

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



The Marl Pond Trail in its winter glory, December 2021. Let's hope the bountiful snow replenishes our groundwater.



Upcoming events:

Annual General Meeting 2022

**When: Saturday, March 26
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

What: Brief business report and election of new Directors, followed by a wetland presentation by Kristyn Mayner.

Where: Meeting is on Zoom to cope with the unresolved Covid situation.

Please pre-register by emailing info@wagnerfen.ca.

A Zoom invite will be sent to everyone who registers.

Wetland Presentation at AGM

Using Wetland Classification as a Tool for Awareness & Conservation

By Kristyn Mayner, Wetland Stewardship Specialist with Ducks Unlimited Canada's National Boreal Program.

Kristyn is senior author of the recently published Alberta Wetland Classification System Field Guide.

She will focus on forested wetlands, for which Wagner Natural Area is a prime example.

Visit our website:

www.wagnerfen.ca

for more information on upcoming events at Wagner Natural Area.

All content by Dave Ealey unless otherwise acknowledged.

SITE MANAGEMENT

Support Us

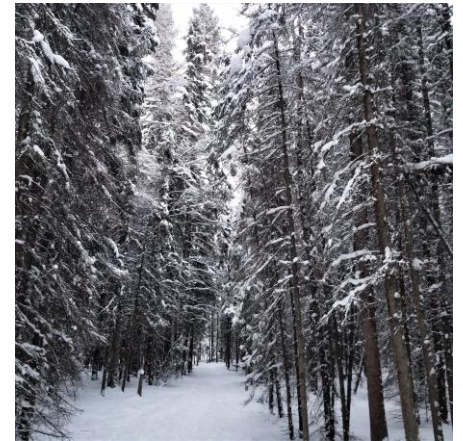
Picnic Shelter Rejuvenation

Maintenance of the area around our picnic shelter involved a number of volunteers during our fall clean-up on September 26. We hope the clearing of some of the dense shrubbery and trees, especially the overhanging spruce and tamarack boughs, will make the picnic shelter more inviting for our visitors. (Pictures of the workers were unavailable for this issue, but we'll have them on display later.)

If you didn't notice the change, that's OK. The next time you visit the picnic shelter, we think you will recognize the more open view of the Centre Meadow visible from the west side of the shelter. Enjoy.

While you are in the shelter, we are sure you **will** notice the absence of graffiti! (At least until the next time some Neanderthal decides to scribe their nonsense over the walls and rafters.) The weather warmed up just enough in early November for a targeted treatment with a hardy outdoor paint to cover the conspicuous scrawlings inside and out of the shelter.

Just who is this Dolly character who thinks it's fine to assault our visitors with his (or her) messes??



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 help maintain the integrity of the Natural Area and its surroundings, provide education material, enhance visitor's experiences, and support on-going research studies and surveys.

Please see page 5 for the donation/volunteer form.



In addition to sprucing up the walls, the table and bench were made more presentable. Donations made through our donation boxes and online (check the main page at wagnerfen.ca) have helped us with covering costs of maintenance at the Wagner Natural Area. Thank you to all those who have contributed donations and volunteer time for Site Management.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

What's In a Sign?

Well, it took some time, but in 2021 we finally produced and installed an updated map showing the location of Wagner Natural Area in the context of neighbouring lands. Thanks to design expertise and help with production from Alberta Parks, input from the WNAS Board, and volunteer installation by Dave, Alan and Robert, the sign was up by mid-July. An inset map shows a simplified version of the Marl Pond Trail.



Photos by Leota Cummins and Gerald Romanchuk adorn our Welcome message, while the Park Regulations and Contact Information give guidance to visitors in an official format. We'll try to communicate with visitors by using this panel to announce events, etc.

Expenses for the production of the sign were covered by donations from Wagner visitors. Thanks for your generous contributions over the years.

Watch your step as you navigate the boardwalk on the Marl Pond Trail. With this much snow, it can be slippery as the foot traffic increases. This site is one of my favourite views of the natural area...every season is different and has its own special charms.



MEMBERSHIP --- WAGNER NATURAL AREA SOCIETY

Support / Donate / Volunteer

For information about Wagner Natural Area or the Society and about field trips and other activities, go to wagnerfen.ca.

Wagner Natural Area Society is a Registered Charity. Donations will help maintain this very special area; \$20 or more are 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 (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

Or scan the completed form and pay online. Submit your membership/donation by Interac bank transfer to:
treasurer@wagnerfen.ca
May 2021

Site Management

This bench located at a signpost just north of the boardwalk was repositioned during the fall clean-up in September. It had sunk several centimetres into the soil, so now should be a lot easier for visitors to use in the snowfree season.

Graciously donated to the natural area, often in remembrance of loyal visitors, these benches are valued by many.

Please treat them with respect.



Letter from President: Dave Ealey

In my role as President, I am always thrilled to meet new visitors and salute regulars who support the conservation of the Wagner Natural Area. Sometimes it's challenging to deal with the external pressures and the bureaucratic complexities associated with the obligations of WNAS as the land manager, especially when surrounded by incompatible land uses and competing demands on our special area.

However, like many of our visitors, I appreciate the opportunity to connect with the natural features and to become familiar with favourite scenes. Walking the Marl Pond Trail gives me a chance to de-stress and appreciate time spent with the birds and the orchids.

Wagner Natural Area is my place of spiritual nourishment...I hope others find such solace during their visits.