

# **“Wings over Wascana” Nature Festival**

## **May 11 & 12, 2007**

**Location:** The **festival tent village** will be located beside the Douglas Park Track and Field parking lot (McDonald Street & Assiniboine Avenue.)

[Note: Programs subject to change without notice.]

Friday, May 11, 2007  
Evening Programs

[See program descriptions below]

<b>7:00 – 7:30</b>	<b>Jeop-Birdy</b>
<b>7:30 – 8:00</b>	<b>Meet Tyke ... a Great Horned Owl</b>
<b>8:00 – 9:30</b>	<b>BATS: Busting Myths about these Fascinating Flying Mammals</b>
<b>9:30 – 10:30</b>	<b>Night Hike</b> (limit of 16 people)
<b>9:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Star Gazing with RASC</b>

**“Jeop-Birdy”** [30 minutes] **7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

*I'll take “Bird Brained” for 100.* Test your bird knowledge with Jeop-Birdy, where the entire audience is the contestant. Shout it out! See how many questions you can ask. An entertaining way to learn about birds!  
**Jan Kindred, Co-chair of Education & Programs Committee, Friends of Wascana Marsh**

**“Meet Tyke ... a Great Horned Owl”** [30 minutes] **7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Learn how Tyke, an injured Great Horned Owl, was nursed back to health. With Tyke's help, Jared will share some fascinating facts about owls and his experiences as a wildlife rehabilitator.  
**Jared Clarke, Raptor Bander / U of R Biology Student**

**“BATS: Busting Myths about these Fascinating Flying Mammals”** [90 minutes] **8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

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**

**“Night Hike”** [60 minutes] [Maximum: 16] **9:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.**

When darkness descends at Wascana Marsh, what nocturnal sights and sounds might you discover? To find out, don your headlamps, grab your flashlights, and join Jared on a mystical night hike through the Wascana Habitat Conservation Area. You never know “whoooo” you might find there!  
**Jared Clarke, Raptor Bander / U of R Biology Student**

**“Star Gazing with RASC”** [90 minutes – Come & Go] **9:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

Reach for the stars in Wascana Park! Experienced astronomers will let you glimpse our galaxy through telescopes and help you find planets and unique constellations. Weather permitting.  
**Astronomers, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Regina Centre** [[www.ras.sk.ca](http://www.ras.sk.ca)]

May 12, 2007 is **International Migratory Bird Day**. Come celebrate with us!

Saturday, May 12, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**\*\*\* NOTE:** All programs are **FREE**, but some activities have a maximum limit. To register for these activities, visit the **Information Tent** on May 12th. First-come, first-serve!

**\*\* Programs are subject to change without notice \*\***

### Main Tent Programs

[See program descriptions below]

<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Wildlife Photography</b>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Introduction to Bird Watching</b>
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Bird Sound Bingo</b> (maximum: 32)
<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	<b>Owl Pellets</b>
<b>1:00 – 2:00</b>	<b>Meet Wilma the Falcon</b>
<b>2:00 – 2:30</b>	<b>Bugs with Wings are Fascinating Things</b>
<b>2:30 – 3:15</b>	<b>Create a Butterfly Haven</b> (maximum: 24)
<b>3:15 – 4:00</b>	<b>Build a Bird House</b> (maximum: 24)

**“Wildlife Photography” 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.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**

**“Introduction to Bird Watching” 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

This interactive session will cover the birding basics. Learn how to select and use field guides, get tips for identifying birds, and receive free bird lists of Wascana Marsh and Saskatchewan species! To practise what you’ve learned, why not join Dale on a one-hour Eco-Trek immediately after this program (limited to 12, so sign up early!)

**Dale Hjertaas, President, Nature Regina**

**“Bird Sound Bingo” 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Maximum: 32)**

A fun way to learn the songs and calls of several birds commonly found in Wascana Park and in your own backyard. Participants match bird sounds to illustrations on their bingo cards. Previous bird knowledge is not required ... anyone who can count to 25 can play!

**Jan Kindred, Co-chair of Education & Programs Committee, Friends of Wascana Marsh**

**“Owl Pellets” 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Following an entertaining introduction to owl biology, Kim will let you dissect “owl puke” in this hands-on, interactive program. Equipped with a regurgitated owl pellet and tweezers, find out what an owl eats. Don’t worry ... this is far more interesting than it is gross!

**Kim Epp, Owner, Chickadee Nature Tours**

**“Meet Wilma the Falcon” 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Get up close and personal with a prairie falcon! Perched on Travis’s fist, Wilma will delight you while Travis will gladly answer any questions you may have about birds of prey or his experiences with wildlife rehabilitation. This is a thrilling opportunity for people of all ages!

**Travis Parent, Director, Shepherd’s Gate Ministries Inc.**

**“Bugs with Wings are Fascinating Things” 2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Ron’s been studying insects for decades and he’s keen to share his knowledge about these fascinating creatures. Ron will have live specimens of winged insects for you to view ... specimens captured in Wascana Park! Help Ron to set them free at the end of the program.

**Ron Hooper, Entomologist, Royal Saskatchewan Museum**

**“Create a Butterfly Haven”** (Maximum: 24 – Please pre-register at the *Information* tent) **2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

Build a butterfly shelter box with assistance and supplies provided by Home Depot. Also on hand will be Ron Hooper, author of *Butterflies of Saskatchewan*, who will tell us which butterflies are commonly found in the Regina area, where and when to see them, and what you can do to attract these popular flying insects to your yard.

**Don Fleece, Customer Service Manager, Home Depot - East**  
**Ron Hooper, Entomologist, Royal Saskatchewan Museum**  
**Naturalists from Nature Regina**

**“Build a Bird House”** (Maximum: 24 – Please pre-register at the *Information* tent) **3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Home Depot has generously donated tools, staff, and pre-cut bird house kits for you to build. With the help of an experienced building official, be guided step-by-step on how to create your own bird house to take home! Naturalists will be available to tell you the best place to hang your bird house and who might take up residence there!

**Don Fleece, Customer Service Manager, Home Depot – East**  
**Naturalists from Nature Regina**

## Eco-Treks

**Eco-Treks are one-hour long guided hikes** through the “wilder” and lesser known areas of Wascana Park. Eco-Trek tour leaders bring their own special quality of expertise and personality to the hikes; therefore, no two hikes are alike. Tour leaders may visit various activity sites in the marsh area to enhance the overall learning experience. A few of these site activities include: pond dipping, bird banding, the Great Sit bird count, spotting scopes, and the waterfowl winterhouse. Eco-Treks are limited to 12 people, so sign up early on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the *Information* tent for your preferred trek.

### **Eco-Trek Schedule**

<b>8:00 – 10:00</b>	<b>Early Bird Walk with Trevor Herriot</b>
<b>10:00 – 11:00</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Kim Epp</b>
<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Frank Switzer</b>
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Dale Hjertaas</b>
<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Bob Ewart</b>
<b>12:30 – 1:30</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Stephen Davis</b>
<b>1:00 – 2:00</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Wayne Pepper</b>
<b>1:30 – 2:30</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Glenn Sutter &amp; Ray Poulin</b>
<b>2:00 – 3:00</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Glen McMaster</b>
<b>2:30 – 3:30</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Joseph Hnatiuk</b>
<b>3:00 – 4:00</b>	<b>Eco-Trek with Alan Smith</b>

**“Early Bird Walk with Trevor Herriot”** [120 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Take a walk on the “wild side” of Wascana Park in search of feathered friends and other life forms. Trevor’s passion for the natural world will be reflected in the wealth of knowledge, stories, insights, and experiences that he will share with you. Please meet at 7:50 a.m. at the *Information* tent in the tent village. Bring binoculars if you have them. If not, binoculars will be provided.

**Trevor Herriot, Naturalist, Award-Winning Author, and Monthly CBC Radio Guest on “Birdline”**

### **Eco-Trek Tour Leaders:**

- **Trevor Herriot**, Naturalist, Award-Winning Author, and Monthly CBC Radio Guest on “Birdline”
- **Kim Epp**, Owner, Chickadee Nature Tours
- **Frank Switzer**, Naturalist & host of CBC Radio’s “Birds with Frank Switzer – The Afternoon Edition”
- **Dale Hjertaas**, President, Nature Regina
- **Bob Ewart**, Park Naturalist, Wascana Centre Authority
- **Dr. Stephen Davis**, Wildlife Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service
- **Wayne Pepper**, Biologist, Nature Regina
- **Dr. Glenn Sutter**, Curator of Ornithology and Human Ecology, Royal Saskatchewan Museum
- **Dr. Ray Poulin**, Associate Curator of Life Sciences, Royal Saskatchewan Museum
- **Dr. Glen McMaster**, Manager of Habitat Assessment, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
- **Joseph Hnatiuk**, President, Saskatchewan Nature & Ecotourism Association
- **Alan Smith**, Canadian Wildlife Service & Author of *Saskatchewan Birds*

## Outdoor Activities

[Please pre-register for limited attendance programs at the *Information* tent]

### **“Bird Banding Demonstration”** [90 minutes] [No Limit – Come & Go] **1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

See how researchers capture wild birds using mist nets and learn what information they gather before gently releasing them back into the wild. This is a great opportunity to see wild birds up close! Join Alan as he demonstrates this important research tool.

**Alan Smith, Canadian Wildlife Service & Author of *Saskatchewan Birds***

### **“Bird’s Eye View”** [No limit – Come & Go] **11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Journey to Goose Island Overlook at 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.

**Naturalists from Nature Regina & Nature Saskatchewan**

### **“Marsh Monsters!”** [4 – 45 minutes] [Maximum: 24] **10:15 a.m. / 11:30 a.m. / 1:15 p.m. / 2:30 p.m.**

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

**Barb Hanbidge, Education Specialist, Ducks Unlimited Canada**

**Suzanne Joyce, Wetland Educator, Ducks Unlimited Canada**

### **“Birding by Ear”** [45 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **3:15 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 Behaviour Scavenger Hunt”** [45 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **11:45 a.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.

**Wayne Pepper, Biologist, Nature Regina**

### **“The Great 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.

**Frank Switzer and Naturalists from Nature Regina**

### **“Dynamics of Flight - Kite Flying Session”** [3 – 60 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **12:00 p.m. / 1:30 p.m. / 3:00 p.m.**

Don’t miss this unique opportunity to learn how to launch and maneuver a kite, as well as participate in a “kite fight” - mimicking the aerial dynamics of birds of prey! All participants get to take home their new kites after this session! Pre-registration is required at the *Information* tent as there are a limited number of kites available.

**Ramu Thakker of “Ramu and the Kite”**

## Marsh Neighbours

[Activities at other sites around Wascana Marsh]

### **“Waterfowl Display Ponds - Guided Tours”** [3 – 30 minutes] [Maximum: 15] **12:00, 1:00, & 2:00 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.

**Brian Jeffery, Naturalist, Nature Regina**

### **“Marsh Water Zoo”** [45 minutes] [Maximum: 12] **1:00 p.m.**

See how a water sample can reveal an incredible microscopic “zoo!” You will collect water samples at Wascana Marsh and then observe the inhabitants under a microscope in the laboratory at the First Nations University of Canada. Meeting place: At the information kiosk at the First Nations University of Canada.

**Fidji Gendron, Assistant Biology Professor, First Nations University of Canada**

**Jody Bellegarde, Lab Technician, First Nations University of Canada**

**Saskatchewan Science Centre: Open 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. \*\*\* Regular Admission Applies \*\*\***

## Self-Guided Activities

[Set up in the tent village]

- (1) **“The Great Migration Challenge”** - A self-guided activity that can be done by individuals, groups, or families. This is a fun way to learn about some of the hazards and helpers that migratory birds encounter on their long-distance journey.
- (2) **“Wetlands Sensory Scavenger Hunt”** - A scavenger hunt sheet will be available at the main tent listing several things found around Wascana Marsh that people can see, feel, hear, and smell. Families are encouraged to do this activity together.
- (3) **“Wetland Metaphors”** - A variety of objects on display represent the natural functions of wetlands. See if you can determine the relationship between the objects and wetland functions.

## Arts, Crafts & Other Activities

[At the festival tent village]

Stations set up as “come and go” from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Tent:

- Create **Nature Journals**
- **Origami** (Cranes, Owls, Ducks, Swans, Frogs, and Butterflies)
- Make **Bird Beak Greeting Cards** for Mother’s Day, or ...  
    Make a **“Happy Bird-day” card for Shane Bernier**, a young Ottawa boy with leukemia whose dream is to set a new world record for the number of birthday cards received on one day (May 30/07).
- **Owl Pellet Dissection** (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
- Free **Posters & Colouring Books** from Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- Free **Posters** from Canadian Wildlife Federation
- **Flip Flop Paper Game** from Climate Change Saskatchewan

**Bird Sculpture Demonstration** using wood & clay (Stephen Davis: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Tent)

**Duck Mascots** (with tattoos, hand stamps, and “wing strings”) sponsored by Ducks Unlimited Canada

**Face Painting** by Street Culture Kidz (1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Main Tent)

**Eco-Games & other Enviro-Activities** (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) [No Limit – All Ages. Come & Go]

Hosted by Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SOEEA)

- Meet at the *Information* tent for an experience of a lifetime!
- Warm-up with some fun eco-games. Have you played "Oh Deer!" lately?
- Participate in some activities and demonstrations about how to live lightly in Regina. Have you seen how easy vermicomposting is? Learn how to reduce your energy bill and, therefore, reduce green house gas emissions! All this and more. Drop in as you wish and stay as long as you like.

**Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SOEEA)**

**Annual General Meeting** (4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Saskatchewan Science Centre IMAX Board Room)

Anyone interested in outdoor and environmental education is welcome to attend. If this organization interests you, you may like to join and have a say in where the association goes in the coming years.

**Visit:** [www.soeea.sk.ca](http://www.soeea.sk.ca)

### *Did you know ....*

The east portion of Wascana Lake in Regina was designated a **Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary** in 1956 and still remains an important migration stopover site for more than 115 species of birds!