

MEEWASIN EXPLORER

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Meewasin Takes a Humorous Approach to Creating Biodiversity Awareness

Established by Meewasin CEO Fred Heal years ago, the Association of Urban Parks and Conservation Agencies (ASUPCA) is a non-profit organization sharing expertise and pride in conservation, development, and education for the purpose of supporting each of the seven member organizations here in Saskatchewan.

As an April Fool's Day gag to bring attention to the negative effects of exotic plant growth on the prairie grasslands and the need for biodiversity, ASUPCA released information to the media suggesting that they would be introducing 50 pairs of Australian Red Kangaroo to the native Saskatchewan prairie grasslands for the purpose of promoting biodiversity.

On April 1, Meewasin's Doug Porteous was designated as a local ASUPCA spokesman, interviewed by CJWW radio and by Stephanie Massicotte in a segment on CTV Morning Live. CTV advised Meewasin that the segment produced a great deal of interest on both local and national CTV social media accounts. CTV summarized that we could call this prank a success.



The April Fool's gag drew much needed attention to the serious invasive species issues facing our prairie landscape.

Visit <http://saskatoon.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=840724&binId=1.1165965&playlistPageNum=1> to view the CTV Morning Live interview.

NatureCity Festival

Tues. May 24 to Sun. May 29

GO WILD

Water Song for a River City keynote
Broadway
May 24 7:30

Fresh Air! Inspiration! Fun for all ages!

For the complete Festival calendar, make tracks to our website:
www.wildaboutsaskatoon.org

It's Springtime at Meewasin!

You are invited to the 2016 Plant-A-Tree Ceremony

The Meewasin Plant-A-Tree Program gives opportunity for the cycle of life to continue for generations to come. The 2016 Ceremony to celebrate recipients and program donors

will be held on

Saturday, June 18, 2016, at 1:00 p.m.

in Boomtown at the

Western Development Museum.

All are welcome to attend!

*Preserve your memories through Meewasin.
Sponsor a Tree, Shrub, Brick or Bench now to be
dedicated in 2017.*

meewasin.com

Meewasin

MEEWASIN VALLEY AUTHORITY - 402 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3G5

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

Invasive Plant Spotlight – What do you have growing in your yard?

Nodding Thistle (*Carduus nutans*) a.k.a. Musk Thistle is an invasive biennial plant and designated as noxious in Saskatchewan by the Ministry of Agriculture. Being designated as noxious means that landowners, both urban and rural, have a duty to control these plants on their property. Nodding Thistle reproduces by seed only, growing from a basal rosette in year one up to 2.5 m tall in its second year of growth. The plant develops a long taproot and flowers are located at the end of their many stems. Nodding Thistle produces flowers in its second year and can produce up to 1200 seeds per flower! Flowers are made up of hundreds of small pink-purple flowers and measure about 5 cm in diameter. Leaves are alternate, dark green with a waxy surface and have deeply lobed, wavy, spiny edges. To prevent the spread of Nodding Thistle, a few methods are recommended. First, cutting off flower heads and bagging can help prevent Nodding Thistle from producing seed. Hand digging by severing the taproot below the surface is an effective way of getting rid of individual plants. Repeated mowing can prevent the plant from going to seed and may be more useful for larger infestations. Herbicide applications may be recommended for large infestations where mowing or hand digging are not effective.



Meewasin's Conservation staff is using a variety of tools to manage this plant on their sites including grazing by sheep, mowing, hand-digging, and cutting off flowers to prevent seeds from spreading. It is important to take an integrated approach and remove the flowers or plant before seed set to prevent its spread. For more information, visit the following:

- The Weed Control Act (2010) at <http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/W11-1.pdf>
- Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council at <http://www.saskinvasives.ca>

Meewasin Pelican Watch 2016

The Pelicans Have Landed
April 14, 2016 at 6:15 a.m.

2016 marks the 21st year for the Meewasin Pelican Watch Contest. The winners will be announced at a later date. Thank you to all who participated, including the Saskatoon media, and businesses that have supported the contest with prizes. For more information visit our website meewasin.com.



Meewasin to Launch Online Map

Meewasin, in partnership with Tourism Saskatoon, will be launching an online map designed to give residents and visitors a unique Meewasin Trail user experience.

You'll be able to chart your adventure and access exciting information along the way. Our new map will allow you to explore and discover the secrets of the Meewasin Valley. Access locations of Meewasin sites, rest areas, water fountains, tourist attractions, points of interest, Meewasin Trail routes, and more!

Stay tuned to our social media channels and website for more information.

Find Meewasin on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @meewasin

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MEEWASIN VALLEY INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S BUILT CULTURAL HISTORY



On Display at the Meewasin Gallery for
May and June:
Multimedia Art Display by
students from
St. Maria Goretti Community School

Find Meewasin on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @meewasin

May

Sun Catchers

Weekend Drop-In Craft at the MVC
12-4 p.m.

May 7 & 8
May 14 & 15

The birds are singing, the bees are buzzing, and flowers are blooming. Stop in when you're out enjoying the valley and make a craft that will catch the sun!

May and June - Meewasin Gallery Exhibit

Art-based Inquiry into Waterfowl Migration, Multimedia Installation, Sculpture, Printmaking and Felting projects by students of St. Maria Goretti Community School. This exhibit will be on display in the Meewasin Gallery for May and June.

May 21, 22 & 23 - Victoria Day (12-4 p.m.)

Victoria Day is here! Drop in and celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday, learn some facts and history about the day, and make yourself into a penny black stamp!

May 29 - Saskatchewan Marathon Water Station

The Saskatchewan Marathon is happening again! Meewasin will have a water station along the route this year. After the marathon, make sure to pop in to the MVC from 12 - 4 p.m. for a fun and active afternoon filled with games and crafts.

For more information about our programs please call 306-665-6888.

Please note:
Program cost is by donation to help cover supplies, unless otherwise stated.

June

June 4 & 5 - Scavenger Hunt Weekend (12-4 p.m.)

Pop down to the MVC to take part in a few indoor and outdoor informational scavenger hunts this weekend! Test your knowledge of local history & wildlife, and see how many things you can find in and around the Centre.

June 12 - Caswell Art Festival (12-5 p.m.)

Visit the 15th annual Caswell Arts Festival, *Art in the Park*, that celebrates culture and community. This **FREE** one day festival is entirely volunteer-run and community-based. It highlights local talent in the heart of the Caswell Hill neighbourhood and features a variety of art & entertainment, including an artists' village, children and teen art festival, collaborative art-making, and more! This event is being held at *Ashworth Holmes Park* on Ave E North & 31st Street West.

Musical Crafts

Weekend Drop-In Craft at the MVC
12-4 p.m.

June 18 & 19
June 25 & 26

The Jazz Festival starts in June. Come down and make a selection of simple musical instruments to celebrate!

*Did you know you can get the Explorer electronically?
Help us reduce our paper consumption and switch your paper Explorer subscription to an electronic one.
Phone 306-665-6887 or email meewasin@meewasin.com and provide us with your name and email address.*

*Above programs are for the general public.
If you wish to book a group program please call 306-665-6888.
A nominal fee may be charged for group bookings.*

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OPEN 9:00 TO 5:00 WEEKDAYS - 9:00 TO 5:00 WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS

BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY

Beaver Creek Programming May and June

Spring Sightings - May Weekends

Come out and enjoy the wonders of spring. Who is that honking by and what colour is a hare anyways? Discover what plants and animals are springing to life out at the Creek with an interpreter Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Winged Wonders - June Weekends

Spend time outside discovering what winged beasts are out and about. Maybe your ears will delight in the song of a Yellow Warbler, or your eyes the glimpse of a Blue-Eyed Darter flitting by. Come out to look and listen as you go for a hike with an interpreter. Program offered Sundays at 2:30 p.m.



*Saturdays and Sundays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Nature inspired craft available*



Mother's Day - Sunday, May 8

Bring Mom out to enjoy a walk on the wild side. Discover what moms in the wild are up to at this time of year. Ask an interpreter how to enter the draw for a Folkmanis puppet.



Father's Day - Sunday, June 19

Come out and hike one or more of the nature trails with Dad. Enjoy discovering what animal dads are up to at Beaver Creek. Make sure you enter the draw for a Folkmanis puppet.

*Saturdays and Sundays
Eye Spy Challenge
Available at the front desk of the interpretive centre*

Scientists need your help!

Visit the Beaver Creek Interpretive Centre to find out how to participate in one or more of the many citizen scientist programs so you can help protect and understand wildlife.

*Interested in making a group booking?
Hour long nature programs available.
Call 306-374-2474 for more information.*



About Beaver Creek Conservation Area



Beaver Creek Conservation Area offers the general public and schools opportunities to discover the wonders of nature. Hands-on activities in the Interpretive Centre give children the opportunity to learn more about Saskatchewan's wildlife. Their experience is enhanced through creative play such as the puppet theatre and animal costumes. A selection of four nature trails are available year-round for all ages to enjoy.

A Creek Forming A Valley; A Valley Forming Habitats

BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA - FOLLOW LORNE AVENUE SOUTH 13 KM ON HIGHWAY #219
CHIP'S HOT LINE: 306-374-2474 FAX: 306-665-6117 E-MAIL: MEEWASIN@MEEWASIN.COM

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