

BLESS NEWSLETTER, JANUARY - MARCH 2014



Pat and Miles completed an application for a \$10,000 award from Earth Day Canada. Thanks to Elke for spotting this opportunity.

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Pat and Miles also put together an application for an Emerald Award for BLESS's Summer Nature Center program. It was accepted and is in the running with many other nominees. Finalists for the 2014 Emerald Awards will be announced on Friday, April 4. See web page: <http://emerald.foundation.ca/emerald-awards/2014-nominees>

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Nicholas Batchelor and Miles Constable, a REEP volunteer and 4 City employees (Kevin Veenstra, Alan ??, Meghan Myers and Nicole Deering) met to plan the spring REEP planting event and the development of the Native Plant Nursery. BLESS is now acting as the banker for all monies going to REEP and the Nursery. The Nursery plans are coming together and supplies will be ordered soon. The Arts and Heritage Foundation has provided the land and is donating a small barn for storage purposes. May 29 we will have an on-site meeting at the Native Nursery site to plan development of the site.

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The REEP planting will be on Mother's Day, May 11. They will be doing infilling along the river behind Canadian Tire. Look for notices in the Gazette, volunteers are always welcome.

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The Gazette (Scott Hayes) is doing an article on the Musee Heritage display on Biodiversity. So they sent BLESS a request for information on biodiveristy around Big Lake. Miles put together a response to Scott.

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Al Henry is spearheading a visioning exercise for BLESS. We will use the Board Room at View Office Technology for the meeting. The address is 42 Airport Road NW across from the old Industrial Airport. The meeting will be May 2 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM and May 3 9 AM to 12 AM. Address 42 Airport Road NW. Edmonton Alberta. Al Henry cell 780 717-0305. Rick Moyes from U of A will be the facilitator.

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#### Board Meeting

The new Board will meet in mid-April to select the executive for 2014. It's a bit late, but as many of our Board are out of the country and/or working it is the best date available. Please stand-by for a note on where and when.

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### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Newsletter Editor

Due to workload pressures Cat McDonald is stepping down as our Newsletter Editor. As you can tell from this bare bones effort, we could use someone with talent. If you would like to take this on, please send an email to [info@bless.ab.ca](mailto:info@bless.ab.ca).

#### REEP Plantings

Mother's Day, May 11, 2014 the River Edge Enhancement Project is planning on doing more native tree and shrub plantings along the Sturgeon River. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to [info@bless.ab.ca](mailto:info@bless.ab.ca) and we will forward your name to our REEP Coordinator (Nicholas Batchelor).

#### Botanical Guide to Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park

By August our botanist (Melanie Patchell) will have the data and photos arranged for this Guide. We could use assistance from anyone with experience in photo and text layout for printing. It is intended to be a pocket guide, so smallness is important.