

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Title: How time and weather influence Saskatchewan's largest snake

Speaker: Noah Johnson, Masters Graduate, University of Regina

Summary: The bullsnake (*Pituophis catenifer sayi*) is a large constrictor found across the Great Plains of North America. This snake can be found in open habitats such as grasslands and badlands from Mexico to the southern prairies of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In Canada, the bullsnake is considered a species of special concern due to suspected population declines and habitat loss. I recently studied bullsnakes on ranches in the Maple Creek area of Saskatchewan during my master's research in 2019 and 2020. I used radio telemetry and temperature sensitive implants to investigate how time of day, time of season, and weather variables can predict bullsnake behaviour. I will be discussing some highlights from my research, sharing fun pictures of fieldwork, and talking about things you can do to help the bullsnake and other prairie reptiles.

About the Speaker: Noah Johnson is a wildlife biologist who has been conducting fieldwork since 2015. He is currently working with burrowing owls and other prairie species at risk at Grasslands National Park in Val Marie, Saskatchewan. This spring, Noah finished his master's degree studying the ecology of bullsnakes with the University of Regina (Dr. Chris Somers) and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (Dr. Ray Poulin). Before this, Noah worked on a turtle conservation and outreach project with Parks Canada. During his undergraduate degree in Biology at the University of Ottawa, Noah worked with Parks Canada, lizards, species at risk policy, and wetland research. He loves talking about wildlife and sharing stories with people.

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