-390-6645)



**Saturday, March 28, 9 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Bluebird Trip**

We will drive west of the city in search of bluebirds.  
**Meet** at the NW corner of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Witney Avenue.  
**Leader:** John Patterson (306 371-9354).



**Sharp-tailed Grouse Dance Trip**

**Early April**

**Members Only** field trip. We will drive out of town well before dawn to view this ritual. If interested, email [trips@saskatoonnature.org](mailto:trips@saskatoonnature.org) before April 1. Phone Stan Shadick at 306-652-5975 with any questions.

**Sat. April 4 – Sun. April 5**

**Waskesiu – Montreal Lake winter birding expedition**

**Members Only** field trip. We will look for owls and other winter birds. Participating drivers must be 18 or older and drive a vehicle in good working condition equipped with a shovel and tow rope. Contact leader in advance to register.

**Leader:** Marten Stoffel (306-230-9291). [Between Feb. 27 and March 15, contact Stan Shadick at 306-652-5975].

**Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Crocus Evening Hike to Cranberry Flats**

We will hike the prairie looking for crocus blooms. Check the website or with the leader in case this trip is postponed due to a late flowering season. Wear warm clothes and suitable footwear.

**Register.** If possible, please check registration details at <https://saskatoonnature.org/scheduled-trips/>

**Meet** by the grain elevator at the Western Development Museum parking lot on Lorne Ave. Car pools will be arranged from that point.

**Bus:** Route 1 Exhibition departs downtown terminal at 6:01 PM and arrives at museum stop on Lorne Ave about 6:21 PM. Return bus leaves hourly.

**Leaders:** Sara Bryson (306-261-6156) and Renny Grilz.

**Guide to Nature Viewing Sites:** Page 48

**Workshops**

**Beginner Bird Identification Workshop**  
**Thursday, March 26, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

This free workshop will focus on the basics of bird identification. It is aimed at novice birders. Bring your field guides and download the free Merlin app onto your smartphone.

Everyone is welcome. This workshop is organized jointly by the Saskatoon Nature Society and the Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas staff.

**Register** in advance

at [saskatoonbeginnermarch2020.eventbrite.ca](https://saskatoonbeginnermarch2020.eventbrite.ca)

**Meet** in Room 1150, Health Sciences E wing (to the right of the Tim Horton's)

**Leader:** LeeAnn Latremouille (306-880-9027).

**Intermediate Bird Identification Workshop**  
**Wednesday: April 1, 8, 15, 22, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

This free series of workshops will focus on using your bird book to learn to identify common breeding birds found in the Saskatoon Area. Bring your field guides and download the free Merlin app on your smartphone. This series is organized jointly by the Saskatoon Nature Society and the Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas staff. Join us for all or just a few of the workshops!

April 1: Waterbirds, gulls and terns

April 8: Grouse, Raptors, Shorebirds, Woodpeckers

April 15: Doves, Flycatchers, Swallows, Warblers and related songbirds

April 22: Wrens, Thrushes, Sparrows, Blackbirds and related songbirds

**Register** in advance

at [saskatoonintermediate2020.eventbrite.ca](https://saskatoonintermediate2020.eventbrite.ca)

**Meet** in Room 1150, Health Sciences E wing (to the right of the Tim Horton's)

**Leader:** LeeAnn Latremouille (306-880-9027).



## Golden Eagles

Membership in the Golden Eagles is open to retirees and partners interested in birds and the natural world. Participants should be members of the Saskatoon Nature Society and consider membership in Nature Saskatchewan. Unless otherwise arranged, we meet on Thursdays at the Churchill Shopping Centre at Taylor St. and Clarence Ave. Please note the departure times vary with the season and the destination. **Bring lunch, drinks and chairs unless otherwise noted.** If plans include dining in a restaurant, please contact the leaders to confirm numbers. Carpooling for out of town trips usually is arranged at the meeting place. Participants are expected to share gasoline costs.

**Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 10.30 a.m.**

**Tour of new fire Hall, 2613 Clarence Ave.**

Maximum number of participants 25.

Lunch to follow at location TBA. We hope you will join us, please contact Joan Weber (306) 668-8270 or [jmw65@sasktel.net](mailto:jmw65@sasktel.net) by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday, April 2      No Trip**

**Thursday, April 9, 9:00**

**Bluebird trip**

Leader: TBA

**Thursday, April 16, 8:00**

**Crocus trip**

Leader: Bill & Audrey MacKenzie (306) 373 2872

**Thursday, April 23, 8:00**

**Pike Lake area**

Leader: Hilda Noton (306) 374 0674

**Thursday, April 30, 8:00**

**Brightwater Marsh, Blackstrap area**

Leader: Dave & Louise Cook (306) 955 4764

## Help with Refreshments



Hilda Voth, who organizes the refreshments that we enjoy after each monthly meeting, would like some assistance starting immediately. Please contact Hilda Voth at [hvoth@sasktel.net](mailto:hvoth@sasktel.net) or Sara Bryson at [president@saskatoonnature.org](mailto:president@saskatoonnature.org) for more information. Thank you.

## Young Naturalists

The Young Naturalists is all about nature activities for kids and their families. Each program offers interesting activities geared for children aged 5 to 11 years. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Enrolment is limited on most programs and often programs fill up over a month in advance, so register early. To register or for more information e-mail:

[naturekids@saskatoonnature.org](mailto:naturekids@saskatoonnature.org).

Information on upcoming Young Naturalists programs can be found on our [saskatoonnature.org](http://saskatoonnature.org) website.

### Upcoming Young Naturalists Programs:

Owl Pellets – Saturday, March 7

Birdhouse Workshop - Saturday, March 28

Crocus Hike (tentative) - April 19

Pike Lake Field Trip - May 2



## Volunteers needed for Nature Society display at GardenScape

The annual GardenScape display runs March 27 to March 29 at Prairieland Park. The Nature Society needs volunteers to staff our display. This year our regular display will include the 'Wetlands Metaphor' interactive environmental education game. To volunteer for the display please contact Greg at [greg.fenty@gmail.com](mailto:greg.fenty@gmail.com). Please indicate which day and time period you would like to volunteer. Shifts will be approximately 2 hours in length. GardenScape runs Friday, March 27 (11:00-5:00), Saturday, March 28 (9:00-7:00) and Sunday, March 29 (10:00-5:00).

## Meewasin's Pelican Watch is back !



SNS is responsible to watch for the arrival of the first Pelican to touch down between the CPR Bridge and the Weir (usually sometime in the first 3 weeks of April). Please contact Greg Fenty at 306-370-8839 or email [naturekids@saskatoonnature.org](mailto:naturekids@saskatoonnature.org) if you can help.

Meewasin and sponsors (including SNS) invite you to guess the date and arrival time of the first pelican to touch down between the CPR Bridge and the Weir for a chance to win some great PRIZES - including a \$500 prize pack for the overall winner and a pizza party for the youth winner!

Saskatoon residents have special visitors each summer. April through October, pelicans gather by the weir to fish. These birds, once on the endangered species list, have been a beautiful sight on the South Saskatchewan river since the late 1970s. For Saskatoon residents, their arrival is a harbinger of spring.

Check the Meewasin Facebook page or their website (Meewasin.com) after February 29th, 2020. Entry is online and free, limit is one per person.

Contest opens at 12:00am on March 1st and closes at 12:00pm CST on March 31st. Winners are chosen based on accuracy of guesses.

Thank you to our sponsors!

- Saskatoon Nature Society
- Don's Photo Saskatoon
- Wild Birds Unlimited Saskatoon
- Pizza Hut
- Wild About Saskatoon
- Pelican Market

## Earth Hour

**Join us on Saturday March 28, 2020, 8:30 PM local time!**  
**Help place the spotlight on nature – the world is watching**

Switch off your lights for an hour on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 8:30 pm your local time.



Started by WWF and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now one of the

world's largest grassroots movements for the environment, engaging millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories. It has become a catalyst for positive environmental impact, driving major legislative changes by harnessing the power of the people. For more info go to [earthhour.org](http://earthhour.org)

## All Things Invasive Workshop

The Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council presents the "All Things Invasive Workshop", a one day event for all stakeholders and practitioners involved with invasive species. Speakers and a panel are scheduled to cover a wide variety of topics related to invasive species, from plants to bats to boar, and more.

**Cost:** \$20.00

**Date:** March 24, 2020 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Location:**

Saskatoon Wildlife Federation Building  
Intersection of Range Road 3050 and McOrmond Drive  
Saskatoon, SK

**For more details, go to**

<https://www.npss.sk.ca/news-and-events/events/295>

**To register, go to:**

<https://www.npss.sk.ca/store/events/all-things-invasive-workshop>



Looking forward to spring!



## Saskatoon Nature Society

### Mailing address:

PO Box 27013 GROSVENOR PARK  
SASKATOON SK S7H 5N9

### Website:

<https://saskatoonnature.org>

### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety)

## Newsletter



The deadline for the next newsletter is March 19. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. Please email: [godmee@sasktel.net](mailto:godmee@sasktel.net) or call 306-343-8590. The publisher would appreciate if articles are complete and submitted electronically.

**Please consider switching from a paper to electronic copy** of the SNS newsletter. You can create a folder in your email system to save your back issues of the newsletters. You will help us save on paper, stamps, and volunteer time and you will get information more quickly and get pictures in colour.

**Please contact** Claire Bullaro ([c.bear@sasktel.net](mailto:c.bear@sasktel.net)) with your email address to switch. Thank you.

### Chairs and Coordinators

Brochure	Mary Jean Roy .....	306-665-0987	
Coffee	Hilda Voth.....	306-242-0198	
Display	Greg Fenty.....	306-370-8839	
Facebook Editor	.....		
Field Trips	Stan Shadick.....	306-652-5975	<a href="mailto:trips@saskatoonnature.org">trips@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Golden Eagles	Hilda Noton.....	306-374-0674	
Membership	Michael Williams.....	306-242-5383	
Newsletter			
Publisher	Kathy Meeres .....	306-343-8590	<a href="mailto:godmee@sasktel.net">godmee@sasktel.net</a>
Mailing	Bev Beland.....	306-445-3439	
Mailing List	Claire Bullaro.....	306-373-1787	
e-distribution	Claire Bullaro.....	306-373-1787	<a href="mailto:c.bear@sasktel.net">c.bear@sasktel.net</a>
Program	Joe Stookey .....	306-229-7499	
Publications	Donna Bruce.....	306-956-3437	<a href="mailto:donna.bruce@sasktel.net">donna.bruce@sasktel.net</a>
Publicity	Ron Jensen .....	306-741-7537	
Webmaster	Trent Watts .....		<a href="mailto:web@saskatoonnature.org">web@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Young Naturalists	Greg Fenty.....	306-370-8839	<a href="mailto:naturekids@saskatoonnature.org">naturekids@saskatoonnature.org</a>

### Board of Directors

President	Sara Bryson .....	306-261-6156	<a href="mailto:president@saskatoonnature.org">president@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Past President	Valerie Martz.....	306-249-0468	
Vice President	Vacant .....		
Secretary	Diane Wells .....	306-229-0328	
Treasurer	Yvonne Cuttle.....	306-374-5228	<a href="mailto:treasurer@saskatoonnature.org">treasurer@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Director	Kathy Meeres .....	306-343-8590	
Director	Robert Johanson .....	306-653-2610	
Director	LeeAnn Latremouille .....		
Director	Stan Shadick.....	306-652-5975	<a href="mailto:trips@saskatoonnature.org">trips@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Director	Guy Wapple.....	306-249-3280	
Director	Janine McManus .....		

The board of directors meets about once a month, usually in the week before the monthly meeting. If you wish to bring an item to the attention of the board, please contact the president.

## MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 GE: Fire Hall Tour	6	7 YN: Owl Pellets
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 City Park Bird Walk	16	17	18	19 March Meeting and AGM	20	21
22 Montgomery Bird Walk	23	24	25	26 Beginner Bird ID Workshop	27 <i>Gardenscape</i> <i>27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup></i>	28 Bluebird Trip; YN: Birdhouse Workshop
29	30	31				

## APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Early April: Sharp-tailed Grouse Trip	1 Intermediate Bird ID Workshop	2	3	4 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Wakesiu Montreal L.
5	6	7	8 Crocus Hike; Intermediate Bird ID Workshop	9 GE: Bluebirds	10	11
12	13	14	15 Intermediate Bird ID Workshop	16 April Meeting; GE: Crocus trip	17	18
19 YN: Crocus Hike	20	21	22 Intermediate Bird ID Workshop	23 GE: Pike Lake Area	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 GE: Brightwater/ Blackstrap		

GE: Golden Eagles; YN: Young Naturalists

**Membership Renewals:** All SNS memberships expire on December 31; failure to renew by then may interrupt delivery of your *Newsletter*. Check the upper right corner of your mailing label to see the year your membership expires. New memberships paid after July 1 will continue through the following year. Donations qualify for a tax receipt. Mail in your completed form or bring it to the next meeting.

## *Membership in the Saskatoon Nature Society*

The Saskatoon Nature Society publishes ten newsletters per year informing members of field trips and other activities. Except in the summer, monthly meetings present speakers on a wide range of nature related topics.

Please check:                     Renewal                     New Member                     Change of address

Membership Category:         Individual \$20/yr         Family \$30/yr         Junior (<19yrs) \$5/yr

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) (please print neatly): \_\_\_\_\_

(Names/Ages of Children): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to receive the SNS Newsletter electronically via email at the above address.** You will help the Society save on postage and printing costs.

Membership fee ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /yr x \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) (one to five) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (designate a fund if desired)

Kids in Nature         Conservation and Education         Nature Capital         General Fund

One-time donation: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly donation:..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /month

For a monthly donation, either (a) attach a cheque marked "VOID" and we will send you a Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) form to be completed and returned to start the process, or (b) download the PAD form from our website (<https://saskatoonnature.org>), complete the form and attach a cheque marked "VOID" and mail to the address below.

Option: Membership in Nature Saskatchewan (see below) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL (please make your cheque payable to Saskatoon Nature Society)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Treasurer, Saskatoon Nature Society, PO Box 27013 Grosvenor Park, SASKATOON SK S7H 5N9 or **payment may be made by e-transfer to Treasurer: [treasurer@saskatoonnature.org](mailto:treasurer@saskatoonnature.org)**

## *Membership in Nature Saskatchewan*

The Saskatoon Nature Society is affiliated with the provincial society, Nature Saskatchewan, but membership is separate and the fee schedule is different. Renewing your provincial membership through SNS earns us a \$2 commission. Nature Saskatchewan is a strong advocate for conservation and education in the province. Benefits of membership include the quarterly journal *Blue Jay*, and spring and fall meets at various locations in the province. More information is available on their web site: [www.naturesask.ca](http://www.naturesask.ca). **Note: multi-year Nature Saskatchewan memberships are no longer available.**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Print</u>	
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	
Senior (>64yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Foreign	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	