

NATURE NEWS

From Nature Calgary

www.naturecalgary.com



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VOLUNTEER

Volunteer*@naturecalgary.com
for general inquiries.

LEAD A FIELD TRIP

To suggest a location or lead a trip
email fieldtrips*@naturecalgary.com

[Check the website frequently for new trips and updates.](#)

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual: \$40/year
Family: \$50/year

Contact Val 403-288-7441 or
membership*@naturecalgary.com
[Join or renew online.](#)

SUBMISSIONS

Share your experiences, art, stories, suggestions, news, and events with Nature Calgary! Nature News is published 8 times per year and submissions are accepted by all members.

Send to:
newsletter*@naturecalgary.com.
Next deadline: April 9, 2020

Mailing address:
Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M
Calgary, AB T2P 2K4



Message from the President

In April, the pulse of spring does quicken as does the pulse of naturalists as we anticipate and experience the migrating flocks and the rise of the spring flowers from their earthen beds. With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions our field trip leaders are once again providing more opportunities for Nature Calgary members to enjoy this reawakening of our natural world.

At our March 11th board meeting we were reminded of the importance of our land to our wellbeing. We had the great pleasure of listening to the respected Blackfoot elder Saakokoto as he provided his wisdom of the importance of Na'ha, mother earth.

Recently a survey was sent to Nature Calgary members regarding what preferences were there for in-person meetings vs on-line meetings. One result was an indication that a majority of members are interested in a hybrid system with in-person meetings in the fall and spring and on-line meetings during the winter months. We will continue with the on-line meetings for the remainder of the spring. However, the board will certainly consider moving to a hybrid system for the 2021 -2022 season once the pandemic has been brought under control.

So I wish you good birding and flowering and hope that you can all participate in the Calgary City Nature Challenge at the end of April that our newsletter editor Matt Wallace is organizing.

Speaker Series

March 17: Counting and Managing Grizzly Bears in Kananaskis Country

Speaker: John Paczkowski

Join John Paczkowski, Park Ecologist with Alberta Environment and Parks, for a presentation on grizzly bears in the Kananaskis Region and beyond. John will first present on the latest grizzly bear population census work for grizzly bear management area 5 which includes Kananaskis Country down to the Crowsnest Pass. There will then be a discussion about the aversive conditioning program in Kananaskis Country. For 20 years, the program has aimed to reduce bear-human incidents by monitoring and conditioning grizzly bears in the region.

Time: Mar 17, 2021 07:15 PM MST

Click to Join: [Zoom Meeting Link](#) **Meeting ID:** 896 7456 7211 **Passcode:** 560862

April 21: Alberta's Native Bees

Speaker: Megan Evans

Did you know there are over 300 species of native bees in Alberta? Join Megan Evans (MSc Ecology from UofC) to learn about the diversity of bees in Alberta, the challenges they are facing and what you can do to help them!

Time: Apr 21, 2021 07:15 PM MST

Click to Join: [Zoom Meeting Link](#) **Meeting ID:** 851 5466 8983 **Passcode:** 550365

Image: Matt Wallace



Bird Study Group

Bird Study Group meets at 7:30pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Due to COVID-19, meetings will be held via Zoom.. Links and meeting codes will be emailed to members closer to the event date.



Africa in Our Lens

Speakers: Joan & Wayne Walker

In the fall of 2018 Wayne and Joan spent five weeks travelling through Southern Africa, visiting the Moremi Game Reserve, Marakele, Chobe and Hwange National Parks, Victoria Falls, as well as beautiful Cape Town and Hermanus. Our focus will be on some of the unique and fascinating ways these clever birds have adapted in order to thrive. Come and experience “Their Africa” - raw, diverse, proud, and joyful.

Time: April 7, 2021 7:30PM MST

Click to Join: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 890 7651 0005

Passcode: 534987

Image: Joan & Wayne Walker



A Peruvian Adventure

Speaker: Anne Belton

In October 2019 a group from Calgary went on a birding adventure in Peru. They explored the Andean plateaus, Amazonian basin, and Pacific islands off the coast of Peru. Tune in to hear about the group's thrilling adventures and their amazing wildlife sightings that included a Giant Otter, Andean Condors, and the Cock of the Rock!

Time: May 5, 2021 7:30PM MST

Click to Join: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Image: Anne Belton, Cock of the Rock

Field Trips

Please [visit our website](#) for the most up-to-date news and updates on future field trips.

Nature Calgary organizes volunteer led field trips. Participants are responsible for bringing their own food, water, sunscreen, bug spray and any other items that they may require for the duration of the trip.

Trips are limited to a maximum of ten participants (members only) and pre-registration is required. Participants must wear appropriate face covering (masks).

COVID-19 Protocols (Apply to all Nature Calgary field trips)

1. Maximum of 10 Participants including the leader.
2. Participants must be members of Nature Calgary.
3. Pre-registration is required.
4. Participants must sign a waiver form either on site or bring one already signed.
5. Masks or face shields must be worn when outside the vehicle.
6. Carpooling should only be done with occupants of the same household or bubble.
7. Refrain from sharing scopes, binoculars, field guides, etc. with people outside of your bubble.
8. Maximum of 5 vehicles plus the leader's vehicle for out of multi-destination trips (denoted by *).

Date	Time	Destination	Leader
March 15	9:00 AM	Bird Lafarge Meadows FCPP	Howard Heffler
March 17	9:15 AM	Bird Weaselhead Natural Area	Kaya Konopnicki
March 19	9:00 AM	Bird Shannon Terrace in Fish Creek PP	Anne Belton
March 20	9:00 AM	Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary	Nimali Seneviratne
March 22	9:30 AM	Bird 68th Street Wetlands	Howard Heffler
March 24	9:30 AM	Bird Griffith Woods Park	Kaya Konopnicki
March 26	9:00 AM	Bird Burnsmead, FCPP	Anne Belton
March 27	9:00 AM	Bird North Glenmore Park	Penny Smith
March 31	9:30 AM	Bird Mallard Point	Kaya Konopnicki
April 2	9:00 AM	Bird Lafarge Meadows FCPP	Anne Belton
April 7	9:30 AM	Bird Carburn Park	Kaya Konopnicki
April 8	9:30 AM	Bird Dale Hodges Park, NW Calgary	Marj Wing, Joy Ely
April 9	9:00 AM	Bird Mallard Point	Anne Belton
April 10	10:00 AM	Nose Hill Crocus Cruise	John McFaul
April 14	9:00 AM	Bird 68th Street Wetlands	Kaya Konopnicki
April 16	9:00 AM	Bird Lafarge Meadows (from South End)	Anne Belton
April 17	9:00 AM	Nature Walk Inglewood Bird Sanctuary	John McFaul
April 18*	9:30 AM*	East of Calgary for spring arrivals*	Terry Korolyk
April 20	10:00 AM	Nature Walk Tuscany Ravine	John McFaul
April 21	9:30 AM	Bird Lafarge Meadows	Kaya Konopnicki
April 23	9:00 AM	Bird Carburn Park.	Anne Belton
April 24	9:00 AM	Bird North Glenmore Park	Penny Smith
April 28	9:30 AM	Bird Bowmont Park	Kaya Konopnicki
April 30	9:00 AM	Bird Lafarge Meadows FCPP	Anne Belton

*= This is an all-day trip with up to five vehicles visiting various locations East of Calgary. Please visit the [Nature Calgary Field Trip Website](#) for more details about each trip.

Community News & Events



City Nature Challenge 2021: Calgary Metropolitan Region

Nature Calgary is proud to sponsor the 3rd annual City Nature Challenge NYC Event! Help Calgary compete in the 2021 City Nature Challenge (CNC) April 30-May 3! Join the challenge to see how Calgary's local biodiversity stacks up to other cities around the world. Over 325 other cities globally will participate to see which city can make the most observations, document the most species, and engage the most people.

To participate, take photos of urban flora and fauna April 30-May 3 in your yards, neighborhoods, and local parks, then submit your observations to the iNaturalist app or directly to [iNaturalist.ca](https://www.inaturalist.ca). Interested in helping but prefer eBird? Find information, eBird checklist uploads, and educational resources at www.citynatureyyc.ca.

Human-Wildlife Coexistence:

You may have recently heard about the "[Owl-Mania](#)" that occurred in the Weaselhead Natural Area after a rare Boreal Owl was spotted in the park. Multiple Northern Saw-Whet owls were also observed during the same week attracting quite the audience from around Southern Alberta! By all accounts the owls were very stressed. As a community of naturalists, we can improve human-wildlife coexistence in Calgary by educating others how to observe and appreciate wildlife in a safe and respectful manner. Here are some 'best practices' we can share with others:

Give Wildlife Space: It may be tempting to get closer but the presence of people can stress wildlife out! Never approach, surround, follow, taunt, or feed wildlife.

Photography and Social Media: If you see something remarkable, refrain from sharing the exact location. Obscure the location or wait a few weeks to share it.

Wildlife can feed themselves: Please avoid feeding wildlife or leaving any attractants in natural areas. By feeding wildlife we create dependencies and alter wildlife foraging behavior.

Leave only Footprints: Help keep our natural areas clean and healthy. Take photos but leave all plants (and wildlife) in the parks!

Off-leash dogs: help educate people on why off-leash dogs are not permitted in natural areas. Consider phoning 3-1-1 if you are uncomfortable approaching someone and report to bylaw.

Be Kind: We all get frustrated when we see behavior that affects our parks. By being kind we help people recognize and appreciate the natural beauty of our parks... and why they are so important for people and the living things within them.

Community News



Elbow River State of the Watershed Report (Friends of Fish Creek PP)
Flora Giesbrecht, Elbow River Watershed Partnership
Wed, March 24, 2021 7-8 pm

The Elbow River Watershed is an area of land drained by the Elbow River as it goes through many different landscapes ranging from sup-alpine mountains to foothills and parklands. The Elbow River has been a source of clean water for many residents of Calgary and the surrounding communities and nations for over 120 years. Join us in hearing a presentation from Flora Giesbrecht to find out more about The Elbow River State of the Watershed Report.

[Click to register](#)



The Fascinating World of Fungi (Friends of Fish Creek PP)
Lacey Roberts, HSBC Environmental Sciences/Geography UCalgary
Wed, April 21, 2021 7-8pm

Explore the fascinating world of fungi and how they have helped to shape our world since the beginning of time. Learn about edible and poisonous mushrooms, the medicinal properties and uses of fungi, and how innovation and technology have increased awareness about the conservation of our natural spaces. Free for Friends of Fish Creek Members, \$10 for non-members, and free for youth under 16.

[Click to register.](#)

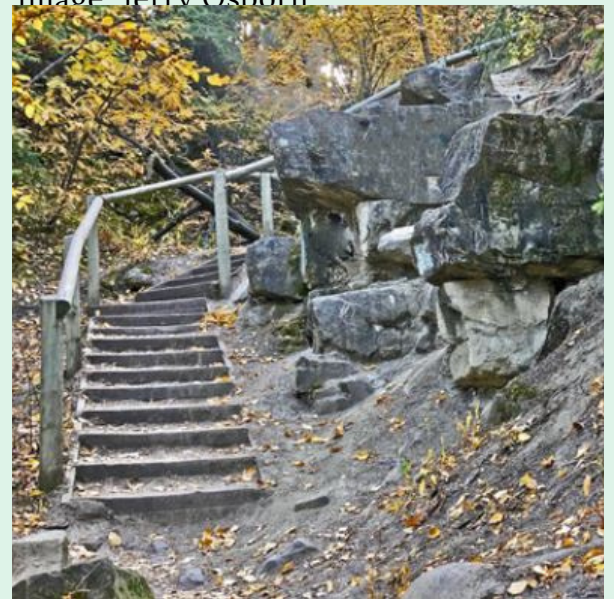
Edworthy Park Heritage Society (EPHS) Book Pre-Orders

EPHS has written an extensive history of the Edworthy park area that includes never-before seen photos gathered from historic newspapers, diaries, and archives across Canada. The book includes recently rediscovered Blackfoot names of the area and information about a potential Métis settlement. This book also dives into how the the Edworthy Park quarries provided sandstone for historical buildings throughout Western Canada.

Pre-orders are available to help fund the printing costs of the new book and includes a complimentary copy of The Treasures of the Trail Guide.

The cost is \$30 per copy plus postage where applicable. To pre-order, please email at eparkhs@gmail.com expressing your interest. EPHS will acknowledge your pre-order and contact you for payment. (P.S. The book will not be put on the internet). Please support the Society and its new book!

Image: Jerry Osborn



Rare Bird Alert:
report rare bird sightings to Bird Alert Compiler, Terry Korolyk at 403-300-1067
For latest sightings check: [Albertabird](#) or [BirdTrax](#)



Community News

Nature Alberta is offering Nature Calgary Members a **FREE Lifetime Membership.**

[Nature Alberta](#) connects and supports clubs like ours across the province. When you join Nature Alberta as a member, you add another voice in support of the active appreciation and conservation of Alberta's natural environment.

NatureAlberta.ca provides a central place for clubs from all over the province to promote their events. They also create educational materials like species checklists and guides to supporting nature in both urban and rural areas, available for free on their website. They run outreach programs like Nature Kids to promote first-hand nature experiences and inspire the next generation of naturalists. They publish Nature Alberta Magazine quarterly, filled with informative articles and beautiful photography.

You can check it out for free online or subscribe to receive your own print copies at naturealberta.ca/magazine. Your membership supports all these initiatives and more. Members also get 10% off books in their online store. [Click here](#) to become a Nature Alberta Lifetime Member today. Email Steph at info-@-naturealberta.ca if you have any questions or for more information.



Kananaskis Eagle Watch!

Spring is around the corner, and one sign of that is the start of raptor migration at the eagle watch in Kananaskis, we will start the spring count next week. Quite a few people who are Nature Calgary members come to help the observers spot raptors. Information about the count can be found at eaglewatch.ca - visitors, especially ones with binoculars, are always welcome at the site!

Image: Matt Wallace