

“Wings over Wascana” Nature Festival

Friday, May 12, 2006
8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: Program will take place in a tent beside the Saskatchewan Science Centre.

“BATS: Busting Myths about these Fascinating Flying Mammals”

Join us at twilight for an illustrated talk on bats, followed by a show-and-tell with a live animal. Then listen with an ultrasonic “bat” detector for free flying animals in the park. If weather conditions are favourable, we can have a bat “release party,” setting overwintering bats free.

Dr. Mark Brigham, Biology Professor, University of Regina

Saturday, May 13, 2006
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Festival Tent Village located west of the Saskatchewan Science Centre parking lot.

Programs will run rain or shine.

- Tent shelter provided for Presentations, Arts & Crafts, Entertainment, and Eco-Games.
- Eco-Displays will be set up in the lobby of the Saskatchewan Science Centre.
- Presentation by Bill Lishman, with an introduction by Lorne Scott, will take place in the IMAX Theatre from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Operation Migration videos and the movie, “Fly Away Home” will be shown in the Royal Saskatchewan Museum theatre.
- Dress warmly and bring your umbrella for guided hikes and outdoor activities.

***** NOTE:** All programs are FREE, but some activities have a maximum limit. To get tickets for the limited attendance programs, **visit the Sask Energy Information Tent**, open at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis, with a maximum of two selections per person.

**** The festival Schedule of Events will be available in the Sask Energy Information Tent ****
**** Programs are subject to change without notice ****

Kramer IMAX Theatre

FREE presentations. First-come, first-serve. Doors open at 10:00 a.m.

Be inspired by these conservation stories! Learn how our actions today can make a difference for future generations!

“Wascana Marsh: A Trip Down Memory Lane” [10:30 – 11:00 a.m.]

Wascana Marsh has a rich history of conservation efforts. Lorne Scott, former Wascana Centre Authority Park Naturalist, will take you on a pictorial journey of this federally designated bird sanctuary.

Lorne Scott, President, Friends of Wascana Marsh

“Dare to Dream” [11:00 a.m. – 12:00]

Join Bill Lishman, also known as “Father Goose,” as he shares his remarkable experiences with ultralight-led migrations, his dedication to the Whooping Crane, and footage from the movie, “Fly Away Home.” There will be a 15 minute Question & Answer period after this ‘uplifting’ presentation. Bill will be accompanied by his daughter, Carmen, an Ornithologist who shares her father’s passion for birds. Carmen has a soft spot for Saskatchewan as she served as a Field Technician for Ducks Unlimited Canada in Southeast Saskatchewan in 2004.

William (Bill) Lishman, Co-Founder, Operation Migration

“Presentations” Tent

“Wonders of the Whooping Crane” [30 minutes] 10:00 a.m.

The Whooping Crane population reached an all-time low of 22 birds in 1941, including 16 birds that continued to migrate through Saskatchewan to reach their northern nesting grounds. This migratory population is now over 200, thanks to a mix of passion, tenacity, trial, and luck. Come learn about historic and current efforts to save this magnificent “ancient dancer.”

Dr. Glenn Sutter, Curator of Ornithology and Human Ecology, Royal Saskatchewan Museum

“Marsh Jeopardy” [2 - 30 minutes] 10:45 a.m. / 1:45 p.m.

Enjoy this fun, interactive program. Whether playing or watching, you'll have a great time learning with Oak Hammock Marsh Jeopardy!

Nathalie Bays, Education Coordinator, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

“Migration in Plain Language” [30 minutes] 11:30 a.m.

Ever wonder about the hows and whys of migration, but find it too complicated? Frances will use her past experience with the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network to break down this fascinating behaviour into plain language, including Wascana Marsh's role in the journey.

Frances Bennett, Zoologist, Saskatchewan Environment - Resource Stewardship Branch

“Sustainability Show” [2 - 30 minutes] 12:15 p.m. / 3:15 p.m.

Treating our world as if we intended to stay! What do water guns, rocket cars and footprints have to do with each other? Come find out! This high energy show will help you understand the ways in which we can maintain the planet for generations to come.

Science Explorer, Saskatchewan Science Centre

“Leave No Trace: Front Country Practices” [30 minutes] 1:00 p.m.

Learn six LEAVE NO TRACE principles that apply to urban settings ... like Wascana Park. These simple approaches to outdoor activities help to sustain natural areas and still allow for positive experiences.

Phyllis Radchenko, Admin. Assistant, Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education Association

“Meet Emma the Owl” [30 minutes] 2:30 p.m.

Learn how Emma, an injured Great Horned Owl, was nursed back to health. With Emma's help, Jim will share some fascinating facts about owls and his experiences as a wildlife rehabilitator.

Jim Elliott, Director of Environmental Advocacy, Nature Regina

“Carmen Lishman's Birding Adventures” [15 minutes] 4:00 p.m.

“After the Flood: Experiences of Captive-Rearing Piping Plovers” [45 minutes] 4:15 p.m.

This visual program will describe the natural history and migratory patterns of piping plovers, as well as share details of the 2006 South Saskatchewan River captive-rearing initiative.

Corie White, Terrestrial Ecologist, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

“Entertainment” Tent

“Earth Songs” [3 - 30 minutes] 10:30 a.m. / 1:30 p.m. / 4:30 p.m.

Join this lively environmental scientist who sings and writes songs about many important environmental topics, such as water and the five R's, but in a humorous fashion that encourages group participation and laughter.

Dr. Don Waite, Earthsong Productions

“First Nations Storyteller” [2 - 30 minutes] 11:30 a.m. / 2:30 p.m.

You will be spellbound by this dynamic First Nations storyteller as she blends traditional and family stories to showcase the wide range of oral traditions practiced by Aboriginal people. Stories on “Raven” will be featured.

Dr. Shauneen Pete, Assistant Education Professor, University of Regina

“Build a Shorebird” [2 - 30 minutes] 12:30 p.m. / 3:30 p.m.

A comedic look at physical adaptations unique to shorebirds by dressing up an audience member with bird “adaptations” that gradually transform him or her into a bird – and then into a shorebird. Laughter required!

Corie White, Terrestrial Ecologist, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

[All day] Visit the Entertainment tent anytime to get ‘decorated’ with face paint, tattoos, and hand stamps!

Outdoor Activities

“Wildlife Photography” [2 – 30 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **10:00 a.m. / 1:00 p.m.**

In addition to getting some great tips for capturing that special photo, Frank will show you a quick and easy way to create a camouflage blind. No equipment necessary ... just bring your sense of wonder!

Frank Switzer, Naturalist, Nature Saskatchewan

“Wildlife Awareness” [2 – 45 minutes] [No Limit] **10:45 a.m. / 4:15 p.m.**

Enhance your wildlife awareness by learning to identify tracks and animal signs. Joe will use a variety of games, sensory activities, and techniques to increase your ability to spot wildlife.

Joe Milligan, Education Program Co-ordinator, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

“Introduction to Birdwatching” [60 minutes] [Maximum: 24] **11:45 a.m.**

This interactive, informative session will cover the birding basics. Learn about bird lists, how to select and use field guides, tips for identifying birds, and more!

Dale Hjertaas, President, Nature Regina

“Bird Banding Demonstration” [60 minutes] [No Limit] **1:45 p.m.**

Learn how researchers capture birds using mist nets, what information they record, why this information is useful, how they band birds before gently releasing them back into the wild, and how they monitor the birds after they are banded. Sound intriguing? Learn how you can get involved!

Alan Smith, Environment Canada

“Bird’s Eye View” [2 - 60 minutes] [Maximum: 15] **11:30 a.m. / 3:00 p.m.**

Journey to the top of Wascana Hill for a “bird’s eye view” of the islands in Wascana Marsh. Use the binoculars and spotting scopes provided to locate and identify many nesting and migratory birds.

Wayne Pepper, Biologist, Nature Regina

“Marsh Monsters!” [3 – 45 minutes] [Maximum: 24] **11:30 a.m. / 1:45 p.m. / 4:00 p.m.**

What creatures lurk in the waters of Wascana Marsh? With the aid of sturdy dipping docks, Barb will help you search for beetles and bugs, larva and nymphs, and Backswimmers with big red eyes!

Barb Hanbidge, Education Specialist, Ducks Unlimited Canada

“Waterfowl Display Pond Guided Tours” [4 – 30 minutes] [Maximum: 15] **1:00, 2:00, 3:00 & 4:00 p.m.**

Get a close-up look at injured birds that reside in the Wascana Waterfowl Display Ponds. Learn some interesting facts and maybe get the opportunity to feed them! Located across from the Conexus Arts Centre parking lot.

Shirley Friel, Outdoor Educator, Regina Public School Board

“The Big Sit Bird Count” [All day – Come and Go]

The public is invited to stop by, learn how and why this annual count is conducted, and help out for as long as they are interested.

Naturalists, Nature Regina

Guided Hikes

“Wascana Marsh Mysteries” [3 - 60 minutes] [Maximum: 24] **10:15 a.m. / 12:30 p.m. / 2:45 p.m.**

Get a behind-the-scenes look at Wascana Marsh. Park Naturalists will lead you on a 45 minute hike of the lesser-travelled marsh habitat area, followed by a brief visit to the Waterfowl Winterhouse.

Bob Ewart, Waterfowl Park Naturalist, Wascana Centre Authority

Jared Clarke, Summer Naturalist, Wascana Centre Authority

“Birding by Ear” [2 – 45 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **10:30 a.m. / 2:30 p.m.**

We often hear birds, but don’t see them. Glen will introduce you to the art of identifying birds using song, call notes, and other sounds.

Dr. Glen McMaster, Manager of Habitat Assessment, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

“Bird Walk for Beginners” [2 – 30 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **11:30 a.m. / 2:15 p.m.**

Join the host of CBC Radio’s “Birds with Frank Switzer – The Afternoon Edition” for a casual walk along Wascana Marsh. Participants will focus on naked-eye bird watching and identify some common marsh species.

Frank Switzer, Naturalist, Nature Saskatchewan

“Ecosystems and Ecotourism” [2 – 60 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **10:15 a.m. / 1:15 p.m.**

Journey around the marsh and learn about the ecosystems and natural environment from an ecotourism perspective.

Joseph Hnatiuk, President, Saskatchewan Nature & Ecotourism Association

“Bird Behaviour Scavenger Hunt” [2 – 45 minutes] [Maximum: 15] **12:15 p.m. / 4:15 p.m.**

Equipped with binoculars and a scavenger hunt list, participants will look for birds exhibiting different types of behaviour, like soaring, preening, singing, and perching, as well as learn the function of these behaviours.

Kim Epp, Owner, Chickadee Nature Tours

“Bird Walk with Alan Smith” [60 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **3:30 p.m.**

Join Alan Smith, author of *Saskatchewan Birds*, for a walk around Wascana Marsh. Alan will discuss his field guide, explain how to properly use binoculars, offer identification tips, and share interesting facts about Saskatchewan birds. Please bring binoculars if you have them.

Alan Smith, Environment Canada

“Birding for Novices” [60 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **1:00 p.m.**

Are you a beginner bird watcher? Then this hike’s for you! Myles enthusiasm for birding will undoubtedly rub off on you as he shares some birding basics.

Myles Radchenko, President, Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education Association

“Advanced Birding” [60 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **3:00 p.m.**

Experienced birders are welcome to join Myles on a hike around the marsh area in search of rare and uncommon bird species. Bring your guides and binoculars!

Myles Radchenko, President, Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education Association

“Eco-Games” Tent

“Macroinvertebrate Mayhem” [30 minutes] **10:00 a.m.**

A variety of environmental stressors can impact macroinvertebrate populations (organisms that lack an internal skeleton.) Can you dodge the “stressors” and survive? Good luck! (This is a great activity to do before the “Marsh Monster” pond dipping program.)

Nathalie Bays, Education Co-ordinator, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

“Bird Song Bingo” [2 - 30 minutes] [Maximum: 32] **11:00 a.m. / 4:00 p.m.**

Participants match pre-recorded bird songs and calls to bird illustrations on their bingo cards. First person to cover two lines of their card wins a prize. Concerned you don’t know your birds well enough? Don’t worry ... anyone who can count to 25 can play!

Jan Kindred, Co-Chair of Education & Ecotourism Subcommittee, Friends of Wascana Marsh

“Migration Headache” [2 - 30 minutes] **12:00 p.m. / 3:00 p.m.**

Participants attempt to “migrate” from their wintering habitat to their nesting habitat. Be careful ... there are several factors that affect the survival of migratory water bird populations. Will your journey be successful?

Nathalie Bays, Education Co-ordinator, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

“Fatal Links” [30 minutes] **1:00 p.m.**

Become a “hawk”, “shrew”, or “grasshopper” in a highly-active game of “food chain” tag. Watch out! – there’s a fatal twist!

Nathalie Bays, Education Co-ordinator, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

“Climate Change Outdoor Fun” [30 minutes] **2:00 p.m.**

Families are invited to participate in a variety of high-energy games and chants promoting active transport.

Phyllis Radchenko, Admin. Assistant, Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education Association

Self-Guided Activities: [All day] Self-guided games and quizzes will be located near the Eco-Games tent and can be done anytime. People are encouraged to visit the Eco-Games tent between scheduled programs to participate in these activities.

Self-Guided Activities

[Set up in or near the Eco-Games tent]

Developed by Jan Kindred, Co-Chair of Education & Ecotourism Subcommittee, Friends of Wascana Marsh

(1) “The Great Migration Challenge”

A self-guided station set up near the Games tent. This activity can be done by individuals, groups, or families. The activity explores the hazards and helpers that migratory birds encounter on their long-distance journey.

- To start the journey, select a bird card, roll the dice and begin at the station with the number you roll.
- Follow the instructions on each station’s card. When conditions are favourable, the card tells you to move ahead. When you encounter a hazard, you may be delayed or have to go back.
- Not all birds survive migration. At the end of the journey, return your bird card and record if your migration was successful or not. Good luck!

(2) “Wetlands Sensory Scavenger Hunt”

A sheet will be available at the Information and Eco-Games tent listing several items from around Wascana Marsh that people can see, feel, hear, and smell. Families are encouraged to do this activity on their own.

(3) “Bird Quizzes” - A variety of quizzes and puzzles will test your knowledge about our feathered friends.

(4) “Wing String” - Participants can measure their “wing span” to find out what kind of bird they resemble in size.

(5) “Wetland Metaphors” - A variety of objects on display represent the natural functions of wetlands. Participants try to determine the relationship between the objects and wetland functions.

“Arts & Crafts” Tent

[Stations set up as “come and go”]

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation – Colouring Books (children)

Friends of Wascana Marsh

- Origami Cranes, Owls and Frogs (children, teens & adults)
- Word Search Puzzles on Shorebird Topics (teens & adults)
- Colour in Flip Pages (to make four types of birds) (children)
- Bird Colour-in Pages with Bird Facts (children)
- Bird Beak Greeting Cards (children & teens)
- Flying Dove Craft (children)
- Nature Journals (children, teens & adults)

Climate Change Saskatchewan – Flip Flops Paper Game (children, teens & adults)

Green Ribbon Advisory Committee – “2006 Energy and the Environment” calendars full of games & puzzles

Dr. Stephen Davis – Bird Sculpture Demonstration Using Wood & Clay (1:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Tee-pee Talks

[Presented by the **First Nations University of Canada** Elders & Professional Staff]

10:00 a.m. **Pipe Ceremony.** All people are welcome to join the circle of Elders as they offer prayers. Women: please wear a skirt below the knees or bring a blanket.

11:00 a.m. **Elder Isadore Pelletier** will speak on the importance of the eagle to First Nations peoples.

12:00 p.m. Meet and visit with the Elders from the First Nations University of Canada.

1:00 p.m. **Elder Ken Goodwill** will speak on the use of feathers and bird images on cultural items and regalia.

2:00 p.m. **Elder Velma Goodfeather** will share about the First Nations relationship to Mother Earth.

3:00 p.m. **Bill Asikinack**, Department Head of Indigenous Studies, will share Anishinabe stories about birds.

4:00 p.m. **Roland Kaye**, Elders Helper, will speak on protocol about approaching an Elder for guidance and advice.

Eco-Displays

[Displays will be set up in the front lobby of the Saskatchewan Science Centre]

Quill Lake Ecotourism Centre

Chaplin Nature Centre

Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education Association

Nature Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Nature & Ecotourism Association

Regina EcoLiving

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

Climate Change Saskatchewan

Green Ribbon Advisory Committee

Saskatchewan Environment – Parks Branch

Royal Saskatchewan Museum Theatre

Free movies and films will be showing throughout the day. Stop by and visit the *Back from the Brink – Recovering the Whooping Crane* exhibit on your way to the theatre!

- 10:00 a.m. **The Sharptails of Last Mountain** (22 minutes) An intimate look at this ancient mating ritual performed each spring by the Sharp-tailed grouse. Dancing, disguise, and deception all play a role in the dramatic competition for mates.
- 10:30 a.m. **The Whoopers of Saskatchewan** (22 minutes) Whooping cranes are an endangered species that were reduced to just 16 birds in 1941. Spectacular video of one family migrating between the nesting grounds in Wood Buffalo National Park, through the grainfields of Saskatchewan, to the wintering grounds on the Gulf of Mexico.
- 11:00 a.m. **Twixt Heaven and Earth** (48 minutes) The Swainson's hawk travels an amazing 22,000 km each year, as it spends the summer on the Canadian prairies and the winter in the Argentinian pampas. Saskatchewan birding giant Dr. Stuart Houston has studied the Swainson's hawk for 50 years and will share its secrets in this multiple award-winning film.
- 12:00 p.m. **C'mon Geese** (48 minutes) A video showing the story of two complete ultralight-led migrations. The REAL story behind the movie, "Fly Away Home."
- 1:00 p.m. **Flight of the Whooping Crane** (50 minutes) Documents the very first (2001) ultralight-led Whooping crane migration. They are one of the oldest families of birds in existence. They were alive when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. They're teetering on the brink of extinction and there may be only one way to save them. Flight of the Whooping Crane examines their fragile history and the inspiring cross-country odyssey that teaches a small flock of endangered birds to fly from northern nesting grounds in Wisconsin to wintering grounds in Florida. Music by Loreena McKennitt.
- 2:00 p.m. **Fly Away Home** (107 minutes) The soaring adventure of a 13-year-old girl and her estranged father, who learn what family is all about when they adopt an orphaned flock of geese and teach them to migrate! Sound familiar? That's because this Hollywood production is based on Operation Migration's first Canada goose migration in 1993.

4:00 p.m. LIVE PRESENTATION by Bill Lishman

"Dare to Dream" [4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.]

Join Bill Lishman, also known as "Father Goose," as he shares his remarkable experiences with ultralight-led migrations, his dedication to the Whooping Crane, and footage from the movie, "Fly Away Home." There will be a 15 minute Question & Answer period after this 'uplifting' presentation.

William (Bill) Lishman, Co-Founder, Operation Migration