

# New attraction in the Biosphere Reserve: Redberry Lake Discovery Trail

On September 2, 2014 the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve, and its German partner Biosphere Reserve Rhoen cut the ribbon to a new attraction to Saskatchewan and the Redberry Lake area: The Redberry Lake Discovery Trail.



Among the twenty invited guests joining the ceremony were representatives from Tourism Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Saskatoon Wildlife Federation, land owners and volunteers that helped establish the trail.

## What makes this Discovery Trail so unique?

The currently 2.2 km long trail starts at Pelletier Point Developments, about 3 km south of Highway 40. It takes hikers along the shore of Redberry Lake through aspen trees and groves, shrubs full with Buffaloberries, Chokecherries and Saskatoon berries. The trail provides beautiful views onto the saline lake and it invites explorers to discover and playfully learn about nature and her secrets.



One station along the Redberry Lake Discovery Trail is the Bird and Bat house display. Each box has information showing what kind of birds and bats may nest inside.

Different stations along the trail make this self-guided hike unique. Visitors can see and learn about which birds and bats choose to make their home in certain nest boxes, which bugs will move into an Insect Hotel, and which creatures call a Rock Garden home. A QR Code to scan with a smart phone and leaflets are waiting for hikers who feel ambitious enough to build one of the nest boxes for their own back yard or to construct a miniature insect hotel to create a home for bees, ladybugs and other insects that will eat garden pests.

## A living example of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

The Redberry Lake Discovery Trail is the second joint project of the German Rhoe Biosphere Reserve and Saskatchewan's Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve. "We have a similar trail near our administration building, where we invite guests to explore and watch nature and show them how little it sometimes takes to protect it", says Karl-Friedrich Abe, Head of Administration of the Rhoe Biosphere Reserve/Thuringia. "To bring this educational trail to Saskatchewan and the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve is a project which supports the idea of a global network and of Biosphere Reserves as model regions that promote answers on how people and nature can co-exist," explains



An insect hotel provides habitat for insects in the summer and a place to hibernate in the winter.

Peter Kingsmill, Chair of the Board of Governors at the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve. The establishment of the Redberry Lake Discovery Trail has been made possible through financial support from Mountain Equipment Co-operative (MEC) and EcoFriendly Sask, and through volunteers and land owners who see the value of projects like this trail.

The challenge in the future will be to maintain this unique trail, especially when it comes to clearing the trail from grass and branches that grow back so quickly.

If you want to get involved as volunteer or as sponsor please email us.