



Nature News

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Newsletter of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society
President Cliff Rhodes ph: 403-239-6444

February - March 2009
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

February 18
Ice and Water

March 18
Heart of Africa

Nature Calgary General Meeting

Wed February 18: Ice and water: a story of deglaciation in southern Alberta.

Dr. Darren Sjogren, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Calgary. We often envisage the end of the ice age as an orderly retreat of the glaciers leaving characteristic landforms. In Alberta, such landforms are either absent or ambiguous. Dr. Sjogren's research focuses on the environmental changes that occurred at the end of the last glaciation. Specifically, he studies glacial landforms and sediments to infer the linkages between glacier dynamics, glacier hydrology, and climate change in Alberta.

Wed March 18: Rwanda, the heart of Africa. Rwanda is a small African country that has a famous reputation: for Mountain Gorillas, and for genocide. Join Bonnie Rothwell, former Education Programmer, Calgary Zoo, on a photo journey exploring the heart of Africa. The wildlife is incomparable; the nation one of historic events.

*All general meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except June, July & August) at 7:30pm, in **The Burnswest Theatre, Fort Calgary**, and are open to the public. To suggest a speaker or topic please call John McFaul 403-289-9517 or email naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca.*



Nature Calgary Issues and Updates

There will be a **Waterton trip** again this year on the weekend of June 26-28. The cost is expected to be \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. More details to follow.

URGENT - From the President:

There are several crucial volunteer positions open for Society activities. If no one can be found to fill these jobs, the Society may be forced to cancel the relevant activities.

We need people to:

- organize our annual bus trip, and
- to take charge in organizing the Annual Banquet.

If you don't feel you can take on the job by yourself, why not find a friend and volunteer together?

Volunteer Opportunities

Nature Calgary Board members - contact Jamie 403-243-7232 for details.

Publicity Director - coordinate publicity for meetings and events.

Directors-at-Large - a flexible role that provides support to the Board.

Non-board positions

- Organizer for our annual bus trip
- Someone to take charge of organizing the Annual Banquet
- Membership Promotion
- Field Trip Leader - take others to a favourite natural area.
- Representative to sit on the **Friends of the Reader Rock Garden Society** www.forrqs.com. Contact Suzanne at 403-288-0658 if you are interested
- Welcome Table Volunteers are needed to host the tables at monthly general and/or bird study group meetings.

Contact Helen (see left) for more information.

For details of these and other volunteer opportunities call **Helen** at **403-245-9685**, email ncvolc@gmail.com or see the [volunteers'](#) page at www.naturecalgary.com

Albertabird
groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird

Adopt-a-Plant Program
Conservation of Alberta's rare native plants
www.ab.adoptaplant.ca



All Nature Calgary
field trips are free
and open to all.

Lead a field trip!
To share your
knowledge of a
favourite location
call Gus at
403-243-2248

CFNS & Inglewood
24hr Rare Bird Alert
403-221-4519
Updated Mon & Thu

Field trip leaders please
turn in signed **waiver**
forms.

Mail to Nature Calgary,
Box 981 Stn. M, Calgary,
AB, T2P 2K4,
or hand in at the General
and Bird Study Group
meeting welcome tables.
Latest version of the
waiver form is available
naturecalgary.com/pdfs/Waiver_and_Release_May-08_landscape.pdf.

Please submit a list of bird
species seen on trips to
brooke@webfoundations.com

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group

Wed, Feb 4, 7:30 PM - Gord Court - Owls and Owl Conservation in Alberta – plus a live Barred Owl.

Wed, Mar 4, 7:30 PM – Ducks Unlimited – Topic TBA

Bird Study Group meets 1st Wednesday of the month, Room 211, BioSciences Building, U of C except June through August when field trips replace the meetings. Contact Eric Tull 403-295-0830, tull@ucalgary.ca.

Botany Study Group

Botany Study Group meets during the summer months. Contact Suzanne Visser 403-288-0658 or svisser@ucalgary.ca for further details.

Nature Calgary Field Trips

Check www.naturecalgary.com field trips pages for new trips and updates.

Trips that are highlighted require pre-registration.

... January

Sat Jan 24, 9:30am: Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E. end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun Jan 25, 9am: Bird the Bow River. Meet Burnsmead Parking Lot, Fish Creek Provincial Park (FCPP). S on Bow Bottom Tr, turn left just before entering FCPP. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Sat Jan 31, 8am: Search for Winter Woodland Owls, Water Valley area. All day by car. Bring lunch. Meet at Assumption School, 34 Av NW (just N of TCH #1, at Sarcee Tr.). Leader, Eric Tull, 403-295-0830.

Sat Jan 31, 9am: Bird Pearce Estate (Bow Habitat Station/Livingston Fish Hatchery), 1440-17A St SE, N of Blackfoot Trail. Leader, Jim St. Laurent, 403-246-6314.

... February

Sun Feb 1, 8:15am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call leaders, Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sat Feb 7, 8:15am: Bird Exshaw/Harvie Heights/Banff for foothills/mountain birds - Clark's Nutcracker, Evening/Pine Grosbeaks, Mountain Chickadee, Rosy-Finch, etc. All day by car. Bring lunch. Meet Assumption School, 34 Av NW at Sarcee Tr (just N of TCH #1). Leader, Eric Tull, 403-295-0830.

Sat Feb 7, 9am: Bird Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet Parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sat Feb 7, 10am: Urban Trees. See many of the 150 woody species in Calgary. Meet in parking lot at W end of Riverdale Av SW, W of Elbow Dr, S. of Elbow River. **Poor weather date, Sun Feb 15.** Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sun Feb 8, 8:15am: 17th Annual Duck Waddle. (4-5 hours). Meet Beaverdam Flats Park S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE). N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Carpool to Carburn Park; walk back. See varied waterfowl on Bow River. Bring lunch, hot drink. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Sat Feb 14, 9am: Bird Bowness Park, 48 Av NW, W of 85 St NW. Meet first parking lot. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sun Feb 15, 9am: Birding Griffith Woods Park, 2.5km W on Hwy 8 from Sarcee Tr SW, then left at 69 St SW into Discovery Ridge. Continue straight at traffic circle, then left on Discovery Link into parking lot. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Sat Feb 21, 9am: Bird Carburn Park. S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to second stoplight, then right & follow signs. Meet parking lot. Leader, Jim Washbrook, 403-969-1056.

Sat Feb 21, 9:30am: Snowy Owl Prowl. Meet W end Deerfoot Mall Parking Lot, Deerfoot Tr & 64 Av NE. Full gas tank, lunch. Leader, Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sun Feb 22, 9am: Bird Bebo Grove, FCPP, S end of 24 St SW. Leader, Eric Tull, 403-295-0830.

Sun Feb 28, 7:15am: Several hundred Black-billed Magpies roost in the Weaselhead Natural Area each night. Watch their dawn dispersal, then see other winter birds. Meet parking lot, 66 Av & 37 St SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.



Sketches: Beryl Hallworth

... March

Sun Mar 1, 8am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call leaders, Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sun Mar 8, 9am: Bird Edworthy Park. Meet S side of Boothman Pedestrian Bridge accessed from Shaganappi Tr & Bowness Rd NW if N of river, or from W end of Spruce Dr SW if S of river. Leader, Sue/Russ Costello, 403-271-6858.

Sat Mar 14, 9am: Bird Hull's Woods, FCPP. Meet at parking lot in park off Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Jim St. Laurent, 403-246-6314.

Sat Mar 14, 9am-5pm. Alberta Palaeontology Society FREE symposium. Learn about ancient birds and their ancestors. Jenkins Theatre, Mt. Royal College, 4825 Richard St SW.

Sun Mar 15, 9am: Birding Griffith Woods Park, 2.5km W on Hwy 8 from Sarcee Tr SW, then left at 69 St SW into Discovery Ridge. Continue straight at traffic circle, then left on Discovery Link into parking lot. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Sat Mar 21, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park. N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Meet Beaverdam Flats Park S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, just S of 62 Av SE). Leader, Jim Washbrook, 403-969-1056.

Sun Mar 22, 1:30pm: Woody plants of Reader Rock Garden. Meet parking lot S of 25 Av SE, just E of Macleod Tr, S of Stampede Grounds. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

... April

Wed Apr 1, 8:30am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call leaders, Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Of General Interest

The results of the Calgary Christmas Bird Count have been put on the web. Go to the Birding section of www.naturecalgary.com. If you do not have access to a computer and wish to see the results, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Brooke Clibbon, 415 Thornhill Place NW, Calgary T2K 2S6.

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 13-16, 2009. Volunteers take part by counting birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. The data help researchers understand bird population trends across the continent, information that is critical for effective conservation. For more information, see the Birding section of www.naturecalgary.com.

Alberta biology: the natural history, physiology, & behavior of Alberta birds & mammals; a weekend course hosted by the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation in Madden, with international speaker and instructor, Dianne Wittner. January 31st & February 1st. For more information, see the Birding section of www.naturecalgary.com.

Upcoming Events of the Edmonton Plant Study Group:

Monday, February 2; "Orchids and their Habitats",

Monday, March 16; Annual Members' Night.

Monday, April 20: "What's Wrong with that Plant? Diseases and Insect Pests of Woody Species including Planted Ornamentals and Wild Species".

Adopt-a-Plant Alberta is looking for a qualified applicant to take on part-time work as the Program Coordinator. The estimated time commitment is 17 hours per week. This is a contract position, for one year, with the possibility of renewal in future years. There is a significant demand in this role for administration and project management skills. There is also ample opportunity to help build and maintain a volunteer-based conservation program, and participate directly in rare plant stewardship and conservation activities. Contact Lisa Matthias, 780-422-3400 ASAP. Resumes to be submitted by Jan. 31.

Join AWA for a hike in the Bull Creek Hills in Kananaskis Country, west of Longview, Sat., February 21, 2009. Cost is \$20 for AWA members, \$25 non-members. More info or to register: shop.albertawilderness.ca. Preregistration required.

For more nature activities in the Calgary area visit:

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
www.cpawscalgary.org

Weaselhead & Glenmore Park Preservation Society
talkaboutwildlife.ca

Alberta Wilderness Association
www.albertawilderness.ca

Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC)
www.caoc.ab.ca

Friends of Fish Creek
www.friendsoffishcreek.org

Cross Conservation Area
www.crossconservation.org

Calling All Photographers !!

The Nature Calgary web needs photographs!

If you are willing to allow your photographs to be used on the web, please contact Jan Brigden, email jebrigden@telus.net or ph. 403.275.1582

Alberta Wilderness Association presents "In Situ" Oil Sands Extraction, impacts on wild lands & groundwater with Wallace King & Carolyn Campbell. Learn about below-ground oil sands development and the potential for contamination of Canada's largest groundwater aquifer. 7 pm, Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at the AWA Office, 455 - 12 Street NW, Calgary. Cost: \$5 per person; \$1 for children. More info: 403-283-2025.

Calgary Rock & Alpine Gardens Society (CRAGS) upcoming meetings:

Feb 12 - Joyce Carruthers, "Singing The Blues". Joyce will talk about the blue flowers in the Czech garden she shares with Zdenek Zvolanek. Joyce and Zdenek travel extensively (especially in Turkey) searching for plants. Their garden is full of their findings; most, if not all of the plants shown will grow here in Calgary.

Mar 5 - DVD by Harry Jans & popcorn night.

Time & place: Social 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Lakeview Community Association Hall, 6110 - 34 Street SW, Calgary AB. Free admission to CRAGS members and first time visitors. More info: www.CRAGS.ca, ph. Ken or Carol at 403-276-5831.

With great sadness, we report the passing of four friends.



Muriel "Jean" Gill, a prominent member of CFNS during the 1980s, passed away at the age of 89 on Aug. 25. Jean faithfully put out the monthly newsletter from Sept. 1979 until spring of 1987. From the fall of 1984 until the spring of 1987 Jean was also the president of the CFNS. Bird watching, the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society and her beloved cats gave her joy.



Douglas Earl Jermyn, Sept. 20, 1930 - Dec. 3, 2008. Doug and his wife Marilyn were regulars at Nature Calgary regular meetings and at Bird Study meetings. Douglas had a great love of nature and the natural beauty of Alberta. He spent countless hours enjoying outdoor activities such as hiking and bird watching. He will be greatly missed by Marilyn, his children and grandchildren.



Daphne Stiles, Mar. 9, 1931 - Dec. 22, 2008. She is remembered with great affection by her husband Don, and her three sons. Daphne was faithful to her family, bearing many burdens to help them all overcome life's hardships. She persevered through years of arthritis and other ailments with courage and grace.



Barbara Mary Sherrington, Jul. 29, 1947 - Dec. 27, 2008. Her husband Peter, her family, and many friends fondly remember her for her infectious love of life and the earth: its people, animals, trees, rocks and sunsets. This was strongly reflected in her career as an early childhood educator, in her music, poetry, painting and cooking, in her environmental, social and peace activism, and as a mother, grandmother, friend and colleague.

naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4

Nature Calgary Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr
Family \$25.00/yr

Contact Donna,
403-276-7799

♻️ please recycle

Nature Calgary members receive discounts at businesses shown below
(with membership card)

Campers Village (10% discount)

7208 Macleod Tr SE 403-252-3338

The Wild Bird Store (10% discount)

D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632

Calgary Honda (special discounted rates)

Anderson & Macleod 403-253-6531, x 4021

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society) publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to Brooke brooke@webfoundations.com ph: 403-295-0830 **and/or** Jan jebrigden*@telus.net (remove *) ph: 403-275-1582.

Deadline for the April issue is Friday March 13, 2009.