



## *Our Mission -*

*"TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF THE CHARACTER AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF WAGNER NATURAL AREA FOR EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH PURPOSES."*

# Friends of the Fen

WAGNER NATURAL AREA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



## Upcoming events:

July 23, 2018

### Bat Walk

**Tour leader:** Member of the Alberta Community Bat Program

**Time:** 9:15 p.m. Meet at parking lot at 9:15 p.m.

**Please register** that you plan to attend through

email: [info@wagnerfen.ca](mailto:info@wagnerfen.ca)

Visit our website:

[www.wagnerfen.ca](http://www.wagnerfen.ca)

for more information on upcoming events at Wagner Natural Area.

# EDUCATION:

## My Summer at Wagner Natural Area!

Hello, my name is Megan! This fall I will be going into the last year of my Environmental and Conservation Science degree at the University of Alberta. I was, and while I write this still am, the

summer student for the summer of 2018 at the Wagner Natural Area. I started this job excited to learn and work outdoors, and I am sad that it ends in a couple weeks. I have learned so much this summer, and I know that my last year at school will be much more enjoyable with all the extra knowledge from this summer experience.



Figure 1- Britney Blomquist (left) and I (Megan Edgar), at the International Migratory Bird Day event at the Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park on May 19, 2018.

Photo credit: Britney Blomquist

From completing the breeding bird surveys and amphibian surveys, assisting Dave Ealey in Tree Swallow banding, helping lead guided tours around the Marl Pond Trail for students and naturalist groups, going to the International Migratory Bird Day event with Britney, travelling with Dave to multiple schools for our presentations, joining Derek Johnson and David Fielder to help with the permanent vegetation sample plots in the area, and weed removal, I can confidently tell you that I have had a fulfilling, educational summer.

The variety of plants was astounding! From the deceptively intriguing carnivorous plants, such as the Common Butterwort or the sundew species, to the beautiful, alien-shaped orchids along the trail, and of course the weeds. I will always think of the insane amount of Meadow Hawkweed that Derek and I looked at, in anguish, in the Villeneuve Field.

## Support us!



The **Wagner Natural Area Society** welcomes new supporters, volunteers, and all people interested in natural history and the preservation of the ecological integrity of this delightful natural area.

### VOLUNTEERS / MEMBERS

People of all talents and interests are desired and welcomed to become more closely involved with the Natural Area and the Society.

Email us at:  
[info@wagnerfen.ca](mailto:info@wagnerfen.ca)

### DONATIONS

All donations to Wagner Natural Area Society are enormously helpful in maintaining the integrity of the Natural Area and its surroundings, providing education material, enhancements to visitor's experiences at Wagner, on-going research studies and surveys.

**Please see page 4 for the donation/volunteer form.**

I have gained immense professional knowledge and valuable field experience from the handful of people I had the honour to learn from! Joining on walks through the Marl Pond Trail and around other areas of Wagner, specifically on the May Count for bird species and the breeding bird surveys, allowed me to dip my toes into the world of birding. I feel far more comfortable identifying bird species by their calls!



Figure 2 - Prescott Learning Centre field trip at Wagner Natural Area on May 17, 2018.

Photo credit: Britney Blomquist

Dave and I accompanied each other, sometimes along with Britney, to schools in Parkland County for presentations on Wagner Natural Area and material associated with the curriculum for the school grade we were presenting to. It was surprisingly transformative for me as I became more comfortable presenting in front of different audiences, and it was incredibly rewarding to be able to spread my passion and excitement for natural environments!

I hope that in the future I will be able to continue helping the Wagner Natural Area Society in maintaining this amazing boreal, forest and wetland ecosystem.



Figure 3. Megan and Dave Ealey on May Species Bird Count, May 26.

Photo credit: Britney Blomquist

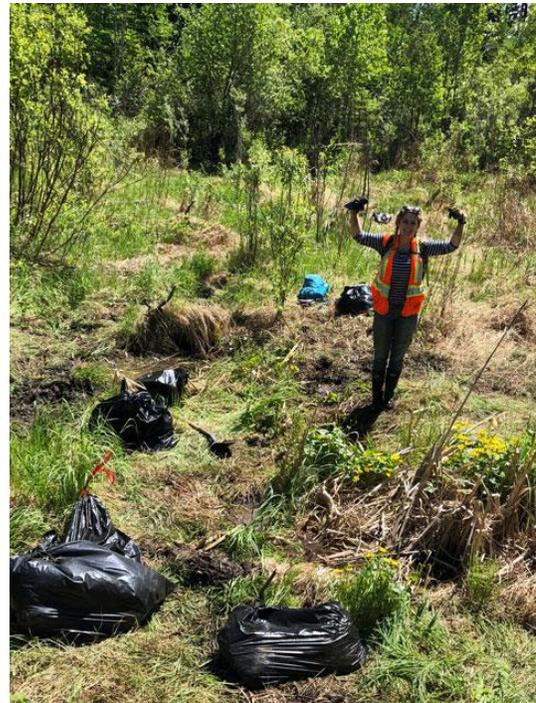


Figure 4. Megan at Iris Weed Pull, June 2.

Photo credit: Britney Blomquist

## MEMBERSHIP --- WAGNER NATURAL AREA SOCIETY

### Support / Donate / Volunteer

For information about Wagner Natural Area and the Society, and about field trips and other activities organized from time to time for the benefit of all friends of Wagner, go to [www.wagnerfen.ca](http://www.wagnerfen.ca).

Wagner Natural Area Society is a Registered Charity. Donations to the Society will help maintain this very special area. Donations of \$20 or more will be receipted for Income Tax purposes.  
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The Society's annual fee is \$10 for Supporters and \$15 for Voting Members. The Society's fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.

Annual fee (Supporter \$10/Voting \$15): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

May the Society CONTACT you by: EMAIL: Yes / No

PHONE: Yes / No

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

If you can VOLUNTEER to help the Society with maintenance of the Natural Area (circle): Yes

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with cheque/money order, payable to Wagner Natural Area Society, to:

Treasurer, Wagner Natural Area Society,  
30531-118 Ave., Acheson, AB T7X 6M5

## SITE MANAGEMENT: Iris Weed Pull Thank You!

**Thank you** to all the volunteers who came out on Saturday, June 2, 2018, for a targeted weed pull along Morgan Creek! Some photos of that significant effort are shown below.

This summer has already included several days of weed management aimed around the perimeter of Wagner Natural Area. Volunteers and our summer staff have pitched in and helped knock back the invading weeds, and other initiatives will take place soon. Many thanks to all!



## A letter from the WNAS President: Dave Ealey

As I write this message, the Capital Region is going through another spell of hot, stormy weather. Let's hope we avoid the concentrated tree blowdown experienced last year along Marl Pond Trail.

I hope some of you have noticed the successful frog and toad reproduction along the Trail...tadpoles galore could be seen near some of our boardwalks this year. Perhaps conditions will restore more of the open pond habitats following a wetter summer!

The orchids put on a fine show again this year with some of the better concentrations that I've seen of Round-leaved Orchids along the Trail. Still lots of other blossoms, along with the spectacular array of berries, remain to be witnessed by our visitors. Enjoy the view!!