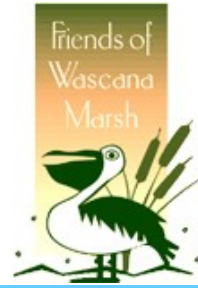


# Friends of Wascana Marsh

P.O. Box 892, Regina, SK S4P 3B1



Newsletter

November, 2011



## We have refreshed our Vision and Mission Statements!

**Vision:** *Friends of Wascana Marsh strive to preserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Wascana Marsh ecosystem.*

**Mission:** Friends of Wascana Marsh is committed to protecting a diverse and productive Wascana Marsh ecosystem. We provide outdoor, nature-based educational and interpretive opportunities and promote environmental sustainability within an urban setting. Through partnerships and community engagement, Friends of Wascana Marsh is developing a legacy for future generations.

**Values:** Stewardship, Sustainability, Respect for the environment, Integrity, Accountability, Professionalism, Credibility, Innovative, Collaborative

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, January 19, 2012 - 7:00 PM** - FOWM AGM Saskatchewan Science Centre, 2903 Powerhouse Drive, Regina, SK. Sasktel Theatre.

**Saturday, February 4, 2012** - Nature Hike in Wascana Marsh – Come and visit the marsh on a guided hike. Experience the beauties of the marsh in the winter and see the Overwintering Structure where Wascana Centre keeps its captive waterfowl flock during the winter! Check out our Facebook page or website for details. Meet at the Leibel Field parking lot.

**Wednesday, May 9, 2012** - Wings Over Wascana Fundraising Banquet at the Conexus Arts Centre. Guest speaker George Archibald of the International Crane Foundation. Tickets on sale in March.

**May 11 & 12, 2012** - Wings Over Wascana Nature Festival 2012 - School Day is Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> and Public Day is Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars. If you are interesting in volunteering on a committee or on the day of the festival, please contact us at [Friendsowascanamarsh@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsowascanamarsh@gmail.com)

**Fall 2012** - Great Canadian Shore Cleanup - FOWM will be getting involved next fall in the Great Canadian Shore Cleanup.

Check us out at on facebook! Friends of Wascana Marsh

## What have we been up to?

The Friends of Wascana Marsh Board, members, supporters and volunteers have been busy this past year. One of the major accomplishments of this year was completing our strategic planning session and developing short and long term goals for the group.

We have also supported several projects around Wascana Centre. A major project was upgrading the Wascana Centre Waterfowl Display Ponds. We continued our support of the MAPS program in the habitat conservation area by providing volunteers for the six days during the summer. And in May, we hosted the annual Wings Over Wascana (WOW) Nature Festival in Wascana Marsh.

We kicked off the Festival with a Fundraising Banquet at the Conexus Arts Centre to raise monies to facilitate the Nature Festival and future projects conducted by the Friends. In the following days The Friends, volunteers, naturalists and teachers hosted the annual WOW Nature Festival School Day. Almost 200 students from the Regina and surrounding school districts participated. School Day provides the opportunity for Wascana Marsh to serve as an outdoor classroom for educating youth on the unique ecosystem present within the city of Regina. A variety of exciting outdoor educational programming is provided, including the favourite student activity of Owl Pellet dissection. The following day, the Friends of Wascana Marsh volunteers hosted the Nature Festival Public Day event in the park for the general public. This year close to 1,200 participants enjoyed the wide variety of nature activities offered. Overall, the WOW Nature Festival was a huge success this year and planning is well underway for next year's event. The WOW Banquet is set for May 9, 2012 with the School and Public Day following on May 11 and 12, 2012. Please contact us if you would like to be involved in the 2012 WOW festival.



## Waterfowl Park Display Pond Upgrades

The Display Ponds are looking great after major upgrades occurred this summer and fall. Wascana Centre Authority staff worked hard to implement a number of improvements to this facility including:

- Developing and installing 9 new interpretive panels
- Pathway upgrades to all weather accessibility
- Installing a new irrigation system to keep the grass growing for the birds
- Laying 2948 yards of new sod for the birds!

The FOWM was awarded \$6,000 from Farm Credit Canada's Spirit Fund for this project. FOWM contributed \$6,000 to this project as well. Wascana Centre Authority then matched these funds.



Make sure to stop by the ponds next spring and enjoy the rejuvenated area! We will be showcasing these upgrades this spring!

## News from Wascana Centre's Park Naturalist

by Jared Clarke

This has been a busy year here at Wascana Centre! It is with mixed emotions that we watch the leaves fall from the trees in the park. But with each changing season brings new visitors to the Centre. The Canada Geese have begun staging on the lake now. Up to 11,000 migrating Canada Geese will use Wascana Centre as a resting stop over the next month! Around a 100 Tundra Swans are on the marsh as I write this and just yesterday a Northern Shrike was spotted beside the Over-wintering Structure.

We are now into our fifth season of the Wascana Junior Naturalist program. The program is again full with 23 participants, ranging from ages 9-13. We have a great mix of kids this season, with many new faces as well as those who have been with us since the fall of 2009 when the program began! This week we will be trying to catch Northern Saw-whet Owls in the Habitat Conservation Area. Fingers crossed we will be successful in catching a few... The Junior Naturalists have also learned all about the fascinating egg, as well as having a session where the kids were crime scene investigators. One of the favourite crime scenes had a discharged bullet, little piece of fur, fake blood, animal tracks, and a human foot print. The Junior Naturalist had to piece together what had happened using the knowledge they each possessed. We all had a great time! I learned I have to be very accurate with the props I use. In one of the crime scenes, where a duck had been eaten by an owl, one of the kids pointed out the bird band that was suppose to belong to the Blue-winged Teal, was far too big to be the teal's band (all that was left of the teal was two wings). She was right, it was four sizes too large... it was actually a Canada Goose band that I had in the office. Lesson learned.



We continued with our 2nd season of Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) station this summer. 532 birds of 34 species were captured in the six sessions over the summer (2 days in June, 3 in July and 1 in August). Most interestingly, we recaptured 31 individuals that were banded in 2010! These included 4 American Goldfinch, a Brown Thrasher, a Brown-headed Cowbird, 2 Common Yellowthroat (pictured here), 5 Gray Catbirds, 1 Red-winged Blackbird, 3 Song Sparrows, 1 Warbling Vireo and 12 Yellow Warblers. Check out Wascana Centre's website for full MAPS results. Volunteer turnout was low this year but we were very appreciative of the folks who made it out to help us!

We are currently working on sprucing up the Over-wintering Structure to facilitate more school programs through that facility during the winter. If you know of a classroom that would like to visit us this winter, please have them contact us.

Check out our website for more information on all the programs happening at Wascana Centre!

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

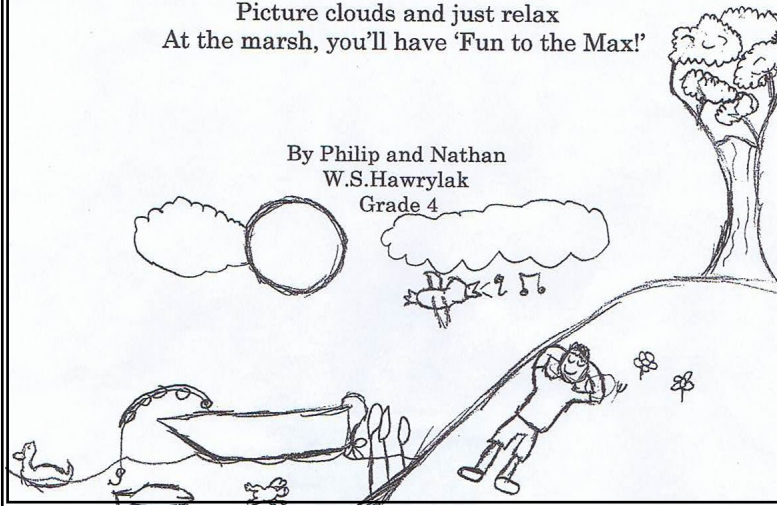
**Fun at the Marsh**

Get off the couch and go outdoors  
 Find a marsh and hunt for spores  
 Bring some boots for the bog  
 You never know, you might catch a frog!

Bring a net and a hook  
 Get a boat and find a brook  
 Bring a knife and a dish  
 Then try to catch a fish!

Lay on a hill, close your eyes  
 Listen to the birds that fly  
 Picture clouds and just relax  
 At the marsh, you'll have 'Fun to the Max!'

By Philip and Nathan  
 W.S.Hawrylak  
 Grade 4



*This poem was written by Wings Over Wascana School Day 2011 participants*

**The Marsh Dash!**

The 2nd Marsh Dash was held Saturday, June 4 at 9 am. The teams ran 8 kilometers through and around the Wascana Marsh in less than the allotted hour. Points were given to teams for solving nature related clues along the way and for wearing original costumes.

Thanks to the support of the Regina Road Runners! The event raised \$64 for Friends of Wascana Marsh.

**Become a Member of Friends of Wascana Marsh!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership \$20

Please make cheques payable to **Friends of Wascana Marsh.**

Submit this sheet with your membership fee to:

Friends of Wascana Marsh  
 Box 892  
 Regina, SK  
 S4P 3B1

**News from our partners**

**Nature Saskatchewan**

Nature Saskatchewan needs your votes! The Stewards of Saskatchewan programs are competing for a \$100,000 FuellingChange grant from Shell. Please consider voting for our project "S.O.S. for Prairie Species At Risk" at [www.fuellingchange.com](http://www.fuellingchange.com). Voting begins November 4, 2011. Help us make a difference to conserve prairie species at risk and their habitats!

**Nature Regina Christmas Bird Counts!**

Craven/Lumsden - December 17, 2011

Regina - December 27, 2011

New! Balgonie - January 2, 2012

Contact Brett Quiring for more information on all of the above counts and to be assigned to a team (545-8533 or [bquiring@sasktel.net](mailto:bquiring@sasktel.net))

**Would you like to volunteer with Friends of Wascana Marsh?**  
 Email us ([Friendsofwascanamarsh@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofwascanamarsh@gmail.com)), or call or text (531-9759)