



Nature News

Volume 30, Number 2
www.naturecalgary.com

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

October-November 2008
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

Oct 15
To Be Announced

Nov 19
Extremophiles

Nature Calgary Meeting

Wed October 15 – TBA – Watch the Nature Calgary web site and your email for updates!

Wed November 19 - Hot springs and the origin of life or - why plants and animals are all sissies. Dr. Peter Dunfield, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, U of C. will give an introduction to the life forms that live in extreme environments such as hot springs.

*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.*



TIMBER WOLF

Suzanne Visser is Nature Calgary's representative to the City of Calgary's Invasive Plant Strategic Management Plan. She will present comments on the plan to the standing committee on September 24.

Nature Calgary Issues and Updates

Nature Calgary Annual Banquet - Saturday, November 1 at the Best Western, Village Park Inn, Crowchild Tr NW. Free, heated parking in the parking garage.

5:30 pm - 7 pm: No-host reception

7 pm – 8:30 pm: Three course gourmet dinner

8:30 pm: Guest Speaker is **Dr. Robert Barclay**, wildlife ecologist and research scientist. His presentation will be on current issues relating to bats and bat research in Alberta. Read more at <http://www.bio.ucalgary.ca/contact/faculty/barclay.html>.

Order tickets, \$45 each for members, \$50 for non-members, (includes gst and gratuity) from Jamie Noakes at 243-7232 or banquet@cfns.fanweb.ca. Send cheques payable to CFNS to: Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4 (mark envelope "Banquet") or pay Jamie at the Oct 1 Bird Study Group or the Oct 15 general meeting. Payment is due by October 28. Reservations are required and any special dietary requests must be made at this time. Call Jamie Noakes, 243-7232 if you can donate door prizes. **Join us for a great meal, a dynamic speaker, door prizes and more!**

Memories of Jean Gill

Jean Gill, President of CFNS from 1984 to 1987, passed away at the age of 89 on August 25. Jean also put out the CFNS monthly newsletter from September 1979 until spring of 1987. It is still published as Nature News. The club grew stronger during the 1980s due to Jean's involvement.

She was the first newsletter editor for the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society. The first issue, Vol. 1, No. 1, was Sept/Oct 1979 on one 8½" by 14" page. Here is Jean's heading from that first newsletter:

"GREETINGS: This is the first CFNS newsletter, designed to keep you informed of each month's happenings. If you have information of up-coming meetings, field trips, etc., please get in touch with me, Jean Gill, 249-3963, or hand me a written memo at the regular monthly meetings. Deadline for the November newsletter will be Wednesday, October 17th. We hope to have this letter in your hands by the first of each month, because it will go by first class mail."

That first issue had notices of the CFNS monthly meetings, for September through November; seven field trips from September 1979 to January 1980; notice of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN) fall meeting; notice for the start of the 1979-80 season of Audubon films, and a pre-Christmas sale of Calgary's Natural Areas: a Popular Guide, edited by Peter Sherrington (published in 1975) for \$2.00.

An announcement appeared at the bottom of the page that the CFNS bulletin, (previously printed monthly) would now appear quarterly, starting in November. This was named **PICA** and was published from the fall of 1979 until the fall of 2003.

Submitted by Donald Stiles (e-mail: stilesdj@shaw.ca, Ph: 403-271-4689).

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

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Nature Calgary Board members needed**
Publicity Director - coordinate publicity for meetings and events.
- Director-at-Large - a flexible role that provides support to the Board.

Non-board positions

- Membership Promotion
- Special Events Committee members - plan the fall banquet and other special events.
- Field Trip Leader - take others to a favourite natural area.
- Representative to sit on the **Friends of the Reader Rock Garden Society** www.forrgrs.com. Contact Suzanne at 403-288-0658 if you are interested
- Youth/family field trip organizer – some funds are available to host an event.
- Welcome Table Volunteers are needed to host the tables at monthly general and/or bird study group meetings. Meet your fellow members and welcome newcomers by giving out information about Nature Calgary programs and activities. This requires very little time and would be ideal for a couple.

Contact Helen (see left) for more information about any of these opportunities.

Oct 1
The world needs more birders

Nov 1
Climate change and Arctic breeding birds

Albertabird
groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird

Oct 4-5
Calgary Fall Plant Count

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

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group

Wed October 1, 7:30 pm: The world needs more birders, speaker Richard Cannings.

Wed November 5, 7:30 pm: How climate change has affected Arctic breeding shorebirds, speaker Dr. Ralph Cartar.

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

Sat/Sun October 4/5: Calgary Fall Plant Count. Count plants in flower in your favourite Natural Area or meet at 10 am on Saturday for a survey of Paskapoo Slopes Park. Call Suzanne at 403-288-0658 for fall plant list and to confirm attendance.

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



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

Nature Calgary Field Trips

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

Trips that are highlighted require pre-registration.

...September

Sat Sep 27, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E. end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sat Sep 27, 10am: 3-hour Archaeology Tour of Paskapoo Slopes (Ancient Buffalo kill sites, etc.). Bring lunch. Meet Canada Olympic Park in front of main office. Leader, Brian Vivian, Past Pres. Alberta Archaeological Society, 403-276-5970.

Sun Sep 28, 8:30am: Bird Wyndham/Carseland Prov Park and Strathmore Area. Bring lunch. Meet Anderson LRT Station (Macleod Tr), S of pedestrian overpass. Leader, Tony Timmons, 256-0754.

Sun Sep 28, 8:30am: Bird Votier's Flats, FCPP. S end of Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Tue Sep 30: Fish Rescue, Irrigation Canal, Bow River at Max Bell Arena Area. To help, or for more details, register at http://www.tucanada.org/NP_FishRescue.shtml, or email lpeterson@tucanada, or phone 403-209-5184, or fax 403-221-8368.

**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
www.naturecalgary.com.

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



Sketches: Beryl Hallworth

...October

Wed Oct 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.

Sat Oct 4: Fish Rescue, Irrigation Canal, High River. To help, or for more details, register at http://www.tucanada.org/NP_FishRescue.shtml, or email lpeterson@tucanada, or phone 403-209-5184, or fax 403-221-8368.

Sat Oct 4; 9am: Birding Beaverdam Flats Park. N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to 66 Av, then left. Meet S parking lot at Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE. Leader, Al Borgardt, 403-281-4306.

Sat Oct 4, 1:30pm: See 24 captive Whooping Cranes at the Zoo Ranch. Limit 25 participants. Call 243-2248 to register. Meet Anderson LRT Station (Macleod Tr), S of Pedestrian bridge to carpool. Guide, Crane Keeper Dwight Knapik. Rain date, Sun Oct 5.

Sun Oct 5, 8:30am: Birding Pearce Estate (Livingston Fish Hatchery), 1440-17A St SE, N of Blackfoot Trail. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sat Oct 11, 9:30am: Peak of Golden Eagle migration at Mt Lorette. Bring lunch. Meet Assumption School, 34 Av NW (just N of TCH #1, at Sarcee Tr). Leader, Andrew Hart. 403-279-5209.

Sat Oct 11, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E. end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Al Borgardt, 403-281-4306.

Sat/Sun, Oct 11/12: Fish Rescue, Irrigation Canal, Bow River, Carseland. To help, or for more details, register at http://www.tucanada.org/NP_FishRescue.shtml, or email lpeterson@tucanada, or phone 403-209-5184, or fax 403-221-8368.

Sun Oct 19, 9am: Birding Carburn Park. S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to second stoplight, then right & follow signs. Meet parking lot. Leader, Jim Washbrook, 271-0923.

...November

Sat Nov 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.

Sun Nov 2, 9am: Birding the Bow River. Meet at Mallard Point, E end of Canyon Meadows Dr SE, to carpool to FCPP HQ, then walk back. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Sat Nov 8, 9am: Birding Shannon Terrace, W end of Fish Creek Prov. Park (FCPP). W on Anderson Rd which curves south onto 37 St SW. Turn left (East) at 130 Av. Go 1 block, turn right into park. Leader, Jim St Laurent, 403-246-6314.

Sun Nov 9, 9am: Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Tue Nov 11, 9am: REMEMBRANCE DAY. Birding Votier's Flats, FCPP, S end of Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957

Sat Nov 15, 9am: Birding Burnsmead area, FCPP. Meet Burnsmead parking lot off Bow Bottom Tr SE, turning left just before entering Park. Leader, Al Borgardt, 403-281-4306.

Sun Nov 16, 9am: Bird Griffith Woods Park, 2.5km W on Hwy 8 (Glenmore Tr) 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. Leaders, Sue/Russ Costello, 271-6858.

Sat Nov 22, 9 am: Birding Shannon Terrace, W end of Fish Creek Prov. Park (FCPP). W on Anderson Rd which curves south to become 37 St SW. Turn left (East) at 130 Av. Go 1 block, turn right into park. Leader, Al Borgardt, 403-281-4306.

Sun Nov 23, 9am: Birding Burnsmead Area. Meet at Burnsmead parking lot, FCPP, off Bow Bottom Tr SE, turning left just before entering Park. Leader, Jim Washbrook, 403-271-0932.

Sun Nov 30, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park. N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Meet in S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, just S of 62 Av SE). Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Mon Dec 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, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

For more nature activities in the Calgary area visit:

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)

www.cpawscalgary.org

Weaselhead & Glenmore Park Preservation Society

weaselhead.org

Alberta Wilderness Association

www.albertawilderness.ca

Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC)

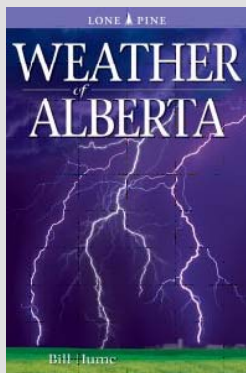
www.caoc.ab.ca

Friends of Fish Creek

www.friendsoffishcreek.org

Cross Conservation Area

www.crossconservation.org



Of General Interest

Calgary Area Bluebird Trail Monitors' annual meeting is on **Sat Oct 18 at 2:00 pm** in Biosciences Room 211 at U of C (where the Bird Study Group meets). Monitors' stories on their bluebird trails in 2008 will be told. Anyone interested in bluebird trails is welcome. A few monitors are retiring so there may be opportunities to take over a trail. For information, call Don Stiles at 403-271-4689.

Alberta Wilderness Association

Tuesday Sep 30, 7 pm Suffield National Wild Life Area – Canada's Prairie

Treasure, with Cleve Wershler. A week before the hearing into EnCana's proposal to drill 1,275 additional gas wells in this federally protected wildlife refuge, join us to celebrate the beauty of Suffield NWA, a rare grassland remnant in southern Alberta at the AWA Office, 455 10 ST NW, \$5 per person, \$1 for children. Ph: 403-283-2025 for reservations.

Calgary Science Network Rock 'N' Fossil Road Show

Saturday, October 18th, drop in from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Crowfoot Public Library, 8665 Nose Hill Drive NW. Scientists from the Geological Survey of Canada will examine your rocks, minerals and fossils and answer questions. Lots of specimens will be on display, and you can learn more about the geology and palaeontology of Alberta and Canada. All ages are welcome and it's free! www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca.

OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland, draft management plan released.

OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland was designated under the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas, and Heritage Rangelands Act on August 27, 2008. The Alberta Government is committed to developing management plans based on public input for all parks in Alberta to determine their future management. Park management plans:

- describe protected areas, and the surrounding environment and community;
- identify government goals for the park, and how they will be achieved;
- provide objectives and guidelines on how a site's natural and cultural heritage will be preserved;
- detail the type and extent of recreation, heritage appreciation and tourism opportunities that will be supported in an area, and how they will meet the needs of the community; and
- provide opportunities for ongoing review and public and stakeholder consultation on park management.

Public and stakeholder review and comment on the draft plan are encouraged and welcome. The deadline for comment is November 13, 2008. A copy of the draft plan, and more information, is at <http://www.tpr.alberta.ca/parks/consult/OHRanch/default.aspx>.

Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society (CRAGS)

Thursday Oct 9, speaker Hans Roemer - the Wakhan/Pamir region of NE Afghanistan.

Thursday Nov 6, Annual General Meeting. After the AGM portion of the meeting, Pam Eveleigh's presents "Alpines in Tibet". Social 6:30 pm, meeting 7:30 pm at Lakeview Community Association Hall, 6110 - 34 Street SW, Calgary. Free admission to CRAGS members and first time visitors. www.CRAGS.ca.


Weather of Alberta by Bill Hume, Lone Pine. A lay guide to a subject that interests Albertans more than any other topic. Chapters on the atmosphere, clouds and cloud classification, types of precipitation, atmospheric electricity, winds, optics and acoustics, the Alberta climate, storms, weather observation and weather forecasting. As well as chapters on weather modification, air quality and a knowledgeable treatment of climate change as it affects Alberta.

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

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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 jebriqden*@*telus.net (remove *) ph: 403-275-1582.

Deadline for the December/January issue is Friday November 18.