

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



A brand new Wagner mug, bearing our logo in a classic design, is proudly displayed by Irl Miller for his service as a long-time WNAS Board member. Irl and Derek Johnson (right) are the first recipients of these unique awards



Upcoming events:

Spring Clean-Up at Wagner

**When: Saturday, May 7
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

What: Pick-a-little, tote-a-little and before you know it, Wagner is almost pristine again!

Where: Meet at the Wagner parking lot.

Who: Anyone who wants to volunteer is much appreciated!!

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

Some snacks and water available. Bring rubber boots and gloves; bags and pick-up sticks provided. Tasks simple—smiles, free!

2022 Activities

May Species Counts:

May 28 (birds 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m. tours) Leader: Dave Ealey.

May 29 (flowering plants 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) Leader: Patsy Cotterill.

Orchid Walk:

Sunday, June 19 (Father's Day) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Visit our website:

www.wagnerfen.ca

for more information on upcoming events at Wagner Natural Area.

All content by Dave Ealey unless otherwise acknowledged.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Support Us

March 26, 2022—Zoom Along2

Once again, thanks to COVID, we went the high tech route and made use of the Zoom app to meet (virtually). Following a brief business meeting with elections and all the necessary reports, we finished on time, so all could listen to our guest speaker, Kristyn Mayner. For an organization so closely connected to the interface between groundwater and surface water, WNAS lives, sleeps and breathes wetlands. What a delight to unravel some of the complexity of Alberta’s wetlands by listening to Kristyn’s well-rounded introduction to the Alberta Wetland Classification System Field Guide!

2021 Annual Report Wagner Natural Area Society

Dave Ealey, President

Another year of following COVID protocol really limited the number and types of events that could be held at Wagner Natural Area. We still held clean-ups, weed pulls and wire roll-ups, though.

With Zoom meetings, our Board business carried on, and we held our first ever virtual AGM!

Our web team completed an update of the Wagner Natural Area website to make it mobile-friendly, and we have been paying more attention to the Facebook page, all to enhance our social media presence.

While we didn’t have our beloved Orchid Walk or other field tours with the public in 2021, we did have a significant increase of public visiting the Marl Pond Trail, as one of the safe COVID-friendly activities available for Parkland County and Capital Region residents.

We even had our first-ever broadcast on CBC’s *Our Edmonton* program as the lead story.

In late June, we dealt with the challenge of presenting to the Parkland County Subdivision and Development Appeal Board our concerns about impacts from the actions of an adjacent landowner’s land use.

In mid-July, we finally installed a new map and welcoming information on our (formerly) blank kiosk. Design and production work from Alberta Parks was instrumental in completing this project.

And another first, the presentation of an introduction to Wagner Natural Area on Nature Alberta’s inaugural ChitChat event—an online PechaKucha affair, shared with other member clubs in Nature Alberta’s network.



Marl Pond Trail opening after a long winter!

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 4 for the donation/volunteer form.

Highlights and Activities 2021 for Wagner Natural Area Society

Feb. 2—board mtg
 Mar. 10—board mtg
 Mar. 27—WNAS AGM on Zoom
 Apr. 6—board mtg
 May 4/5—West Parkland Gas Co-op volunteer field crew on trail and south Wagner tree management
 May 8—spring clean-up
 May 11—board meeting
 May 25—CBC filming at Wagner for *Our Edmonton* program
 May 29/30—May species count (birds)(plants)
 June 21—Parkland County SDAB hearing
 July 14—Installed new map and welcome signage on kiosk
 Sept. 26—fall clean-up
 Oct. 5—board mtg
 Nov. 9—Nature Alberta ChitChat presentation
 Nov. 16—board mtg

Volunteer Hours by Wagner Natural Area Society

- Society meetings – 225 person-hours
 - *Admin./governance - 225 person-hours*
 - Site Management
 - Clean-ups and monthly monitors— 200 person-hours
 - Weed clearing and wire roll-ups— 50 person-hours
 - *Site Management - 250 person-hours*
 - Research—
 - nest box banding & maint./ bird surveys – 25 person-hours
 - May Species counts— 30 person-hours
 - Vegetation studies 20 person-hours
 - *Research - 75 person-hours*
 - Public Education and Outreach
 - Talks/Booths/field tours/AGM— 110 person-hours
 - Info. Kiosk/signage/website and e-newsletter— 50 person-hours
 - *Public Outreach - 160 person-hours*
- Total** 710 person-hours

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Board News – Following the AGM, the Wagner Natural Area Society Board met to elect a new executive and plan for the new year. Sadly, two of the members have left the Board: Alan Hingston and Morgan Higginson. We appreciate their contributions as Treasurer and Director, respectively, and for all they have done in support of Wagner Natural Area.

The new executive consists of Past President—Dave Ealey, Secretary—Beth Jenkinson, Treasurer—Melissa Chisholm. The positions of President and Vice-President are currently unfilled, but the remaining Directors will ensure the business of the Society continues. All of the Directors play various roles on the projects and day-to-day management of WNAS; more will be covered about the different jobs the Directors do in coming newsletters. In addition to the Executive, the following Directors remain on the Board: Ben Rostron, Carolyn Vanderveen, Cheryl Johnson, Chris Saunders, Claudia Palylyk, and Robert Holt.

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

Society's annual fee is \$10 for Supporting Members and \$15 for Voting Members. Voting members are key to run WNAS; must qualify through nomination. See website. 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
[April 2022]

Site Management

This bench located near signpost # 5 is in rough shape, showing signs of graffiti and cutting...it's next on our list for repair! These heavy duty benches are very expensive to buy, so we hope to save costs by replacing the boards this year.

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 Past President: Dave Ealey--- This coming year is challenging with some projects underway:

- developing an invasive species management strategy to better cope with the influx of weeds from external sites and on former agricultural fields within the natural area;
- building a more inclusive approach to welcome individuals from disadvantaged, BIPOC, and vulnerable communities to the special environmental experience that Wagner Natural Area offers;
- training/supervising a summer student, thanks to Can. Parks & Rec. Assoc. (managing federal youth hiring); and
- building capacity to enable WNAS to work more effectively with our neighbours.

The challenge is made more difficult because of reduced "bench strength" on the Board (2 members of our 11-member Board have departed), and my term as President reached its limit under our bylaws. But that means there's a core of experienced Board members ready to welcome new volunteers to the fold. Interested?!? Come to one of our events and meet one of the leaders in the field of nature conservation. Make your retirement meaningful or add a new experience to your skill-set and impress your colleagues.