

# THE SAGEBRUSH CHRONICLE



## Ecology, Human Footprint, and Tree Cover of Medicine Hat

By Brent Smith, Instructor at Medicine Hat College

This presentation summarizes 2 years of work examining the local ecology and human footprint in the Medicine Hat area. This presentation will explain the different types of ecological systems in the city, and the relationship between those systems and tree/shrub cover. The completed mapping product can be used for climate change adaptation, food security planning, ecological restoration, and land use planning.

I was the lead biologist at Canadian Forces Base Suffield from 2001 to 2015. I studied sustainability, ecology, remote sensing, military training, oil and gas development, and cattle grazing.

I finished a graduate degree in Physical Geography in 2013, and learned about systems theory. After taking a deep dive into systems-based sustainability, I took a Permaculture Design Course from Verge Permaculture in Calgary in 2014.

I left my biologist job in 2015, and started teaching part-time at Medicine Hat College. I was hired as a full-time instructor in 2019, and I now teach courses in environmental sustainability, physical geography, geographic information systems, and permaculture design.



## Monthly GN Meeting: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at Nature Centre and by Zoom

- **Business Meeting: 7:00 to 7:45 PM**
- **Coffee Break: 7:45 to 8:00 PM**
- **Presentation by Brent Smith**

## Executive and Board Members

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The Sagebrush Chronicle is published ten times a year by Grasslands Naturalists. **Submissions of writing and artwork are welcomed but may be edited for publication. Deadline: the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.** If you would like to advertise in the Chronicle, more information is available from the editor. Submissions are to be sent to: [milton.spitzer@gmail.com](mailto:milton.spitzer@gmail.com) (403-528-3120). Do not imbed photos in articles but **do send** them separately.

The Society of Grasslands Naturalists encourages the study, conservation and protection of all components of the natural world. The Society provides educational opportunities, assists in the collection and provision of species data, acts as stewards of the environment, discusses environmental topics and organizes member activities. The Society also manages the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program.

**General Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Sept. to May **Board Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Sept. to June.

To join Grasslands Naturalists and/or send a tax-deductible donation, write:

**Grasslands Naturalists**  
**Box 2491**  
**Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G8**

**Contact info: Nature Centre 403-529-6225**

### **Annual Membership Dues: Angela Turner**

Individuals	\$20
Families	\$25
Organizations	\$25

Donations to Grassland Naturalists and Interpretive Program are another great way to support local nature and nature education. Tax receipts are issued for all donations over \$10. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

### EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed by the authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the editor and the Grasslands Naturalists. The editor reserves the right to edit, reject or withdraw articles submitted. While due care will be taken of all manuscripts, photos or artwork submitted, GN cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to such articles.

GN Website:

[www.grasslands-naturalists.org](http://www.grasslands-naturalists.org)

GN Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/GrasslandsNaturalists/>  
You must be a Facebook member to view most of it.

## MH Interpretive Program

(Managed by Grasslands Naturalists)

**Based in Police Point Park**

[www.natureline.info](http://www.natureline.info)

**Nature Line: (403) 529-6225**

Facebook and Instagram: @policepointpark

The Nature Centre is open year round from:  
9:00AM to 5:00PM Tuesday through Sunday

### Spring Bird Count

**Sunday, May 28:** Call 403 529-6225 if you would like to be paired with an experienced birder.

### Art in Police Point Park

**Saturday, June 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM:** Please call 403-529-6225 to register. \$5.00 per person with all materials supplied. Prepare to be outside. Participants limited to those 12 years old and up.

### Come down to the Nature Centre and Say Hi to our New Staff Members!

The Medicine Hat Interpretive Program welcomes our two new summer students; **Hannah** and **Isaiah** along with our new Park Interpreter, **Caellan!** Welcome to the team.

**Come and visit the Nature Centre and browse the Gift Shop for Nature Related Items.**

## Members' Corner

**If you have not renewed your GN Membership for 2023 time is running out. Please renew now as if your renewal isn't received by June 30<sup>th</sup> your membership will be revoked! Membership forms are attached to the end of this Chronicle.**

### President's Report to GN: May 2023

As the spring season advances, we naturalists are probably among the most attuned to each little sign that signifies the maturation of this favored season. Whether it is the first singing meadowlark, the first prairie crocus, the first butterfly or the first brood of goslings, we tend to experience a lift to our spirits. There's something about the way that spring signifies the beginnings of life that makes it special. We hope that this spring is very special for you.

There's probably no better way to experience our changing seasons than to join one of Grasslands Naturalists outdoor field trips. When I first joined a naturalist's society in Manitoba umpteen years ago, it was there that I encountered expert birders, botanists, entomologists, biologists (whether amateur or professional) who fed my desire to learn more about nature with all its fascinations. Our own Grasslands Naturalists Society has field trip leaders who can do the same for you. Want to learn more about nature? Join a field trip and learn from others.

**Membership renewals are now due for 2023** – While most of our members have already renewed for 2023, if you have not done so, we urge you to send it in by the end of May. The last 2 pages of this Chronicle have the membership renewal form. It is also important to fill out the Informed Consent that accompanies the membership renewal form. This is a requirement from our insurance company. Our annual insurance fees are the biggest single expense that our society pays for every year. We are fortunate that casino funds provide most of the money we need to cover insurance costs. This helps to keep our annual membership fees very low. I think that you will agree that your \$20 membership fee is a real bargain. For that amount you receive up to ten indoor programs each year with first class speakers, and an almost unlimited choice of outdoor field trips led by knowledgeable interpreters.

**Many Issues Occupying Our Attention** – Besides leading interested people into natural history learning experiences, the Grasslands Naturalists also advocates for various protections of threatened natural environment. We maintain lines of communication with various levels of government in order to facilitate ongoing dialogue and provide input that ensures protections where needed. Here are some of the current matters that are occupying our attention:

- **City of Medicine Hat Environmental Framework** – Currently being crafted by our city. Grasslands Naturalists has been named an external stakeholder and as such we are being regularly consulted on the development of this badly needed initiative.
- **Strong Towns** – This is the city's own initiative to change the way it views future development. The emphasis will be to do more infill development and reduce urban sprawl. Grasslands Naturalists has been named as part of a community leadership action team to monitor this initiative and provide input through regular meetings.
- **Scenic Views** – This Grasslands Naturalists' initiative will be completed this year. It identifies sensitive and beautiful natural history habitat within city limits that is deserving of recognition and protection. This becomes important in light of the Strong Towns initiative.
- **Irrigation Expansion and Upgrades** – Southern Alberta is being impacted hugely by changes to our irrigation districts which includes replacing canals and ditches with pipelines and expansion of reservoirs. Grasslands Naturalists is working closely with other environmental groups monitoring the impacts of these changes.

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- **Invasive Species Mitigation** – Our society along with SEAWA have led the way in tackling the issue of invasive species in Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta. Baby’s Breath, Purple Loosestrife, Dames Rocket, Buckthorn, and now Russian Olive are all subject to our past and present initiatives.
- **Carbon-Free Energy Initiatives** – Both solar and wind farm projects have come under our scrutiny as these projects proliferate on southern Alberta agricultural and native grasslands. We and many of our members have been actively involved to ensure that native grasslands are protected from these projects.
- **Urban Forest Review and Management** – The City of Medicine Hat has undertaken a review of its urban forest management and has asked for participation from Grasslands Naturalists members.

These are the most prominent issues on Grasslands Naturalists plate at this time. We could use a lot more help dealing with them. If you are concerned about any of these matters, please offer to become part of our Issues Committee. You will become a very knowledgeable person if you join our other members who are involved in these matters. I look forward to hearing from you if you would like to become an advocate for nature.

**Submitted by Phil Horch, President**

## Upcoming Events, Walks and Announcements

**May 13: World Migratory Bird Day:** In cooperation with Nature Canada and in support of efforts to name Medicine Hat as a Bird Friendly City, the Grasslands Naturalists will celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with a special display at the Police Point Park Nature Centre and with three bird field trips:

- **Warbler Walk at Police Point Park led by Phil Horch** - Meet at the main parking lot at **6:30 AM** in the hopes of observing early warblers and migrating sparrows, flycatchers and local breeders such as towhees, thrashers and orioles. This will be an easy walk for two hours on level trails.
- **Spring Water Birds led by Dan Schiebelbein:** Meet at the Christian Reformed Church on Primrose Drive at **8:00 AM**. Dan will lead us along Connaught Pond and for those interested will lead a trip to the wetlands above Echo Dale Regional Park. Moderate off trail hiking.
- **Warbler Walk at Police Point Park led by Marty Drut** - For those who sleep in! Meet at the main parking lot at **9:30 AM** and observe spring migration and likely tally some new species for this spring. Another easy two hour walk on level surfaces.

### Wednesday Walks: All events start at 09:00 AM and finished by 11:00 AM

“Expect the unexpected” birds, wildflowers, butterflies, snakes, rain, wind, On super-hot days wear a wide brimmed hat and loosely fitting (for shade) light colours (to reflect) and cotton, linen, rayon to wick moisture and to stay cool.

**May 17:** Walk along easy paved trail in Saratoga Historic Area and by the SEAWA restoration site along Seven Persons Creek starting at the bottom of Scholten Hill.

**May 24:** Walk along easy paved NECH Trail starting at McCoy High School and talk about Air-Shed.

**May 31:** Walk by Ajax Pond and along easy paved trail by Ball Diamond.

**June 7:** Walk at Connaught Pond and learn about SEAWA restoration site. Park at west end near College residence.. Walk is moderate due to uneven dirt trail.

**June 14:** Walk in Saamis Coulee to learn about archeological history and removal of invasive Hoary Cress. Start at either the Tepee or Kin Coulee by west ball diamond and meet at the bottom of the tepee hill trail. Walk is moderate due to the hill paved path and/or some uneven dirt trail.

### Birding Events

**Sunday, May 28: Spring Bird Count:** Contact Nature Centre if interested.

**Saturday, June 24: Cypress Hills Birding and Flower Trip led by Phil Horch:** Meet at 07:00 AM at NE corner of Walmart Parking lot. Bring a lunch.

### Other Events

**Saturday, May 27:** Riparian Health Workshop for pond and path adopters and their families and friends. Meet at 09:00 AM at the Nature Centre in Police Point Park. Finished by noon.

**Saturday, June 10:** SEAWA teaching and learning and helping at Connaught Pond restoration site: 09:00 AM to noon.

## Exciting Sightings

May is the month in which Spring Migration reaches its peak and brings with it an influx of north-bound songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds. These migrants include those nesting locally in the prairie grasslands, wetlands and riparian areas of Southeastern Alberta, and others enroute to their boreal and arctic breeding grounds. This annual spectacle is greatly anticipated by avid birders, with newly arrived migrants being added daily to their bird lists.

**Wood Warblers-** There are ~52 species of warblers in North America, with ~24 known to occur/nest in the province of Alberta. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are usually the first to migrate through our region each spring, followed closely by the **Orange-crowned Warbler** which can be easily overlooked if it is not singing. Another arrival the **Yellow Warbler**, is highly detectable both vocally and visually. The breeding range of other "eastern" warbler species extends into northern Alberta, to the Cold Lake, and Lac La Biche areas. Movements of Yellow-rump Warblers (>30 on each day) were

observed passing through Police Point Park on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>, by Dan Schiebelbein, Milt Spitzer, and other GN birders. Gisele Saulnier reported two

Orange-crowned Warblers singing at Strathcona Island Park on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Barry and Judy Anderson reported a Yellow Warbler on May 6<sup>th</sup>, in their Ross Glen Garden.



**Audubons Sub Species of Yellow-rumped Warbler**  
Photo by Dan Schiebelbein in PP Park

**Red-breasted Mergansers-** Significant numbers were reported by several different birders, on the South Saskatchewan River at Police Point, at Sauder Reservoir, and at Murray Lake. In spring this species follows the melting ice and opening reaches of water on lakes enroute to its breeding grounds north of Great Slave Lake, giving birders a brief window of opportunity to see the species in passage.

**Grebes-** Adam Turnbull reported 4 grebe species at Sauder Reservoir (Rattlesnake Lake) on April 29<sup>th</sup>; 4 **Horned Grebes**, 19 **Red-necked Grebes**, >100 **Eared Grebes**, and 1 **Pied-billed Grebe**. Bob Frew observed ~25 **Western Grebes** at Murray Lake on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Shorebirds-** Some early indications of shorebird migration were reported by Milt Spitzer at Chappice Lake on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, including 40 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and 5 **Long-billed Dowitchers**. Adam Turnbull reported 3 **Baird's Sandpipers** at Police Point Park also on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bob Frew observed 3 **Marbled Godwits** on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Murray Lake, and a **Long-billed Curlew** at a slough alongside TWP Rd.112 near RGE Rd, 52 on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Loggerhead Shrike-** This shrike species breeds in the open grasslands and parklands of southeastern and central Alberta. Its black mask extends above the eye and across the top of its bill and distinguishes it from the similar Northern Shrike. Both species are unlikely to be seen together except in April. While driving along RGE Rd. 75 at the south end of Murray Lake on May 4<sup>th</sup>, Bob Frew observed a Loggerhead Shrike flying from fencepost to fencepost ahead of him.

**Sparrows/Thrushes-** Barry and Judy Anderson reported **White -crowned**, and **Lincoln's Sparrows** on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and a **Harris's Sparrow**, and Swainson's **Thrush** on May 6<sup>th</sup>, all in their Ross Glen Garden. **Chipping Sparrows** were observed by staff around the Nature Centre on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and **Vesper Sparrows** at Murray Lake by Gisele Saulnier on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk-** This is the smallest of Alberta's accipiter species, which preys on smaller songbirds. It has a square, notched tail as opposed to the round tail of the similar Cooper's Hawk. Milt Spitzer observed a single hawk on May 7<sup>th</sup>, at Police Point Park.

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**Brown Creeper-** This diminutive and inconspicuous bird is camouflaged by streaked brown plumage, which along with its soft call makes it difficult to detect. Bob Frew heard an unfamiliar high-pitched bird song in the cottonwood trees by the river near the Nature Centre on the mornings of May 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, but was unable to locate or identify its source, until he heard it again on May 8<sup>th</sup>, and was fortunate to observe and identify the singer as a Brown Creeper.

**Purple Martin-** The largest of North American Swallows, the male is glossy blue and black, above and below. It nests exclusively in Martin Houses where available. As a mosquito eater, it is a welcome garden guest. Milt Spitzer reports that 2 Purple Martins have returned to their Schuler nest boxes as of May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow-** This uncommon swallow species is similar in habits and habitat to the Bank Swallow but lacks its distinct breast band. Dan Schiebelbein observed 2 Northern Rough-winged swallows at Police Point Park on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Brown Thrasher-** This common breeder of the grasslands, is rufous red above, and heavily streaked below, with a long tail, and curved bill. A noisy thrasher was heard and observed singing from an exposed perch in a cottonwood tree at Police Point Park on May 9<sup>th</sup> by Bob Frew.

Please share your exciting sightings with Bob Frew at [Robert.frew@shaw.ca](mailto:Robert.frew@shaw.ca) or phone 403 526 4573.

### **GN Birding Field Trip Documents Later Than Usual Spring Migration**

On Earth Day (April 22) GN members were involved in many different activities based on their varied interests. Eight GN members, led by President Phil Horch, celebrated by conducting a birding field trip to Echo Dale Park, Golden Sheaf Park, Sauder Reservoir and Murray Lake. It became evident on this outing that spring 2023 is about 2-3 weeks later than spring 2022, at least as far as bird migration is concerned.

Both Rattlesnake Reservoir and Sauder Reservoir still had fairly large patches of ice. On the other hand, Murray Lake was almost totally ice-free. A total of 47 species of birds were observed including an amazing number of more than 50 Red-Breasted Mergansers on Murray Lake. This uncommon migrant is mostly seen here in the spring as they pass through our area headed farther north to their breeding grounds on arctic tundra and northern boreal forests. Generally, we only see them in smaller numbers than seen on this day. It was a banner day for mergansers as we also tallied several Common Mergansers along with a beautiful single male Hooded Merganser.

Many of the waterfowl were seen on our very wet agricultural land in ponds that will soon dry up. Our group was treated to an interesting field slough south of Whitla that had about 200 Northern Pintails, over 100 Mallards along with six Tundra Swans. This was the kind of sight we would normally see in the last week of March attesting to the lateness of this spring's migration. It was also interesting to note large numbers of Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye and Canvasbacks but not a single Redhead. The only teal that were observed were Green-Winged. Only a small handful of Eared Grebes and Western Grebes were present. They tend to arrive later than many duck species. Also, only 3 or 4 Coots and Cormorants were seen. The only shorebirds present were 2 Killdeer and one American Avocet. Gulls were present in large numbers with Franklin's Gulls arriving in droves that day.

The Hawk tally included three Red-Tailed, one Merlin and several Northern Harriers. Red-Winged Blackbirds were evident in many places including one large flock and several Grackles were present at Echo Dale Park. Our group convened at Premium Sausage in Seven Persons for lunch before visiting Murray Lake and enjoyed taking a break with a sausage on a bun. New GN member, Gisele, and keen birder, was able to tally several lifers this day. We all felt the spirit of spring was finally upon us and the day provided a plethora of exciting sightings, many of which were first for the year! Climate change is impacting the bird world in big ways. Nonetheless, this was a very special Earth Day along with very enjoyable company. The contrast of this spring with last spring was quite remarkable as bird species seem to be arriving 2-3 weeks later this year.

**Submitted by Phil Horch**

## Well Worded Times Two

This month we have two suggestions from members. Both encourage us to take the time to really enjoy the fascinating world around us.

**Martha Recommends: “Slow Birding. The Art and Science of Enjoying the Birds in Your Own Backyard.” By Joan E. Strassman with illustrations by Anthony Bartley**

This book is beautifully illustrated with occasional pen and ink drawing of the bird that is the subject of the chapter...one bird per chapter, organized into four different habitats. Quoting the writing on the cover “In this inspiring guide to the art of slow birding (evolutionary biologist) Strassman encourages readers to slow down and notice the spectacular birds all around them. She tells colourful stories of the most common birds to be found.....*Slow Birding* is the perfect guide for the birder looking to appreciate the beauty of the birds right in their own back yard, observing keenly how their behaviours change from day to day and season to season.”

**Gerry Recommends: “Cow Patty Critters: An Introduction to the ecology, biology, and identification of insects in cattle dung on Canadian Pastures” by Kevin Floate**

Insects (above and below ground micro and macro) may often go unnoticed for their important role in the health and functioning of our native grasslands, and other ecosystems. In the case of dung insects, I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Floate at the Purple Springs Community Pasture. He is an amazing scientist with a special interest in the dung beetles. They are amazing creatures, as what you clearly see one day (pies and scats) can be gone in a matter of weeks. It is quite comical to watch as they do their thing. In my mind’s eye they are similar to a wobbly weight lifter with a heavy weight but using more legs. Enjoy Kevin’s book as I have, and next time you are in a grasslands consider, along with other wildlife, bending down in the “range position” observing what is happening on the surface of the native grasslands in Medicine Hat. Digital version available at [www.publications.gc.ca](http://www.publications.gc.ca)



Photo of Ross Creek Valley by Gerry Ehlert

**Calling for more Recommendations:** Please send your suggestions for summer reading to be included in the June Chronicle to Corlaine by May 29.

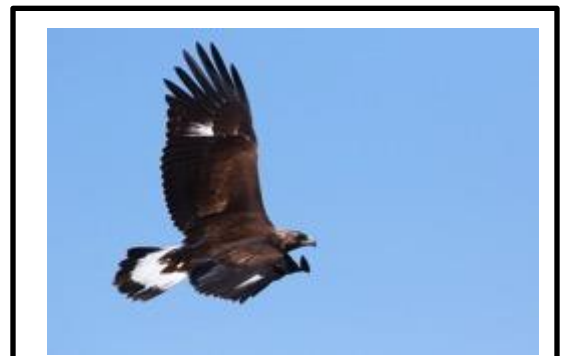


Photos Clockwise from top left:

Teacher’s Education Team: Adopted College Pond and have done two clean-ups.

Late blooming Crocus: Photo by Bruce McLeod

Immature Golden Eagle: Photo by Dan Schiebelbein  
[dansnaturephotography.com](http://dansnaturephotography.com)



### Alberta Plantwatch

By reporting when certain plants bloom and leaf out in spring, Albertans contribute vital information for climate change studies. The speed of spring plant development is controlled mainly by temperature. Warming winter and spring temperatures mean earlier appearances of flowers. This study of biological timing is called phenology, “the science of appearances”.

There is evidence that spring is arriving earlier in many places in the west.

“The alarm clock that all the plants and animals are listening to is running too fast” says Stanford University biologist Terry Root.

Observe plants in your area – plant watching is easy!

- Just register for the program,
- Select one or more plants,
- Watch the plant in spring,
- Report the date when the first flower buds open.

**Timing is everything!** Reported bloom dates help in:

- understanding how vegetation is responding to climate change, to help predict future shift
- predicting changes in timing of air-borne pollen. There is evidence of earlier and stronger allergy seasons.
- understanding changes in partnerships with pollinators, and plant eaters such as insects, deer and elk
- predicting timing of forest fires
- ground truthing for satellite images

[Join Us In Tracking Spring Timing!](#)

[plantwatch.naturealberta.ca](http://plantwatch.naturealberta.ca)

The May Plant Count takes place between May 25 – 31 and focuses on documenting the flowering status of native plants across Alberta. The aim is to collect valuable plant data while encouraging stewardship and appreciation of Alberta's natural areas. Anyone with an interest in plants is encouraged to participate.

However, it is important to first read the project purpose and instructions, at: <https://naturealberta.ca/may-bird-count/> In addition, you will need to formally join the project in order for the flowering codes to be displayed in the iNaturalist app

### Wildhorse Field Trip

Twelve participants (eleven, including Elaine, who vowed never again to go on a Spitzer led trip) gathered at 7:00 AM for a journey southward with the ultimate destination being the Wildhorse area. The skies looked threatening but not enough to deter the undaunted dozen as we set out with our first stop at Bullshead Reservoir. This stop should have immediately warned the group to turn around as the waves on the lake were big enough to sink the Edmond Fitzgerald. After a quick view of the lake where we did sight a Common Loon, several Double-crested Cormorants and three Common Mergansers, we proceeded south along Eagle Butte Road eventually joining Highway 41 where we continued down to the USA/Canada border. Along the way we did see several Tree Swallows and only a couple of Mountain Bluebirds: many more were no doubt hunkered down.

As we approached Wildhorse we were amazed by the amount of water in the sloughs and in Wildhorse Lake (this was dry in 2022). We were even more amazed (more like dismayed) by the howling east wind accompanied by rain. These weather conditions certainly curtailed the number of birds and wildlife seen. Several duck species, including 3 gorgeous Cinnamon Teal, were observed on the proliferation of water on both sides of the Range and Township Roads but again, likely, we missed many. The group of trees and shrubs along Tp. Rd. 12 were half submerged so did not harbour any hoped for dicky bird migrants although the middle vehicle did spot a White-throated Sparrow. As we proceeded up Rge. Rd. 20 into the drier prairie we encountered large groups of Horned Larks, Vesper Sparrows and Thick-billed Longspurs (formerly McCown's) all gathering along the road. Surprisingly we did not see a single Chestnut-collared Longspur. A mutiny was averted when rather than continue along Rge Rd. 20 to Highway 501 we proceeded westward along Tp. Rd. 20 to Highway 41 where we zoomed northward to Elkwater for a shivering lunch in one of the outdoor shelters.

I can hear the group in my mind quoting Poe's Raven “Nevermore”.





**Society of Grasslands Naturalists**  
 Box 2491, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8G8



## Membership Form for 2023

Name\* \_\_\_\_\_ Name of 2<sup>nd</sup> Family Member \*\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address\* \_\_\_\_\_ Membership: Individual \$20/year \_\_\_\_\_  
 City / Province\* \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25/year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code\* \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \$25/year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone\* \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Receipt Available \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Preference for receiving Chronicle newsletter\*:

Post or  Email or  Neither

Payments can be made by cheque, cash or using e-Transfer at [memberships@grasslands-naturalists.org](mailto:memberships@grasslands-naturalists.org)

*Current and recent Chronicles can be viewed and dc website [www.grasslands-naturalists.org](http://www.grasslands-naturalists.org). **Regardless membership form must be filled out and subn.***

\* Required information. \*\* Required information for family membership.

+ Optional Information. For phone number(s), please note whether it is a residence, cell phone or business number.

++ Information required if you wish to receive the Chronicle and announcements by email.

### **Informed Consent for Field Trips**

I may wish to participate in field trips and events organized by the Society of Grasslands Naturalists. I affirm that, as a participant, I and my child(ren)/ward(s) are prepared to stay with the group and follow the directions of the coordinator and activity leader. I affirm that, knowing my personal state of health, I feel that I am mentally and physically capable of participating in the trips and events that I choose to attend. I acknowledge that I am aware of the inherent risks, hazards, and dangers associated with activities arising from my participation in trips, events, litter cleanups, invasive species removal or any other activity that may result in injury, sickness or death to me or my child(ren)/ward(s). Some of these risks may be specific to the area. These include, but are not limited to, animal attacks as well as poisonous snakes, insects and vegetation. Therefore, in consideration of my participation in these trips and events, for myself, my heirs, my executors, my administrators, and my successors, I voluntarily assume all risks and hereby waive all my rights against Grasslands Naturalists and unconditionally release and discharge the Grasslands Naturalists, its members, directors, officers, its affairs and its coordinators from all manner of activities, causes of action, suits, claims and demands for damages due to personal injury, sickness, death, loss or damage to property, expenses or otherwise which may or shall arise in any way as a result of my participation in the above trips and events.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of 2<sup>nd</sup> Family Member

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Society of Grasslands Naturalists**  
 Box 2491, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8G8



## Consent Form

### Consent to the Use and Distribution of Personal Information

Grasslands Naturalists (GN) collects personal information subject to the 'Personal Information Protection Act' (PIPA). GN may, subject to your consent, wish to make some personal information public through, for example, its Chronicle, Website, Facebook page or newspaper article. Please indicate your consent to the following release of information and note any specific exclusion of a consent such as for children.

	Yes	No	Exclusion
Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Residence telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Cell phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Business phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Email address	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Residence address	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Pictures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Beyond the above consents, GN will not distribute personal information to a third party without your consent unless such information is required, by law, to be released to a federal or provincial government agency in order, for example, to maintain GN's non-profit organization status.

### Consent to Receive Emails Related to Commercial Activities

GN may wish to send you emails to promote some of its commercial activities including those provided by its *Club* and *Interpretive Program*. Please indicate your consent to receiving such information.  Yes  No

### Modification of Consents

You may modify any of the above consents, at any time, through a written request to the member of the GN Executive responsible for Memberships.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of 2<sup>nd</sup> Family Member

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_