

## GN Field Trips, Neighbourhood Walks and Activities in 2021

Even though various events had to be adjusted or cancelled again in 2021 due to continued COVID-19 conditions, GN had a successful year with a variety of outdoor activities and events throughout the year.

At the beginning of the year, winter conditions were ideal for both **Nature Walks** on various trails in Medicine Hat, and for **Cross-Country Skiing** on Spring Creek Trail in Elkwater. These outings were enjoyed by 14 different GN members.

For celebrating **World Water Week** in March, Martha Munz Gue initiated the joint GN and SEAWA project **Adopted-a-Pond** with litter cleanup and invasive weed removal at Connaught Pond and then at Leinweber Pond. And within a few weeks, all 20 ponds in Medicine Hat were adopted and cared for by members as well as non-members of the two organizations. This activity continued successfully throughout the year, and was published in the Nature Alberta Magazine Fall 2021 issue.

On April 22, **International Earth Day**, cleanup was conducted at Ranchlands riparian area, as well as at Medicine Hat College Ponds, and then at other Parks over the next two weeks.

Over 40 **Neighbourhood Wednesday Walks** and other outdoor activities were enjoyed by GN members throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. During two of the walks in September, additional **Litter Cleanup** of Ranchlands and Strathcona Island Park was included.

Four **Birding Field Trips** were conducted; first to Manyberries (Birding Trail Guide #4 area) led by Ben Velner on March 27th; to Sauders/Murray Reservoirs (Trail #2 area) by Milt Spitzer on April 24<sup>th</sup>; to Cypress Hills (Trail #7) by Phil Horch on July 3<sup>rd</sup>; and lastly to Schuler & Many Island Lakes (Trail #8 area) by Milt Spitzer on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, a special outing and lunch picnic to **Red Rock Coulee** was enjoyed by 19 members followed by a few stopping to see SEAWA's restoration site at the Yeast site along Seven Persons Creek.

The Medicine Hat Interpretive Program organized and ran a great variety of activities during 2021. Even though the Nature Centre was closed for part of the year, many of the activities were available either online or conducted outdoors by registration of small groups. In addition, the **Spring Bird and Wildflower Counts** as well as the **Christmas Bird Count** were organized by Marty Drut. A summary of the MHIP activities is given in Chief Interpreter annual report as well as on the MHIP and GN Websites, and reported in the GN monthly Sagebrush Chronicle.

Submitted by John Slater