

# Saskatoon Nature Society

# Newsletter

March 2026

Vol. 48 No. 3

## Annual General Meeting and Members' Images Night

**7:30 PM Thursday, March 19, 2026**

**In person and online!**

**Rm #1A60 Health Sciences Bldg., U of S**

The evening will begin with a business meeting including the election of the 2026/27 Board of Directors and presentation of the 2025 financial statement.

The president on behalf of the executive will present a special resolution to be voted on at this meeting before the elections: *That the Saskatoon Nature membership approve a one-year waiver of Article II bylaw 6 for 2026 at its Annual General meeting, March 19, 2026.*

Background for this resolution can be found in the president's column.

Following the business meeting, we will be treated to some of our best and most interesting photos. Please do share! It's our annual Members' Images Night, one of the highlights of the year. Any member may show up to 10 images (or a video 2-3 minutes long) that illustrate natural history interests and activities. You are invited to send your images to LeeAnn Latremouille via email at [leeannlatre@gmail.com](mailto:leeannlatre@gmail.com). You may send them in jpg format or as a PowerPoint presentation (10 slides or 2 minutes in length). Participants are welcome to speak about their slides during the presentation or can send along brief notes or descriptions for LeeAnn to present. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, March 17.



*Please note that if the link to join online requests a passcode, please enter SNS. If you have trouble connecting via the Zoom link, please text or phone LeeAnn at 306-880-9027. Please consider joining the meeting a little early so we can address any problems.*

*All members who have registered an email address with SNS will receive an **email containing the link to join the meeting through Zoom**. If you have not registered an email address with us, but would like to do so, please contact Claire Bullaro at [c.bear@sasktel.net](mailto:c.bear@sasktel.net).*

## Field Trips

All are welcome to participate in field trips, except those described as "members only". In some cases pre-registration may be necessary. Invite your friends! Carpooling for out-of-town trips is arranged at the meeting place. There are no fees or restrictions unless indicated; however, participants are expected to share gasoline costs and should make arrangements with the driver to do so. Phone the trip leader if you have any questions. Participants can return early if they wish. Members with FRS radios should bring them on out-of-town trips. For information on city buses, phone 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/>

If the predicted wind chill is below -30C, check with the leader in case the trip is cancelled or rescheduled.

**Saturday, March 14, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

### Beaver Creek Bird Walk

We will walk along the creek trail at Beaver Creek Conservation Area in search of winter birds.

**Meet** by the grain elevator at the Western Development Museum parking lot on Lorne Ave.

<https://goo.gl/maps/3j1KTNfasmC2>

No registration needed.

**Leader:** Kerry Hjertaas (306-260-6602)

**Sat. March 21 10:00 AM – 12 Noon**

### Forestry Farm Bird Walk

Meet in the small parking lot near the former Superintendent's brick house on Rosy Bloom Lane.

Parking Lot Pin:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/pAbqotMXFhXYqfor9>

**Leader:** Bob Godwin (306-361-6732)

**Fri. March 27 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

**Northern Saw-whet Owl trip**

We plan to drive through a wooded area making stops to listen for Saw-whet Owls calling.

Register in advance by texting the leader.

Meeting place: Flying J Travel Centre, Idylwyld and Marquis Drive

**Leader:** Guy Wapple (306 227-9548)



*N. Saw-whet Owl May Haga*

*As a volunteer or participant in the activities of the Saskatoon Nature Society (SNS), you are fully responsible for your own safety, and for your own personal insurance in case of injury. Please exercise great caution and care on field trips or any other outings. The Saskatoon Nature Society is not responsible for damage incurred to vehicles or other personal property while participating in any SNS activity. If going onto private land, always ask for permission, be friendly and respectful, exercise caution, and please be aware that participants may be responsible for damage to landowners' property.*

## President's Message

Another Great Back Yard Bird Count is in the books and Saskatoon did an amazing job spotting over 40 species and filing at least 200 checklists at last count - way to go!!

I know we are all looking forward to spring but first we must do our annual business at our AGM next month, March 19<sup>th</sup>. This year may be a bit different as we have been unable to find a candidate for president under the current rules. I have been aware of this situation, so I am, if needed, willing to be renominated and elected. This requires a waiver of Article II bylaw 6, the bylaw which limits how long a president can serve. Let me provide some background here.

The SNS executive struck a nominating committee (myself & Jim Lee) in January to build a suitable slate of candidates for all vacant positions on the executive. While we were very successful in securing excellent candidates in many roles for next year including a very strong vice-president candidate, we were unable to find someone willing for president. We asked at least 10 qualified people, and all declined with very good personal reasons. So, we do not have a candidate for president, and we don't see one coming up quickly in the next few weeks. This is something many organizations like ours are facing and in fact we understand Nature Sask has had to deal with this more than once in previous years.

Therefore, upon consulting with several past presidents and governance people, we think the best path forward is

to present a special resolution to the membership at the AGM to waive Article II bylaw 6 regarding limiting presidential terms to two years for this year only. We discussed this at the executive meeting, and passed it there so it could come before the membership on March 19<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can support this resolution!

I do want to highlight though, one of the best features of our AGM is reviewing the highlights of all our committees; these reports show the best of what we do! Check it out!

And then we have our Members' pictures night. Some great images for sure – don't miss it!

We have lots of other news from our executive meeting that I would like to share. We were asked by an eminent group of birders across Canada to support enshrining the Canada Jay in federal legislation which we agreed to do heartily. You may remember the Canadian Geographic project a few years ago to determine what bird Canadians believe represented Canada the best and the clever Canada Jay won out – this group is continuing that work! Watch for that in the news!!

I should let you all know that the Blackstrap Provincial Park Advisory group has been restarted and our two representatives are Stan Shadick & Al Scholz, who will report to the executive through our conservation director. We are very glad that the advisory group has been reconstituted as the park means so much to us all!

I was reviewing my comments from last March and we were still undecided about partnering with NCC and the Asquith project, but we signed up shortly thereafter! We received our first impact report, and I must say it is very impressive! I think it underlines what a worthwhile project this is! Thanks to all of you, the membership, for supporting this!

I read with dismay the city report on Dutch Elm Disease potential outbreak this coming year so we need to stay tuned on this! As well, many of you may have heard that Environment Canada was canvassing interested organizations such as ours about our thoughts on changes to migratory bird hunting regulations. The new regulations would include, for Saskatchewan, the hunting of Mourning Doves and Tundra Swans. After checking with some members, it seemed clear we have reservations, particularly as it applies to Tundra Swans as other species such as Trumpeter Swans and even Whooping Cranes may be accidentally shot by misidentification. We submitted our comments based on these concerns.

As always, our group does well because of our volunteers and of course volunteers don't always stay forever. If you are interested in helping out send me a note. If you have skills in social media or web construction/upgrading etc. send me a note!

In closing, I want to send condolences to the Cook family on the passing of David, he was a very special member, very supportive of conservation work. As well, we were saddened to hear that our executive member Julia Balaton lost her daughter recently, our thoughts are with her.

Take care everyone - see you at the AGM!

David Forbes

### **Changes to procedure for SNS memberships and donations**

In February we initiated a "soft launch" for our membership process. We will be taking advantage of new tools to streamline our online memberships and donations to SNS. Using e-transfers of funds along with emailing membership forms was an improvement over cheques in the mail, but there were several places where errors and omissions slipped in and the whole process could be cumbersome and time-consuming. As our volunteer resources are limited, we will be discontinuing the e-transfer membership option. Please note that we continue to welcome cheques in the mail as well as cheques or cash if received in person.

For online service, we will be using Canada Helps. If you have trusted Amazon for those special orders, you'll find using Canada Helps a breeze. There will be a link from the SNS website which sends you directly to the Canada Helps SNS "event", the event being SNS membership. You are not required to have a Canada Helps account.

You can choose between an individual, family or junior membership for 1, 2 or 5 years. You will be asked as the purchaser the same information that has been asked for in the SNS membership form - address, phone and email. Then you will also need to give the name and email of the "attendee", you can simply copy and paste from the purchaser information if it is the same. For a family membership, there will be an additional space near the bottom of the page for a second email or children's names. The fees are automatically calculated and payment is made either by credit card or Pay Pal. Once

your order is placed, you will immediately receive a membership "ticket" at your email address. This can be printed or saved on your phone to use for your member discounts. This replaces the card that you would have previously received in the mail.

We will no longer be able to process memberships for Nature Saskatchewan. To encourage you to continue or start Nature Saskatchewan membership, we have included a link to their membership processing page from both the membership page on our website and our Canada Helps event site.

We will also be requesting that you consider making your donations to SNS through Canada Helps. Please use the link from our website to connect to the SNS Canada Helps donation site. Again, this is a very simple process and you will receive your donation receipt for income tax immediately in your email box. Of course, donation cheques are happily accepted, too.

Canada Helps is itself a charity that services other charities. We chose to work with Canada Helps because their excellent record for security and confidentiality of information. You will not be solicited by other organizations when using their services with the SNS. For more information, you can consult this link. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/canadahelps-security/>

We have to expect some hiccups as we transition to a new system, so please feel free to contact me at [treasurer@saskatoonnature.org](mailto:treasurer@saskatoonnature.org) if you catch a case of the hiccups!

### **SNS Board Member Profile: Peggy Schmeiser**

Greetings to all SNS Members – continuing, new and potential!

Ever since I was very young, the Saskatoon Nature Society has been dear to my heart. My parents were members of the SNS for decades and I have wonderful memories of birding trips, banding, overnight excursions to the north looking for owls, and visiting with members over fall/fowl suppers. After many years away for university education and work with the federal government, I returned to the province and now my own children are benefitting from the great programming offered through SNS. I love telling them how lucky they are to live in a place where they can see whooping cranes and dancing sharp-tailed grouse. I never cease to be amazed at the knowledge and

experience of SNS members, as well as their kindness in sharing information and tips with newbies and more seasoned nature-lovers alike.

More recently, it has been an incredible honour to join the Board of Directors and contribute to the operations of SNS. Through this volunteer engagement, I have learned immensely about policies and environmental issues impacting our province and city, as well as the work undertaken to ensure opportunities for young and old to learn more about our natural world. As a Board member, I have been encouraged to contribute in areas of direct interest to me, including developing and enhancing some of our program offerings for young people. There truly is something for everyone to contribute as a Board member with the SNS and I would encourage all members – new or seasoned - to consider this opportunity to join us. The time requirements are minimal, the activities are educational and the rewards are immeasurable.

I look forward to meeting our new Board members in the coming months and to working with all of you in the SNS over the years to come!

## 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. **Advanced registration is required.** To register or for more information e-mail: [naturekids@saskatoonnature.org](mailto:naturekids@saskatoonnature.org). Visit the Young Naturalists web page for more details. <https://saskatoonnature.org/young-naturalists/>

**Owl ecology/owl pellet dissection** – March 14  
**Birdhouse workshop** – April 18

## Golden Eagles

The Golden Eagles is an informal group of Saskatoon Nature Society (SNS) members. Our interests include all aspects of the natural world as well as social and multicultural history. We engage in out-of-town and city field trips. Participants should be SNS members and consider membership in Nature Saskatchewan. Unless otherwise indicated, we meet on Thursdays at the Churchill Shopping Centre, Taylor St and Clarence Avenue. Please check departure dates and times. Leaders may request registration for certain

destinations. Participation is free, although some destinations may charge admission or encourage donations. Please contact the trip leader if you have any questions.

### **March 19th 10:00 - 12:00 p.m. Egypt Travelogue - Saskatoon Field House, Meeting Room 3.**

Ron Jensen presents *An Egypt Travelogue* of birds and history travelling from the Nile delta to Sinai Peninsula, Sharm El Sheikh and Lake Nasser, visiting temples, pyramids and finding birds along the way. Free parking (key in your license plate number when you come into the building).

**Cost:** \$2.00/person for the room charge.

**Leader(s):** Nancy Zacher/Hilda Noton.

Lunch to follow at the Olive Garden, 1732 Preston Ave N. Please register by **March 16th** for the lunch with Hilda Noton (phone or text: 306-321-4760).

**Thursday, April 2:** No trip scheduled.

**Thursday, April 09: 8:00 AM** Bluebirds, Grandora area. Meet at the Esso Station, 11St. & Highway 7. Bring lunch, drinks and chair. Depending on our success, the trip may not last till lunch. If it does, we will likely have lunch in our cars, along the road or if the snow is gone, we may continue on to Asquith and have lunch at the NCC site.

**Leader:** John Patterson.

**Register with John** by email, text, or phone:

[jrpatterson@shaw.ca](mailto:jrpatterson@shaw.ca) or 306-371-9354.



Mountain Bluebird

Bob Godwin

## Wild About Saskatoon's "Conversations" Series

### **Growing Native Plants: Learning to Partner with Mother Nature**

**Wednesday, March 25 2026, 7-8pm. Online.**

Join *Wild About Saskatoon* for a conversation with the owner/operators of both of Saskatoon's native-plant nurseries. Renny Grilz of Blazing Star Wildflower Seed Company and Koren Vangoool of A Prairie Bouquet will be on hand to tell us about their operations and to answer all our questions about bringing Saskatchewan wildflowers home to our balconies, boulevards and yards.

For more information and to register (and receive the link) see: <https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/conversations/>

## Volunteer Hours Reporting

Each year we are required to submit volunteer hours in order to maintain our charitable status. **We ask that each volunteering member of SNS tally the hours you have volunteered in 2025** and send your totals to the treasurer at [treasurer@saskatoonnature.org](mailto:treasurer@saskatoonnature.org). Thanks to all for your good work on behalf of SNS during 2025, and for the additional time that, I hope, you will be willing to spend on this request.

Join us for **Gardenscape 2026** on March 27, 28 or 29 as a volunteer for the Saskatoon Nature Society booth!

There will be a variety of exhibitors and events including the **Media Challenge, Art Show and Superdogs**, as well as the **Speaker's Theatre** and **Gardening 101**.



Just **3 ½ hours** of your time is needed to meet and share with others the appreciation of nature and value of the natural world. <https://www.gardenscapeyxe.com/show-info/>

And best of all, you'll receive a **free admission pass**.

Interested? Contact Jan Spencer at [j.spencer01@sasktel.net](mailto:j.spencer01@sasktel.net) or by cell at 306-715-5948

## Marsh Watch

Join Birds Canada for a deep-dive into prairie wetlands!

MarshWatch is a free 10-part weekly webinar series designed for the prairie provinces. We'll dive into tips, tricks, and behavioural cues to identify ~50 species of wetland birds and frogs by sight and sound. You'll also learn about the importance of wetlands, their connections to other habitats, and how to report your observations to help conservation.



The series begins Wednesday March 18th, at 7pm.

Find out more and register for

MarshWatch at <https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/marshwatch/prairiecanada-marshwatch>.

## Pelican Watch Spotters Needed

In April the American White Pelicans gather by the weir to fish. For Saskatoon residents, their arrival is a harbinger of spring. Since 1996 Meewasin has conducted the Pelican Watch Contest. In the month of March residents of Saskatoon are invited to guess the arrival time of the first pelican to land between the CPR Bridge and the Saskatoon Weir. It's a great contest, with prizes up for grabs for the closest guess.



Pelican

May Haga

Saskatoon Nature Society is the official pelican spotter. Meewasin relies on the support of the Saskatoon Nature Society to spot the first pelican. During the month of April pay close attention to the weir. If you spot a pelican in the official splashdown zone (between the weir and the train bridge) please report it by calling 306-652-5975 (Stan) or texting 306-370-8839 (Greg) or by e-mail to [saskatoonnaturekids@gmail.com](mailto:saskatoonnaturekids@gmail.com) Happy Spotting!

## Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation's Supper Night

Saturday, March 7; \$35/Ticket  
Cocktails – 5PM, Supper – 6PM  
Skychef Family Restaurant  
North, 112 Railway Street, Warman  
Door Prizes; Silent Auction; 50/50 Draw

Call (306) 281-0554 or email [LSWR@sasktel.net](mailto:LSWR@sasktel.net) for tickets by February 28

Choose from steak, chicken, or vegetarian dishes

## Membership information

Invite a friend!

SNS memberships run from January-December.

Find a membership form and **Canada Helps** link at:

<https://saskatoonnature.org/membership/>

Saskatoon Nature Society Members are eligible for the following discounts:

- 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

## 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 17**. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. Please email: [godmee@sasktel.net](mailto: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


Conservation	Sara Bryson.....306-261-6156 .....	
Display	Greg Fenty.....306-370-8839 .....	
Facebook Editor	Sara Bryson.....306-261-6156 (text please)	
Field Trips	Stan Shadick.....306-652-5975 .....	<a href="mailto:trips@saskatoonnature.org">trips@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Golden Eagles	Valerie Martz.....306-249-0468 .....	
Membership	Jan Spencer .....	<a href="mailto:j.spencer01@sasktel.net">j.spencer01@sasktel.net</a>
Newsletter		
Editor	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	Heather Brenneman.....	<a href="mailto:habrenneman@sasktel.net">habrenneman@sasktel.net</a>
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	David Forbes.....306-230-5611 .....	<a href="mailto:president@saskatoonnature.org">president@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Past President	Jim Lee .....	
Vice President	Heather Brenneman.....	
Secretary	Mercy Harris.....	
Treasurer	Nancy Lease.....	<a href="mailto:treasurer@saskatoonnature.org">treasurer@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Director	Nancy Allan.....	
Director	Julianna Balaton .....	
Director	Sara Bryson.....306-261-6156 .....	
Director	Kerry Hjertaas.....	
Director	Robert Johanson .....	<a href="mailto:306-653-2610">306-653-2610</a>
Director	Nicole Pasloski.....	
Director	Peggy Schmeiser.....	
Director	Jan Spencer .....	<a href="mailto:j.spencer01@sasktel.net">j.spencer01@sasktel.net</a>

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 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Beaver Creek Bird Walk ----- YN: Owl pellets
15	16	17	18	19 March Meeting AGM ----- GE: Egypt Travelogue	20	21 Forestry Farm Bird Walk
22	23	24	25	26	27 Northern Saw- whet Owl trip ----- Gardenscape Mar 27-29	28
29	30	31				

## April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 GE: Bluebird Trip	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 April Meeting	17	18 YN: Birdhouse Workshop
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

YN: Young Naturalists; GE: Golden Eagles