



# Nature News

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[www.naturecalgary.com](http://www.naturecalgary.com)

Newsletter of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society  
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April 2009  
[naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca)

**April 15  
Tropical Reefs in the  
Arctic**

## Nature Calgary General Meeting

**Wed April 15: Tropical Reefs in the Arctic: That was then, and this is now.** With Benoit Beauchamp, Ph.D., Executive Director, Arctic Institute of North America. Some 290 million years ago, the area now occupied by the Canadian Arctic Islands was located in balmy tropical latitudes. Instead of a polar desert, the area was occupied by a warm inland sea. But ancient reefs were much different in composition as life then was much different from life now. This presentation takes you back in time to a long-gone yet fascinating world as seen through the prism of the remarkable mountainous exposures of Ellesmere Island.

*All general meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca).*



**WILDER WOLF**  
Sketch by Beryl Hallworth

### 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 [jebriqden@telus.net](mailto:jebriqden@telus.net) or ph. 403-275-1582

## Nature Calgary Issues, Events and Updates


Announcing the **Nature Calgary Annual Bus Trip, Saturday May 23, to the Alberta Birds of Prey Centre, Coaldale. Early Bird Rate \$35** before March 31st, Nature Calgary members only. April 1st onward, members \$45, non-members \$50. **Call 403-249-2641 to register.** Seats are filling quickly and seating is limited. For details see our website: [www.naturecalgary.com/events.html](http://www.naturecalgary.com/events.html).

**Nature Calgary Waterton Weekend at Canyon Church Camp: Fri-Sun, June 26-28.** Accommodation in dormitory style cabins (sleeping bags required), all meals provided. Participants are responsible for travel to and from Waterton and park entrance fees. Cost is \$120 for members (this rate is subsidized by Nature Calgary with funds from the Kayak Foundation), \$160 for non-members. To confirm participation send a cheque to: CFNS, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4. Mark the envelope "Waterton Trip" and provide contact details. Registration deadline is June 4. Further details will be provided to confirmed participants in early June. For more info, email [naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca) and put Waterton Trip in the subject line.

Mark your calendars for the **Nature Calgary Annual Banquet, Saturday, November 7 (6pm - 10pm)**, at the Best Western Village Park Inn, 1804 Crowchild Trail NW. Speaker: Dr. Stephen Herrero, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science at University of Calgary, world-renowned expert on grizzly bear ecology, behaviour and conservation. **Note:** We are looking for assistance or ideas regarding door prizes for the banquet. Anyone wanting more information about the banquet could contact Linda and John Stewart at 403-244-0505 or [stewart3@telusplanet.net](mailto:stewart3@telusplanet.net).

Nature Alberta editor Dennis Baresco has a **proposal to make Nature Alberta a joint venture between clubs that belong to FAN**, to broaden the readership and create a widely-read magazine about nature for naturalists. A volunteer from Nature Calgary would be needed to sit on the editorial committee, to represent NC, gather local content, look for potential advertisers, etc. The estimated time commitment is 18-35 hours per month. Contact Ed Kissinger [kssngrco@telusplanet.net](mailto:kssngrco@telusplanet.net) for more information.

**HELP SAVE OUR PLANET! SEE EARTH DAY ON PAGE 4.**

<p>For details of these and other volunteer opportunities, email <a href="mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca">naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca</a> or see the <a href="#">volunteers'</a> page at <a href="http://www.naturecalgary.com">www.naturecalgary.com</a></p>	<h2>Volunteer Opportunities</h2> <p><b>Nature Calgary Board members needed</b> - 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.          Manager Volunteers – encourage and coordinate volunteers for NC meetings / events.</p> <p><b>Non-board positions</b> - contact Nature Calgary for more information.          Membership Promotion          Field Trip Leader - take others to a favourite natural area.          Welcome Table Volunteers to host the tables at monthly general and/or bird study group meetings.</p>
<p><a href="mailto:groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird">Albertabird groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird</a></p> <p><b>Adopt-a-Plant Program</b>          Conservation of Alberta's rare native plants  <a href="http://www.ab.adoptaplant.ca">www.ab.adoptaplant.ca</a></p>	<h2>Nature Calgary Study Groups</h2> <p><b>Bird Study Group</b>  <b>Wed, Apr 1 - Andrew Hart - <i>Birding Southwestern Ontario</i></b>  <b>Wed, May 6 - Eric Tull - <i>Birding the Grasslands, Non-Passerines</i></b></p> <p><i>Bird Study Group meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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, <a href="mailto:tull@ucalgary.ca">tull@ucalgary.ca</a>.</i></p> <p><b>Botany Study Group</b>  <b>Sat Mar 28, 10 am: Spring Crocus Search – Nose Hill.</b> Meet at Brisebois Drive and John Laurie Blvd. Contact Suzanne Visser to confirm, 403-288-0658.  <b>Thu Apr 23, 6:30 pm: Early Grassland Flowers 1.</b> Call Suzanne for destination and meeting location, 403-288-0658.  <b>Sat Apr 25: Alberta Native Plant Council workshop in Edmonton, AB.</b> Topic: Fragments of the Parklands. Visit <a href="http://www.anpc.ab.ca">www.anpc.ab.ca</a> for further details and registration form.  <b>Sun Apr 26: Adopt-a-Plant Northern Workshop, Edmonton, AB.</b> Visit <a href="http://www.ab.adoptaplant.ca">www.ab.adoptaplant.ca</a> for further details.</p> <p><i>Botany Study Group meets during the summer months. Contact Suzanne Visser 403-288-0658 or <a href="mailto:svisser@ucalgary.ca">svisser@ucalgary.ca</a> for further details.</i></p>
 <p><b>All Nature Calgary field trips are free and open to all.</b></p> <p><b>Lead a field trip!</b>          To share your knowledge of a favourite location call Gus at 403-243-2248</p>	<h2>Nature Calgary Field Trips</h2> <p><b>Check <a href="http://www.naturecalgary.com">www.naturecalgary.com</a> field trips pages for new trips and updates.</b></p> <p><b>Trips that are highlighted require pre-registration.</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Calgary May Species Count Sat/Sun May 30/31          Brooks/Lake Newell Species Count Sat/Sun May 16/17          Milk River/Writing-on-Stone Sat/Sun May 23/24</p> <p><b>... March</b>  <b>Sat Mar 21, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park.</b> N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Meet Beaverdam Flats Park S parking lot (Lynnview Rd &amp; Lynnview Way, just S of 62 Av SE). Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.  <b>Sun Mar 22, 1:30pm: Woody plants of Reader Rock Garden.</b> Meet parking lot S of 25 Av SE, just E of Macleod Tr, S of Stampede Grounds. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.  <b>Fri. Mar 27, 9pm: Tentative Nocturnal Owl Prowl</b> listening for Northern Saw-whet Owl. Meet first parking lot, Bowness Park, N of 48 Av, W of 85 St NW. Call leader, Lucille Harrison, 403-288-0839 to ensure owl is present.  <b>Sat Mar 28, 10am: Peak of Golden Eagle Migration, Mt. Lorette,</b> Kananaskis Country. Bring lunch, warm clothing. Meet Assumption School, 34 Av NW (NW corner, Sarcee Tr, N. of Hwy 1). Call leader, John McFaul to register, 403-289-9517.  <b>Sat Mar 28, 8:30pm: Watch for Northern Flying Squirrels</b> and other nocturnal life. Bring flashlight. Meet Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St &amp; 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.</p>

**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](http://naturecalgary.com/pdfs/Waiver_and_Release_May-08_landscape.pdf).

Please submit a list of bird species seen on trips to [brooke@webfoundations.com](mailto:brooke@webfoundations.com)

**For more nature activities in the Calgary area visit:**

**Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)**

[www.cpawscalgary.org](http://www.cpawscalgary.org)

**Weaselhead & Glenmore Park Preservation Society**

[talkaboutwildlife.ca](http://talkaboutwildlife.ca)

**Alberta Wilderness Association**

[www.albertawilderness.ca](http://www.albertawilderness.ca)

**Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC)**

[www.caoc.ab.ca](http://www.caoc.ab.ca)

**Friends of Fish Creek**

[www.friendsoffishcreek.org](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org)

**Cross Conservation Area**

[www.crossconservation.org](http://www.crossconservation.org)

**Sun Mar 29, 8am: See swans, ducks in SE Sloughs**, Carseland, possibly Eagle Lake. Bring lunch. Meet Carburn Park. Go E on Glenmore Tr E, then S on 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, turn right follow sign to park. Leader, Eric Tull, 403-295-0830.

**Sun Mar 29, 9:30am: See 30 of the largest or most unusual trees** species within a 3 km radius in Calgary. Meet at Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, 2 blocks W of Macleod Tr. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248. Email [gyaki@calcna.ab.ca](mailto:gyaki@calcna.ab.ca) to register and receive advance information.

**... April**

**Wed Apr 1, 8:30am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey.** Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, 2 blocks 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 Apr 4, 9am, and also daily during the Trumpeter Swans migration** to about the end of April. You are invited to join Dr Len Hills on his daily swan research rounds. Call him at 403-932-2480 to register. Meet at Petro-Canada Service Stn, Hwys 1 & 22 (S of Cochrane). If able to participate all day, bring lunch.

**Sun Apr 5, 7:30am: Birding Frank Lake** for swans, ducks, and other early migrants. Meet at Anderson LRT (Macleod Tr), S of pedestrian overpass, for carpooling. Bring lunch. Leader, Ray Woods, 403-241-6007.

**Sun Apr 5, 8:30am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park.** N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Meet at S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE). Leader, Jim Washbrook, 403-271-0923.

**Sun Apr 5, 9:30am: Birding for Beginners.** With no leaves, birds in flocks, this is a good time to begin. Meet Carburn Park. Turn S from Glenmore Trail E onto 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, then right and follow signs. Leaders, Mairi Babey, 403-288-2841 and Ian Halladay, 403-282-1420.

**Sat Apr 11, 8:30am: Birding Brown-Lowery Prov. Park.** Meet Anderson LRT (Macleod Tr) just S of pedestrian overpass. Bring lunch. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

**Sun Apr 12, 8:30am: Easter. 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.

**Sun Apr 12, 1:30pm: Easter. Botany of Reader Rock Garden.** Meet parking lot S of 25 Av SE, just E of Macleod Tr. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

**Sun Apr 19, 8:30am: Birding Sibbald Creek Trail.** Meet Assumption School, 34th Av NW (just N of TCH #1, W of Sarcee Trail). Bring lunch, full tank of gas. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

**Wed Apr 22, 9:30am: Earth Day. Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary**, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Aileen Pelzer, 403-243-2248.

**Wed Apr 22, 7pm: Earth Day. Nature on Nose Hill.** Meet parking lot, 14 St & 64 Av NW. Leader, John McFaul, 403-289-9517.

**Sat Apr 25, 9am: Bird Bowmont Park.** Meet Maranatha Church, 2111-52 St NW (N end Home Rd). Leader, Horst Grothman, 403-286-3048.

**Sat Apr 25, 2pm (If rain or heavy overcast, Sun Apr 26): Botany of 12 Mile Coulee.** See 100s of Townsendia, Early Cinquefoil & possibly 100,000 Crocus. From Stoney Trail, go west on Tuscany Blvd NW, 1 km to Tuscany Way. Turn left. Go 1.9 km (road becomes Tuscany Ravine Rd). Park under power-line. Meet at pathway entrance on left, just past duplex condo development. Leader, TBA. Call 403-243-2248.

**Sun Apr 26, 8am: Bird area NW of Cochrane.** Meet Cochrane Ranche parking lot on #1A, just east of #22. Bring lunch. Leader, Frank Hennessey, 403-932-4986.

**Sun Apr 26, 8am: Birding the Bow from Burnsmead to Hwy 22X.** Meet Burnsmead parking lot, off Bow Bottom Tr SE, turning left just before entering FCPP. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

**... May**

**Fri May 1, 7am: 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 Edmonton Nature Club is organizing a **Snow Goose Chase 2009**, April 25 & 26, starting from the Percy Page Centre, (Groat Rd. & 118 Ave.) to Tofield and Beaverhill Lake area. Cost is \$35. Details, info and registration from Dale Dawson 780-464-5814.

**Watch out for:**

**International  
EcoConference,  
Building Bridges,  
Crossing Boundaries,  
Calgary, May 7-9  
University of Calgary**  
[www.ucalgary.ca/oikos/  
ecoconference](http://www.ucalgary.ca/oikos/ecoconference)

**2009 AWRA  
Conference  
April 4-5  
Pioneers of Wildlife  
West**  
[www.aiwc.ca](http://www.aiwc.ca)

**Calgary Rock & Alpine Gardens Society (CRAGS) Thu Apr 16: Josef Halda, "Alpine Plants Of The Balkans & Turkey"**. Josef Halda is a noted botanist, seed collector, and crevice garden designer from the Czech Republic. His lectures are filled with exquisite photos of rare plants in their native habitat.

**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](http://www.CRAGS.ca), ph. Ken or Carol at 403-276-5831.

**Biogeoscience Institute, University of Calgary, Spring Naturalist Weekend**, June 19-21, 2009 at the Barrier Lake Field Station in Kananaskis Country. Cost: \$100 + GST, includes 5 meals and accommodation for 2 nights. Hosted by Dr. Ed Johnson and sessions led by faculty from the University of Calgary. Specific topics will be in the May newsletter. More info: Judy Buchanan-Mappin, ph. 403-220-5355, email: [jmbuchan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jmbuchan@ucalgary.ca).

**Shoreline Education Outreach Representatives:** The Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN) (Edmonton) is seeking 4 enthusiastic young professionals to participate in a 14-16 week summer work placement. They are seeking students who are returning to school in the fall of 2009 from a university, college or technical school who possess knowledge of riparian and water related topics. Closing date: until filled or April 30th, 2009. Electronic applications are preferred. To apply please send your application to Kim Dacyk at [kimd@fanweb.ca](mailto:kimd@fanweb.ca).

### **What are you doing for Earth Day (April 22)?**

Reducing our city's Ecological Footprint is truly a city wide effort, built on partnership, collaboration and interconnectedness around environmental stewardship. The City of Calgary encourages you to participate in the many Earth Day activities happening in Calgary on and around April 22. Contact the City if you are holding a public event and they will post it on their Earth Day web page. Please send a short (100 word) description with the date, time and a web link to [susan.hayduk@calgary.ca](mailto:susan.hayduk@calgary.ca).

The City of Calgary is participating in **Earth Hour 2009** and is encouraging citizens to turn off their lights for one hour beginning at 8:30 p.m. on March 28 to show your support for action on climate change. Sign on at [EarthHourCanada.org](http://EarthHourCanada.org) for a chance to win a trip for two to see the Polar Bears at Churchill, MB.

### **In Memoriam: Dr. M.T. "Tim" Myres, Past President, Calgary Bird Club.**

Dr. Myres passed away on January 20, 2009 at his home in Jersey. He leaves his wife Pat and daughter Shauna. Tim was a member of the faculty of the University of Calgary from 1963 to 1992. During his time in Calgary he was an enthusiastic promoter of the value of amateur naturalists. He was President of the Calgary Bird Club from 1965 to 1967 and was the editor of its Bulletin from 1964 to 1967 (Nos. 30-58) when it grew in size with the regular publication of bird observations sent in by members. He was a founder of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists and served as its first President from 1970 to 1972. He edited the first issues of the FAN newsletter which became "The Alberta Naturalist" now "Nature Alberta". Tim supervised graduate students who conducted research on falcons, grassland songbirds, gulls, grebes, shearwaters and shorebirds. Many of his students are currently active in many aspects of natural history in Alberta. An obituary of Tim will appear in a future issue of "Nature Alberta".

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cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca)

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#### **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](mailto:brooke@webfoundations.com) ph: 403-295-0830  
**and** Jan [jebriqden\\*.\\*telus.net](mailto:jebriqden*.*telus.net) (remove \*) ph: 403-275-1582.

**Deadline for the May issue is Friday April 10, 2009.**