



Saskatoon Nature Society

Newsletter

May-June 2021

Vol. 43 No. 5

Field Trips

Any member is welcome to participate in any field trip. Contact the trip leader if you have any questions. Participants are free to depart early if they wish. To download checklists, visit <https://saskatoonnature.org/>. Number of registrants is limited by current Saskatchewan COVID regulations. Please wear a mask and maintain physical distancing when outside your vehicle. Bus Information: 306-975-3100.

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

Saturday, May 1, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Waterfowl trip

We plan to drive to Brightwater Marsh to look for early waterfowl.

Register by phone or text to 306-321-7868

Leaders: Janine McManus and Bob Godwin.

Saturday, May 8, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Waterfowl viewing on the river.

Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

Register by phone or text to 306-244-1927.

Leaders: Carol Blenkin and Robert Johanson

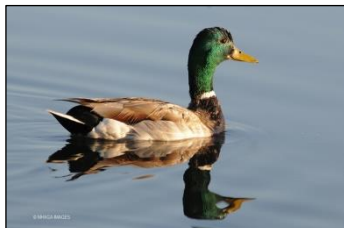
Sunday, May 9, 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

MVA Trail birding

We plan to view the birds at Goose Island and Weir from the east side of the river.

Register by phone or text to 306-321-7868

Leader: Janine McManus



Saturday, May 15, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Birding trip to Proctor Lake

A special opportunity to view the wetland and woodland birds near this prairie lake situated on a private pasture south of Whitecap Reserve. Be prepared to walk over rough prairie and drive on rough prairie trails. High clearance vehicles recommended.

Register by phone or text to 306-321-7868

Leaders: Janine McManus and Bob Godwin.

Saturday, May 22, 9:00 PM – 12:00 PM

Birding trip to Porter Lake

Porter Lake is a large lake south of Aberdeen that has been home for large numbers of night-herons, ducks, grebes, cormorants, shorebirds and other water birds in recent years. Bring a hat and water to drink.

Register by emailing jrpatterson@shaw.ca or phoning 306-249-0468

Leaders: John Patterson and Robert Johanson

Sunday, May 23, 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Warbler Walk at Forestry Farm

We hope to find some migrating warblers and sparrows.

Register by emailing robert.johanson@usask.ca

Leader: Robert Johanson

Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Birding at Maple Grove

We will look for birds in this woodland park owned by MVA.

Register by emailing rgrilz@meewasin.com

Leaders: Renny Grilz and Jamie Harder

Wednesday, May 26, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Wildflowers at NE Swale

We will hike the prairie looking for crowfoot violet and other wildflowers.

Register by emailing rgrilz@meewasin.com

Leaders: Renny Grilz and Sara Bryson.

Saturday, May 29

May Bird Count

Register by emailing trips@sasktoonnature.org or by phoning 306-652-5975.

Organizer: Stan Shadick

Compiler: John Patterson

Saturday, June 5, 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Birding in Dundurn area pastures

A special opportunity to go birding in these restricted access pastures. Be prepared to walk over rough prairie and drive on rough prairie trails. High clearance vehicles recommended.

Register by phone or text to 306-321-7868

Leaders: Janine McManus

Sunday, June 6, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Arbor Week Hike

We will view trees along the MVA trail and City Park neighbourhood.

Register by emailing demeter187@hotmail.com

Leader: Sara Bryson

Friday, June 11, 9:30 PM – 11:30 PM

Firefly Hike to NE Swale

We will hike the prairie in search of fireflies at night.

Register by emailing asio.otus@sasktel.net

Leaders: Marten Stoffel and Renny Grilz

Sunday, June 13, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Members Special Visit to Asquith NCC property

We will hike the newly established trails to look for early summer plant and bird species. Wear hiking shoes and bring water and sun hat.

Register by emailing demeter187@hotmail.com

Leader: Sara Bryson

Tuesday, June 15, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Wildflowers at the Small Swale

Visit this important wetland for wildflowers.

Register by emailing rgrilz@meewasin.com

Leaders: Renny Grilz and Sara Bryson.

Sunday, June 20, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Butterflies at Restoring 71

We will visit this private natural area in search of butterflies and wildflowers.

Register by emailing leighton@sasktel.net

Leader: Anna Leighton

Saturday, June 26, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Haga / Roy Memorial Bird Walk to Donna Birkmeier Park

We will walk the park trails looking for birds.

Register by emailing robert.johanson@usask.ca

Leader: Robert Johanson

Thursday, July 1

Orchid Trip to MacDowall bog

We will drive to the Nisbet forest (north of Duck Lake) and look for lady-slippers and other wild orchids. Bring lunch, mosquito repellent and rubber boots.

Leaders: Bob Godwin, Anna Leighton, Joshua Erikson, Sara Bryson.

To register: phone 306-343-8590 or email

godmee@sasktel.net



Red Admiral

May Hago

Saturday, July 3

Butterfly Count

Help count butterflies in the Saskatoon area.

Register by emailing leighton@sasktel.net

Treasurer Vacancy: Candidate Needed Immediately

The SNS Treasurer's Position has been unexpectedly vacated. This position is crucial to the operation of the organization. If you have bookkeeping, accounting, and administrative experience along with an interest in helping the SNS through this unexpected situation, please contact Blair McCann at 306 653 2958 or email: b.l.mccann@sasktel.net. It's very important that we fill this position as soon as possible.

President's Message

The SNS held a Special General Meeting on April 15 to pass a series of amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws (C & B). The amendments were drafted to bring the C & B into compliance with the provincial Act that governs non-profit charitable organizations, a process that hadn't been done since 2007. The Zoom meeting was very well attended with close to 60 participants, and I am pleased to report that the motions to amend the C & B were supported by close to 100% of the participants. I would like to thank Valerie Martz for initiating this process and for chairing the committee. A thank-you also goes out to Donna Bruce and Diane Wells for their knowledge and expertise, which ensured that all the changes met the requirements of the Act, no small feat.

The April 15 meeting also brought to a close our indoor programming for the spring. On behalf of you all, I thank Joe Stookey for arranging all the great presentations that we enjoyed over the winter months. With us forced to hold all our meetings virtually, many potential speakers were reluctant to commit to a presentation. Joe turned this into a positive by broadening the geographic scope of his search and recruiting speakers from as far away as Ontario and California. I'm still impressed that we had the opportunity to listen to Dan Strickland – from his home office in Ontario – share his life's research on the Canada Jay, widely accepted as our national bird. Joe has asked for some help with the programming so we've created a committee, pending board approval, comprised of Heather Brenneman, Janine McManus and Joe to coordinate programming in the coming year. I'm looking forward to more great talks.

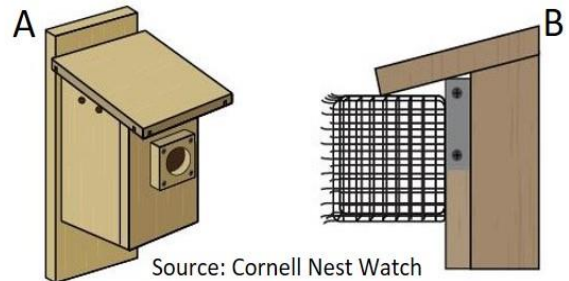
I had the pleasure of assisting John Patterson with the April 3rd SNS Mountain Bluebird tour. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day that provided good conditions for the bluebird sightings: six in total. In preparation for the tour, I reviewed Lorne Scott's article that ran in the Blue Jay back in 2016: My Life With Bluebirds. If you haven't had the pleasure, here's the link to Lorne's very informative article:

<https://bluejayjournal.ca/index.php/bluejay/article/view/270>

Lorne's been interested in bluebirds since he was a lad. Over the years, he has constructed and maintained hundreds of bluebird nesting boxes in the area around his

home south of Indian Head. I spoke to him last week about box designs and procedures for proper cleaning and maintenance of such nesting boxes. Lots of box designs are available. Here's a good one offered by Cornell's Nest Watch:

<https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/birds/mountain-bluebird/>



The site provides information on box spacing, orientation and predator prevention. Lorne stressed the importance of box cleaning and maintenance. He cleans all his boxes in the fall and may check a few again in the spring to ensure that deer mice haven't taken up residence over the winter. During the SNS bluebird tour, I noticed that many boxes were not being maintained or cleaned. Just like us, bluebirds like a clean house; they are less likely to use a dirty box for nesting. Poorly maintained boxes put the nestlings at risk from parasites, disease and predators. You can imagine how difficult it is for young birds in a leaky old box during a heavy downpour or how easily a raccoon can pull a poorly maintained box apart. Raccoons threaten both nestlings and adults by sitting on top of the box and "dipping," or reaching in through the box entrance and grabbing eggs and birds. Lorne has devised a mesh predator guard to go over the entrance that prevents the raccoon from reaching into the box (Diagram B). Other predator guard designs call for a wooden block that goes over the entrance to create a similar tunnel effect (Diagram A).

Based on my observations and chatting with folks involved with bluebird nesting boxes, it appears that in many cases no one is tracking their location or their cleaning and maintenance.

Many SNS members are working on the boxes around the



city. It would be good to compile a database with locations of boxes, a record of who installed them and the maintenance. Please contact me by email or phone if you have boxes you are looking after. We have volunteers who are willing to help with the cleaning and maintenance of bluebird boxes. With a bit of co-ordination, we could help increase the nesting success of these beautiful harbingers of spring.

Blair McCann

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) – SNS Asquith Site Update

The NCC is planning a field day during the third week of May to install interpretive signs, mow the trails, and post yellow trail markers. There are plans for a joint NCC-SNS media release near the end of June to raise the public profile of this beautiful property.

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 in advance, so register early. To register or for more information e-mail: naturekids@saskatoonnature.org.

- Pond Dipping Saturday, May 1. 1:00pm
- Mary Houston Bluebird Trail starts May 26 with multiple field trips running through to early July
- Mid-week Butterflies Wednesday, July 14 and August 11 at 1:00

Due to COVID-19 the group size on these Young Naturalists programs will be limited. There will be multiple meeting times to accommodate participants. Visit the Young Naturalists web page for more details. <https://saskatoonnature.org/young-naturalists/>

Golden Eagles Spring Program

Membership in the Golden Eagles is open to retirees and partners interested in birds and the natural world. **Participants must be members of the Saskatoon Nature Society** and are encouraged to consider membership in Nature Saskatchewan.

Those who wish to participate in a particular field trip must register in advance as the number of participants is limited by current COVID regulations. We expect trips to fill up quickly. The trip leader will notify those who can join the field trip and send them additional information about the meeting location and other trip details. Please wear a mask and maintain physical distancing when outside your vehicle. Contact the trip leader if you have any questions. Note the departure times vary with the season and the destination. Typically, participants are asked to bring lunch, drinks and chairs unless otherwise noted or specified by the trip leader. Except for May 20, the trips in May are full, although leaders may take names for a waitlist.

Thursday, May 6, 8:00 Waterfowl at Porter Lake

Leader: John Patterson.
To register contact
John: 306-249-0468 or
email
jrpatterson@shaw.ca



Thursday, May 13, 8:00

Mother Earth Greenhouse- Clavet area birding

Leaders: John Patterson/Valerie Martz/Pat Nowoselski
To register contact Valerie: 306-249-0468 or email
vmartz@shaw.ca

Thursday, May 20, 8:00

Forestry Farm Spring Bird Walk

Leader: Stan Shadick. \$3.50 daily parking or \$15 seasonal parking pass in effect.
To register contact Stan: email
trips@saskatoonnature.org or phone 306-652-5975

Thursday, May 27, 8:00

Warblers - Pike Lake Acreage

Leaders: Bill and Audrey MacKenzie
To register contact Bill or Audrey: 306-373-2872 or email
wmack@sasktel.net

Thursday June 3, 9:00

Donna Birkmaier Park

Leader: Sylvia Raginski . **To register** contact Sylvia 306-260-9356 or email ragso@sasktel.net

Thursday, June 10, 9:00

Chappell Marsh/Richard Ste Barbe Baker Afforestation Area

Leader: Marten Stoffel. **To register** call or text Marten 306-230-9291.

Two trips: Wednesday, June 16 or Thursday June 17, 8:30

Pike Lake Turtles

Leaders: Hilda Noton and Max Abraham

To register contact Hilda: 306-374-0674 or email

hilda.noton@sasktel.net

Thursday June 24, 8:00

Botany and Birds -Nature Conservancy of Canada – Asquith site

Leader: Anna Leighton

To register contact Valerie: 306-249-0468

or email vmartz@shaw.ca



Arbor Week: May 28th to June 6th, 2021

SOS Trees Coalition in partnership with a growing number of community organizations including the Meewasin Valley Authority, University of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon will be hosting the 2021 Arbor Week celebration. Arbor Week 2021 is an opportunity for individuals and families to learn the "how to" of planting trees, the benefit of trees and the joy of spending time in them. The theme for the 2021 Arbor Week is 'Resurgence'. See their website for more information and events:



<https://sostrees.ca/arborweek.html>

Saskatoon Nature Society will be hosting a tree hike, with Sara Bryson leading, on Sunday, June 6, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. See field trip section (page 2) for details.

Don't throw away your membership card!

Your card entitles you to discounts at these local nature-related businesses:

- Early's Farm and Garden Centre provides a 10% discount on regular-priced seed, birdhouses and books.
- Wild Birds Unlimited provides a 10% discount on many regular-priced items.
- Don's Photo offers a discount on photo-finishing.



AGM and online spring meet

The Nature Sask Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on June 21, 2021 at 7p.m. Details will be sent to members via e-mail. If you have not provided Nature Saskatchewan with an e-mail address and wish to participate, contact us at info@naturesask.ca or call our office at 1-800-667-4668. Details will also be posted on the Nature Saskatchewan website.

<https://www.naturesask.ca/get-involved/spring-meet>

The 2021 Spring Meet will also be held online:

Nature trivia evening on June 15 at 7 p.m. Gather a team and see how much you really know about Nature Saskatchewan and this beautiful province.

Online photo sharing event on June 17 at 7 p.m. We want to hear about (and see!) the places that hold a special place in your heart and the amazing things you have seen. Details will be posted on the website (above) as they are available and to the Facebook page.

Please consider switching from a paper to electronic copy of the SNS newsletter. 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) with your email address to switch. Thank you.

Next newsletter will be the July-August issue and should arrive by early July. In the meantime *updates to field trips and programming will be posted on the Saskatoon Nature Society website at* <https://saskatoonnature.org>.

To renew your membership please visit the SNS website: <https://saskatoonnature.org/membership/>

Questions: contact our President, Blair McCann by email at president@saskatoonnature.org



Saskatoon Nature Society

Mailing address:

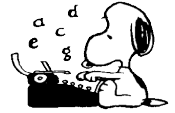
PO Box 27013 GROSVENOR PARK
SASKATOON SK S7H 5N9

Website:

<https://saskatoonnature.org>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety



Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is June 17. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. Please email: godmee@sasktel.net or call 306-343-8590. The editor would appreciate if articles are complete and submitted electronically.

Please consider switching from a paper to electronic copy of the SNS newsletter. 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) with your email address to switch. Thank you.

Chairs and Coordinators

Brochure	Mary Jean Roy	306-665-0987
Coffee		
Display	Greg Fenty	306-370-8839
Facebook Editor	Sara Bryson	306-261-6156 (text please)
Field Trips	Stan Shadick	306-652-5975 trips@saskatoonnature.org
Golden Eagles	Hilda Noton	306-374-0674
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Program	Joe Stookey	306-229-7499
Publications	Donna Bruce.....	306-956-3437 donna.bruce@sasktel.net
Publicity	Ron Jensen	306-741-7537
Webmaster	Trent Watts web@saskatoonnature.org
Young Naturalists	Greg Fenty	306-370-8839 naturekids@saskatoonnature.org

Board of Directors


President	Blair McCann	306-653-2958 president@saskatoonnature.org
Past President	Sara Bryson	306-261-6156
Vice President	vacant.....	
Secretary	Diane Wells	306-229-0328
Treasurer	Vacant treasurer@saskatoonnature.org
Director	Kathy Meeres	306-343-8590
Director	LeeAnn Latremouille	
Director	Stan Shadick	306-652-5975 trips@saskatoonnature.org
Director	Ryan Dudragne.....	
Director	Joshua Erikson.....	
Director	Heather Brenneman..... habrenneman@sasktel.net
Director	Janine McManus	
Director	Jan Spencer j.spencer01@sasktel.net

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.

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Waterfowl trip YN: Pond dipping
2	3	4	5	6 GE: Waterfowl Porter Lake	7	8 Waterfowl on the river
9 MVA Trail birding	10	11	12	13 GE: Greenhouse and Clavet birding	14	15 Proctor Lake birding
16	17	18	19	20 GE: Forestry Farm spring birds	21	22 Porter Lake birding
23 Forestry Farm warbler walk	24	25 Maple Grove birding	26 NE Swale wildflowers YN: Bluebird Trail (to early July)	27 GE: Warblers Pike Lake acreage	28	29 May bird count
30	31					

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 GE: Donna Birkmaier Park	4	5 Dundurn pasture birding
6 Arbor Week hike	7	8	9	10 GE: Chappell Marsh & area	11 NE Swale fireflies	12
13 Asquith NCC property hike	14	15 Small Swale wildflowers	16 GE: Pike Lake turtles	17 GE: Pike Lake turtles	18	19
20 Restoring 71 butterflies	21	22	23	24 GE: Asquith NCC Botany&Birds	25	26 Haga/Roy bird walk
27	28	29	30	1 MacDowall bog	2	3 Butterfly count

GE: Golden Eagles; YN: Young Naturalists