



### *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:

### May Species Counts

**Where:** Meet at Wagner Natural Area parking lot.

**When:**

**Birds:** Sat. May 25 --- 6 a.m.; 8 a.m.; 10 a.m.

**Plants:** Sun. May 26 --- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Who:** Anyone who wants to volunteer is welcome; let us know you'll be there by emailing [info@wagnerfen.ca](mailto:info@wagnerfen.ca) and we can be prepared for everyone.

**Format:** Be sure to wear your rubber boots. Come ready to enjoy the wonderful flora and fauna of Wagner Natural Area!

### 2019 Activities

**Weed Pull:** June 8 – 10 a.m.

**Bat Walk:** June 14 – 9:30 p.m.

**Orchid Walk:** June 16 -- 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. (Father's Day)

**Frog/Toad Walk:** TBD

**Other Work Bees:** TBD

**For every activity, plan to meet at the Wagner parking lot.**

Visit our website:

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

for more information on upcoming events at Wagner Natural Area.

# Research and the Power of Nature

## Wildlife Surveillance Study

This May, Wagner Natural Area (WNA) President Dave Ealey and summer student Bob Underschultz will be conducting a wildlife surveillance study of the WNA. Through the use of stratified



transects, wildlife will be assessed for their distribution within and use of various habitat types. The primary focus of the study will be on browsing ungulates, notably deer and moose. Measures of use will be identified by distribution of pellet groups and percentage and intensity of browsing. Mapped

distribution of ungulate activity will be used to illustrate concentration of winter use. The established standardized survey lines may have the potential to be used for future bird territory mapping and winter tracking.

## Wagner Natural Area as Ecotherapy

As a unique natural ecosystem, Wagner Natural Area provides many important ecosystem services. Ecosystem services can be broken down into four categories: supporting, provisioning, regulating, and cultural. Within cultural services, ecosystems can provide ecotherapy. Ecotherapy is the interaction with nature to improve mental and physical well-being. Ecotherapy can be practised through actions as easy as taking a walk in nature.



Walking or hiking in nature can stimulate the senses and engage the body in physical activity, both of which can improve your overall well-being.

Wagner Natural Area and its Marl Pond Trail are an ideal location for experiencing

ecotherapy. When walking the Marl Pond Trail, one can hear the singing of birds, the croaking of frogs, and the calm quiet of the spruce forests. The wind and the sun can be felt on your skin as your eyes feast on the colourful visuals of the many orchids and wildflowers. Your lungs can fill with fresh, outdoor air as pleasant smells of spruce and grass delight your nose. Wagner Natural Area can be a sanctuary of nature for anyone to experience and hopefully come away with improved health and well-being.

## 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.

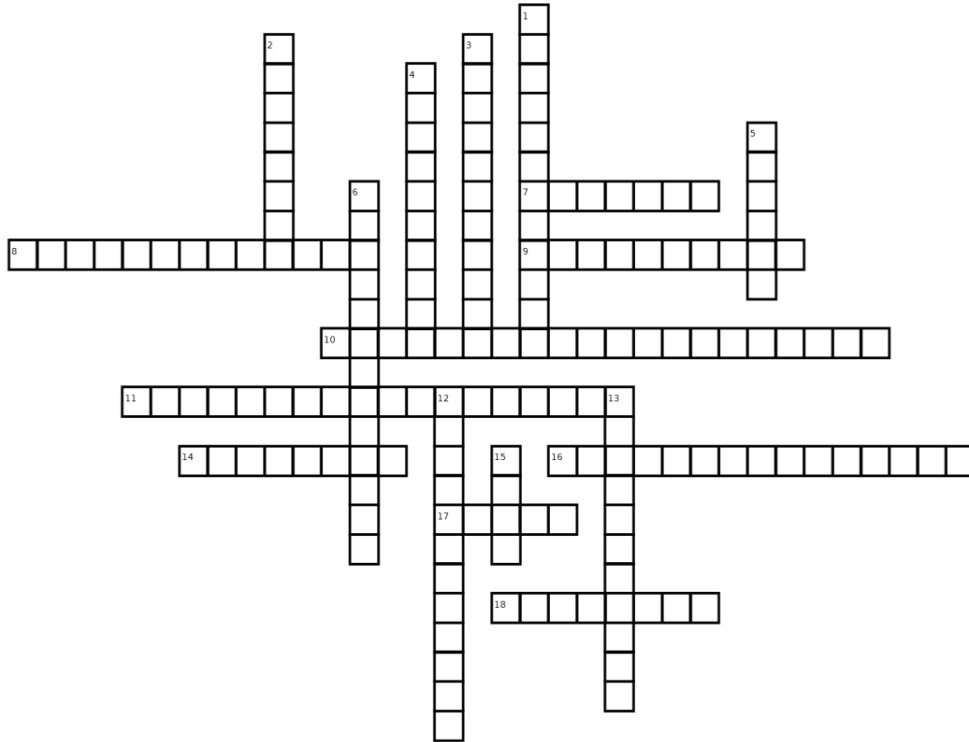
Email: [info@wagnerfen.ca](mailto:info@wagnerfen.ca)

### DONATIONS

All donations to Wagner Natural Area Society help maintain the integrity of the Natural Area and its surroundings, provide education material, enhance visitors' experiences, and support ongoing research studies and surveys.

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

# Wagner Natural Area



## Down:

1. An insect with a boat-shaped body and oar-like legs
2. A common amphibian of WNA that sounds like a quacking duck
3. A spruce tree that can tolerate wetter soils than white spruce
4. A common carnivorous plant of WNA
5. Formed by a relationship between certain species of fungi and algae
6. The name of WNA's interpretive trail
12. A small mammal that makes narrow pathways or "runways" through the trees
13. A small mammal that cuts off green cones from coniferous trees and drops them to the ground
15. Formed when dead plant material accumulates faster than it decays

## Across:

7. Plants that have a special relationship with fungi to obtain nourishment
8. Local farmer who once owned the original area of WNA
9. A plant with dual pink, bell-like flowers
10. A small mammal that stuffs its cheek pouches with herbaceous plants
11. The flower emblem of WNA
14. Underground layers of sand and gravel that transmit groundwater
16. Red-stemmed shrub that is a favourite food of white-tailed deer and moose
17. A name for standing dead trees
18. A deciduous conifer that loses its needles at the onset of winter

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Hint: All answers to the crossword can be found in the Marl Pond Trail guidebook, so why not make a special trip out to Wagner Natural Area!



**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.  
CRA B/N119287522 RR 0001

The Society's annual fee is \$10 for Supporting Members and \$15 for Voting Members. The Society's fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.

Annual fee (Supporting \$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

**BIRDS OF WAGNER**



Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*

**SPRING CLEAN-UP**

A huge shout-out and thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help with the annual spring clean-up of Wagner Natural Area. Everyone did a wonderful job and your valuable time and effort were greatly appreciated. Wagner will be looking spick and span for the spring and summer!



**A letter from the WNAS President: Dave Ealey**



Actually, here's a wordcloud butterfly of all the words in the President's Letters from our first year of the Friends of the Fen e-newsletter.

Here's to the next year of communicating with Wagner Natural Area visitors and supporters.

Come out to one of our events or work bees and see what's so special about our environmental gem.