

## *Native Prairie Speaker Series*

**Title:** Shake, Rattle, and Roll—Exploring the biology and ecology of snakes in Southwest Saskatchewan

**Speaker:** Alexandria Gallon, Grasslands National Park

**Summary:** Even without legs, snakes manage to navigate their surroundings with ease. However, how is it that in a landscape of extremes (weather, geography, climate) snakes at their northern range limits in Saskatchewan can still successfully survive and what are some of the things that threaten this survival? This presentation will address 1) the biology, ecology, and life histories of snakes that has enabled their success, 2) explore what snakes species we have here in SW Saskatchewan, and 3) the importance of studying snakes and their management.

**About the Speaker:** Originally born and raised here in SK, Allie's love for snakes were not discovered until her first biology job working with snakes, small mammals, and insects for the Royal Saskatchewan Museum's Bioblitz project located in the Big Muddy Valley. In the last 9 years she has since worked with various not for profits (NCC, Cows & Fish, Alberta Conservation Association, Master's students) and levels of government (Gov of SK, Parks Canada), and has worked on various snake research projects in AB, SK, and ON. For her undergraduate thesis (U of R) she researched the body condition of bullsnakes in SK, and most recently has been completing her Master's Degree from Laurentian University, where she investigated the space use and habitat preferences of eastern hog-nosed snakes in rural SW Ontario. This was her first year working with Parks Canada in Grasslands National Park, where her primary role was investigating the road mortality of snakes in and around GNP.

**This Native Prairie Speaker Series is Presented by:**

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