



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

Water coming back to marl ponds along trail



Carpet of fall tamarack needles



Upcoming events:

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Open House

What: Wagner Natural Area Society OPEN HOUSE "Research at Wagner: Past, Present and Future"

Where: Pioneer Centre,
301 Jespersen Avenue,
Spruce Grove.

When: Sat. November 16 --- 2 to 4 p.m.

Who: let us know you'll be there by emailing info@wagnerfen.ca and we can be prepared for everyone.

Format: Presentations from 2 to 3 p.m., then snacks and view displays on Wagner research projects over the years. Refreshments provided.

2020 Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MTG

--date (early 2020) and location TBD

OTHER ACTIVITIES

--watch for these fun and informative events;
tentative dates set soon

- Spring Clean-up
- May Species Counts
- Orchid Walk—Father's Day
- Work Bees and Weed Pulls
- Fall Clean-up
- Open House

Visit our website:

www.wagnerfen.ca

for more information on upcoming events at Wagner Natural Area.

Articles written by Dave Ealey unless otherwise indicated. Guest articles welcomed.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Wagner Workout Routines

One of the more interesting outreach opportunities for 2019 was a talk presented to a Mental Health workshop in Spruce Grove. Our summer student, Bob Underschultz, accompanied me to share our perspective about the healthful effects of being in the out-of-doors. While the focus of the workshop was around stress release and “forest-bathing” [think immersion in a forest environment—we aren’t advocating taking dips in the marl ponds!], we enjoyed making connections with the other workshop participants on the merits of the physical efforts made in the cause of sustaining a natural area.

Of course, this led to the idea that volunteers at Wagner Natural Area are benefitting **for free** thanks to the physical activities they undertake on site. More than just improved mental wellness, we believe our volunteers gain improved stamina and physical conditioning from participating in the following Wagner Workout Routines.

Stronger Backs – come from bending to cut sweet clover:



Stronger core muscles and enlarged arm & shoulder muscles – due to hauling heavy bags of Pale Yellow Iris. Summer student demonstrating superior “pipes” following an active summer.



Improved eye-hand coordination – comes from dexterity developed on Clean-up Days!

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



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 5 for the donation/volunteer form.



Improved arm joint stability – two types of arm extension shown for multiple benefits.



Improved facial muscles from a sense of relief following a job well done!



It's unlikely that we will be patenting the Wagner Workout Routines any time soon, but perhaps there is an opportunity to raise some funds for WNAS by encouraging personal trainers to bring their clients out to Wagner Natural Area during our Spring and Fall Clean-up Days!!!

Wettest Summer in Thirty-seven Years!!

Many visitors remarked about how unusually wet our summer was along the Marl Pond Trail. We're used to the trail being regularly flooded immediately following spring melt of our winter snow, and sometimes that flooding persists for a couple weeks. However, we have never had such a wet summer nor flooding of the trail that lasted through much of our summer. If we are now in a wetter cycle, we may experience such flooding again and will need to adapt our trail management accordingly.



This year we made use of a number of temporary planks (see picture of planks collected during Fall Clean-up) to help visitors walk along the trail. It didn't help that the water became so high in some locations that our boards started to float! Some visitors began to create their own alternative trails around the wetter areas, which is not desirable, so we will monitor the situation to make the trail as walkable as possible but also minimize disturbance of the sensitive vegetation along the trail.

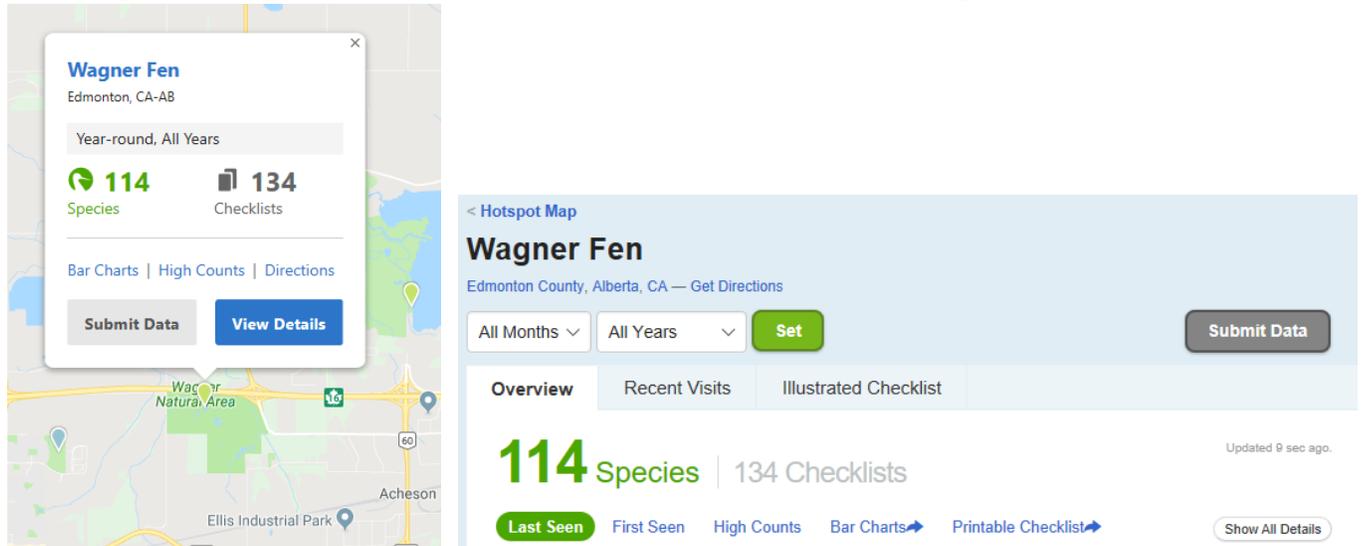
What is good news, we hope, is that the marl ponds along our trail are also getting more water again and showing signs of frog and toad activity during the breeding season. The marl pond water is primarily groundwater flow rather than the surface flow we experienced on parts of the trail...it will be interesting if those ponds with their photogenic reflective surfaces are restored soon.

E-Bird by Alan Hingston

Do you walk the marl pond trail noting the birds you see on your way?

eBird is a citizen science project organized by the Cornell Lab for Ornithology that allows birders to report their sightings. Following registration at the site, you will be invited to report your sightings. If you click on “submit” you can select the day you visited Wagner Fen and provide details of the type of visit, time and duration, following which a checklist will open for you to enter your sightings.

These sightings will be added to observations of other observers. Wagner Fen is a “hotspot” and at time of writing a total of 134 checklists and 114 species have been reported (Figure 1).



By clicking “explore” and identifying “Wagner Fen” the cumulative sightings can be viewed. Under tables like “first seen” and “last seen” the reports of other observers can be viewed (Figure 2).

The illustrated checklist is particularly useful bringing up a bar chart of bird sightings which can include photos and audio recordings, if available (Figure 3).



If you are competitive you can compare your number of species seen with others. Can you beat President Dave Ealey’s total of 56 species reported?

For more information visit: <https://ebird.org/home>

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.

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

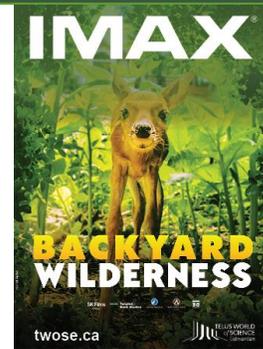
Name(s): _____

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

SPECIAL OFFER:



Thanks to Telus World of Science—Edmonton, we've been able to arrange for all Members, Staff, Visitors, Volunteers and Neighbours of Wagner Natural Area a special discount to attend a new feature film at the IMAX cinema at the World of Science on "Backyard Wilderness." Simply use the following code when you go to book tickets online or in person and over the phone: [BYWILD10%](#)

Here is the website link for more info about the film: www.twose.ca/backyardwilderness

Backyard Wilderness will surprise and entertain viewers with the unexpected wonders of nature that are right under our noses—in our own backyards. Spanning a seasonal year around a suburban home, the film displays a stunning array of unique wildlife images and behavior—all captured by cameras mounted inside dens and nests, and moving along the forest floor and pond bottom, to reveal its inhabitants in rare and breathtaking intimacy. We follow Katie, a young girl, and her modern family living next to the woods ...

A letter from the WNAS President: Dave Ealey

I look forward to seeing a good crowd at our Open House on November 16. Almost as much fun for me as travelling out to the natural area to check out seasonal birds or enjoying a trip around the perimeter, is an opportunity to talk with other people about the site.

I have also been enjoying rummaging through our archives looking for interesting information. Most of these reports, maps, or data have not been presented in detail before, so I think attendees at the Open House will be interested to see the effort that's been taken to study the biodiversity at Wagner.