

THE SAGEBRUSH CHRONICLE



Photo by: O. Mognard



Prairie species at risk on Alberta's working ranches: Achieving recovery through monitoring & adaptive management

By: Don Watson, P. Biol. Stewardship Co-ordinator/Project Manager: Operations Grassland Community (OGC), Alberta Fish and Game

For almost 28 years of native prairie conservation, OGC has focused its efforts at local scales - working on relatively small parcels of land, and protecting or enhancing habitats for single species. Moving forward, we will not discard this approach (participating wherever there is urgent need, or high value); however, we will also continue in our expansion to a focus on broad-scale opportunities. While a small-scale approach will certainly address proximate causes of the threats of habitat loss and/or degradation, it cannot be the ultimate solution to reducing or eliminating these threats.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

- **7:00 to 7:45 PM: Business Meeting**
- **7:45 to 8:00 PM: Socializing**
- **8:00 to 9:00 PM: Presentation by Don Watson**

Executive

President	Hugh Armstrong Armstr55@telus.net	526-1003
Vice-President	Anne Bernhardt	527-2792
Secretary	Betty Rainville brainville@telus.net	528-2925
Treasurer and Memberships	Eileen Cowtan ecowtan@hotmail.com	526-1264
Past-President	Dave McKenzie naturist@telus.net	527-1701
Directors at Large	Gary Martin gammag4211@gmail.com Ian & Angela Turner ianang@telus.net	878-3483 526-1350

MH Interpretive Program

(Managed by Grassland Naturalists)
Based in Police Point Park Nature Centre
Open Year Round
Tuesday to Sunday: 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Washrooms are on a timer and are open from
7:00AM to 8:00PM daily!

To get up to date information on what is
happening at the Nature Centre call the:
Nature Line at (403) 529-6225
Also find us on Facebook and Twitter
(policepointpark)

Wetland Wonders and River Riparian Health

This display is currently at the Nature Centre and it will show there is more to our water places than meets the eye. This display was made possible by two grants from the Land Stewardship Centre and through hard work by volunteers.

Seedy Saturday: Saturday, April 22
1:30 to 3:30PM

Celebrate Earth Day! Bring seeds to swap and envelopes to take seeds home.

Shine Up the Park: Saturday, April 29
10:30 to 11:30.

Take a walk and tidy up Police Point Park, then join in for lunch around the campfire.

The Sagebrush Chronicle is published ten times a year by Grasslands Naturalists. **Submissions of writing and artwork are welcomed but must be edited for publication. Deadline: the 10th of each month.** If you would like to advertise in the Chronicle, more information is available from the editor. Submissions are to be sent to: milton.spitzer@gmail.com (403-528-3120). Do not embed photos in articles but **do send** them separately.

The Society of Grasslands Naturalists encourages the study, conservation and protection of all components of the natural world. The Society provides educational opportunities, assists in the collection and provision of species data, acts as stewards of the environment, discusses environmental topics and organizes member activities. The Society also manages the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program.

General Meetings: 4th Tuesday, Sept. - May **Board Meetings:** 1st Tuesday Sept. -June

To join Grasslands Naturalists and/or send a tax-deductible donation, write:

Grasslands Naturalists
Box 2491
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G8

Contact info: Nature Centre 529-6225

Annual Membership Dues: Eileen Cowtan

Individuals	\$20
Families	\$25
Organizations	\$25

Donations to Grassland Naturalists and Interpretive Program are another great way to support local nature and nature education. Tax receipts are issued for all donations over \$10. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed by the authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the editor and the Grasslands Naturalists. The editor reserves the right to edit, reject or withdraw articles submitted. While due care will be taken of all manuscripts, photos or artwork submitted, GN cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to such articles.

GN Website:

<http://www.natureline.info/gn>

GN Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/GrasslandsNaturalists/>

You must be a Facebook member to view most of it.

Volunteers Still Needed!!!!!!

The Easter Weekend is fast approaching (April 14 to 17) and the Nature Centre desperately needs many volunteers to make this event a continuing success. Over 5,000 people attended this event last year.

Phone: 403 529-6225 and ask for Lisa.

Member's Corner

We extend our very hearty thanks and appreciation to the Executive and Directors for all stepping up to continue their roles with Grasslands Naturalists for the next year. They did an amazing job last year and we look forward to a very successful 2017/18.

Also we thank Dave McKenzie for stepping up to assume the role of Casino Manager. Save the dates of September 28 and 29 and volunteer for this, our major fund raising event.

Exciting News! Nature Centre Upgrades Coming!

By Corlaine Gardner

On March 27, the **Medicine Hat Accommodation Association (MHAA)** presented **Mayor Clugston** with a cheque for **\$270,000** to be used towards refurbishing the Nature Centre. Many Grasslands Naturalists members as well as Park Department staff and Councillors **Les Pearson** and **Bill Cocks** were present to celebrate the good news.

The Nature Centre opened in 1982, and is showing its age. We have known that this grant was planned and **Hugh Armstrong**, our GN President, has been working hard to match this money with some potential grants from other organizations. The actual list of needed renovations exceeds that of the MHAA grant.

The list of renovations is quite long! One of the most notable will be the addition of a wheelchair accessible unisex bathroom. The present ski room will be converted and a replacement ski room will be added on behind it. The big, heavy front doors will be replaced with see through automatic doors. The wiring in the exhibit area and theatre will be replaced. The walls in the main exhibit area will be redone. We hope that the brick pavers inside and out will be replaced. And the list goes on! Feel free to talk to us if you are curious.

We look forward to an interesting time working around the construction, knowing that it will improve our Nature Centre. We really appreciate that the Accommodation Association recognizes that the Police Point Nature Centre, and our Interpretive Program are treasures that help visitors and residents enjoy the City.



Cheque presentation to Mayor Clugston by members Elisha Ammann and Jill Scherer, of the Medicine Hat Accommodation Association.

Photo by Medicine Hat News.

President's Message April 2017 Chronicle

As I write this, the early morning of April 10th, the sun is shining in my living room window and I have just come back from walking the dogs in the off leash park above PPP. The first thing I heard this morning was a Meadowlark greeting the rising sun and, as I followed the sound, it was sitting at the top of the one lonely tree that grows on that piece of prairie. Off in the distance another lark was answering. As the sun rose the grass began to show its new green, glistening from the rain the night before. Then, the geese pairs started to ascend from the river announcing their presence as they did. As I got closer to the park entrance the two pelicans that have been sitting on the sand bar the last few days began their ascent to somewhere. The herons, that have returned, lazily were making their way above the golf course. Spring has definitely arrived and we are lucky to have all its signs within the confines of this city!

But, with the spring comes the work of cleaning up from the previous months. So please don't forget to mark April 22nd and 29th on your calendars. These are days for cleaning Brier Run on the 22nd and PP Park on the 29th. I have registered us as a group to do Brier Run again this year. There should be announcements in this Chronicle about these two events.

At the same time as the cleaning is happening at PPP, we are hoping to do some tree wrapping, as the beaver have been gnawing on quite a few trees near their lodge close to the Nature Centre. We also will be wrapping trees along the riverfront from Maple Ave. Bridge to the library. So, if you want to get outside this spring, here is your chance to get some fresh air. Just call me to volunteer.

Corlaine and I had a productive meeting with the Parks and Recreation Project Superintendent, Jamie Mcleod, on the Nature Centre Upgrade. It would seem the timelines for this will be pushed back some as there are still a lot of preliminary developments and discussions required. But, their hope is to still get this started this summer or fall.

The big PPP Easter weekend is fast approaching and volunteers are still needed. Phone Lisa or go down to the Nature Centre to sign up. We need more people this year, as we do the Parking Control thing. The city is going to provide two buses to run from the Unity Lutheran Church parking lot for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

So see you all this weekend,
Hugh

Endowment Fund Set Up With CFSEA

This is a reminder that the Society of Grasslands Naturalists have set up an endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta. If interested in making a donation please contact Chris Christie, Executive Director, at chris@cfsea.ca or phone 403-527-9038.

Volunteers Needed!!

The Grasslands Naturalists have three dates reserved to have a table set up at the Farmer's Market. These dates are: May 27, June 3, and September 16. The hours required to man the table is from 9 am to 1 pm. This is a great way to let the general public know about our club and what we do. If interested in helping out please call Angela at 403-526-1350.

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS TREASURER'S REPORT for 2016 year

As presented at the AGM March 22, 2017: Eileen Cowtan, Treasurer

2016 was a financially sound year for Grasslands Naturalists. The financial statements include information for the Grasslands Naturalists 'Club, its Casino account and the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program which it manages.

Grasslands Naturalists 'Club'

The club's financial situation remains relatively unchanged from the previous year with total equity decreasing by \$423 to \$23,898.

Income and expense accounts are in line with previous years with the exception of the receipt and then dispersal of a \$10,000 FCSS (Family and Community Support Services) grant from the City.

Casino

The net income from the operation of the casino held in February 2016 was \$14,897. This has not yet been dispersed.

Medicine Hat Interpretive Program

The magnitude of the both revenue and expenses (\$253,383 and \$247,064 respectively) demonstrates the continued robust activity of the program.

The primary source of income, \$144,939, continues to be the contract with the City of Medicine Hat for the operation of the program. The amount of money received from grants this year increased by \$16,250 to \$47,249. Local organizations continued to sponsor various community events: Family Day – Kiwanis \$1000, Easter – Kinsmen \$2500 and The Lions – December hayride.

Operational income included monies received from the supply of programs, mostly to schools (\$18,199) and sales from the Nature Shop (\$11,433 net). The main expenditure items are staffing costs, \$190,006 and expenses related to the operation of the program. The true cost of the various projects is not reflected in the statements because much of their expense is the cost of the labour involved.

The program is operating in a fiscally responsible manner. Its total equity increased this year by \$6319 for a final figure of \$48,691.

"Exploring Our Neighbourhood" Walk of Three Coulees: Marlborough, Kin and Ajax Tuesday morning March 28, 2017 led by John Slater

Following tea/coffee and cookies at 10am, we set off at 10:30am down a spur of Marlborough Coulee behind my house on McNeely Court SE and Marlborough Park to the paved path leading to Seven Persons Creek. The morning stroll was enjoyed by 11 GN members: Tina Regehr, Dave McKenzie, Dwayne Myers, Barry & June Anderson, Len & Linda Moser, Milt & Elaine Spitzer, and Bev & John Slater. The sky was clear and the air was warming from 5C to about 15C by the time we finished at noon. As we made our way to Kin Coulee and up Ajax Coulee, Dwayne, Milt and Len reported and photographed up to 14 species of birds such as Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted



Photo by D Myers

Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, Robins, European Starlings, Rock Doves, House Finch, Black-billed Magpies, Ring-necked Pheasant, House Sparrows, Downy Woodpecker, Canada Geese, Mallards, and even one Merlin. Also, Dave spotted three different butterflies: 5 Mourning Cloaks, 2 Milbert's Tortoise Shell and 1 Satyr Comma. This was a most enjoyable way to spend time outdoors with friends of GN. I am looking forward to many more "Exploring Our Neighbourhood" walks this year. Check the announcements in the Sagebrush Chronicle each month for dates, times and locations. Thanks to everyone for coming out!

Exciting Sightings

As we enter the second week of April, spring migration is now well underway! The annual northbound flights of **Snow Geese** and **Tundra Swans** have been reported by numerous birders from several locations in Southeastern Alberta. Other waterfowl migrants including **Northern Pintails**, **Northern Shovelers**, and **American Wigeon** were among the first arrivals at our grassland lakes and wetlands, now free from the icy grip of winter.

Participants of a recent GN field trip to the Manyberries area returned with reports of **Ferruginous Hawks** establishing territories; **Sharp-tailed Grouse** displaying, and the first signs of shorebird migration including two **Greater Yellowlegs**. The grasslands once again are alive with the songs of **Western Meadowlarks**. **Red-tailed Hawks** have been observed at various local nest sites. The following exciting sightings have been reported recently:

Courtney Tripp reported a most unusual sighting of a **Hawk Owl**, which he observed flying in an easterly direction over HWY 41 just north of the Cypress Hills on February 11th. Considered a vagrant in the fall and winter in the prairie region, this species has been recorded overwintering as far south as the Montana border.

Two **Great Blue Herons** were observed by Milt and Elaine Spitzer on March 18th. The herons have not returned to the heronry across from Police Point Park, apparently deterred by the presence of a pair of nesting **Bald Eagles**. Ed. Note: Some 20 plus Herons are now taking up residence in their old rookery downstream of last year's site.

While birding on March 21st Ian and Wendy Wallis encountered an **American Kestrel** which was hovering in the wind east of Lethbridge, they also observed 20 **Tundra Swans** while travelling along RGE Road 84 at the south end of Sauder's reservoir.

Two **American White Pelicans** were present on a gravel bar on the South Saskatchewan River across from Police Point Park on March 25th, and again on April 9th.

On March 18th Milt and Elaine Spitzer observed a **Townsend's Solitaire** at Police Point Park. This species breeds in the mountains and foothills, small numbers can be seen in spring and fall in the grasslands but can be easily missed. The Spitzers also reported a male **Wood Duck** at Strathcona Island Park on April 5th, the brightly coloured male is unmistakable.



Photo by: R. Frew



Photo by M. Spitzer

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** the smallest of our accipiter species, was present near the Nature Centre at Police Point Park on April 5th.

Send your exciting sightings to
Bob Frew: phone 403-526-4573,
or e-mail: Robert.frew@shaw.ca

< Obviously the male Mountain Bluebird is being scolded for some indiscretion.

Upcoming Events, Field Trips and Announcements



Photo by: D. Myers

Alberta Plant Watch: What an exciting time of year as plants become active and break out in blooms. GN members and the public are encouraged to participate in citizen science by reporting on the progress of flowering plants in their neighbourhood. To obtain reporting forms and procedures go to:

www.plantwatch.ca or

plantwatch.naturealberta.ca

Friday to Monday, April 14 to 17: "Easter Weekend at Police Point Park" 10:00AM to 4:00PM except Monday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Lisa could still use some volunteers. Phone: 403 529-6225.

Saturday, April 22: City Wide Cleanup on Earth Day: Grasslands Naturalists will be doing the Brier Run area again this year. Meet at the parking lot by the play area near the Leisure Centre at **09:00AM**. A free Barbeque will be held at the Parks and Recreation Building at **Noon**.

Saturday, April 22: "Seedy Saturday": 1:30 to 3:30PM: At Police Point Park: Bring seeds to swap and envelopes to take seeds home.

Tuesday, April 25: Flower Walks led by Martha Munz Gue: Two walks starting at 08:00 and at 4:00PM. Meet at the PAS air quality monitoring station across from McCoy High School.

Saturday, April 29: "Spring Shine up the Park" 10:30 to 11:30: Take a walk and tidy up Police Point Park, then join in for lunch around the campfire. Also we hope to do some tree wrapping near the beaver lodge as the beavers are working diligently at the trees.

Saturday, April 29: "Butterfly Walk" TBA: This walk will take place at a time and place to be determined by Dave McKenzie to maximize butterfly sightings. An announcement will be made via email once the site has been determined.

Tuesday, May 2: "Neighbourhood Walk along Seven Persons Creek:" 10:30AM: Meet at the bottom of Scholten Hill on South Railway Street at the creek crossing. Led by John Slater.

Saturday, May 6: "Field Trip to Wildhorse Area": Meet at the Tim Horton's near the Mall at **07:00AM**. It's a long drive and the trip will take most of the day so bring a lunch and appropriate clothing. Depending on time a stop could be made at Elkwater. Led by M. Spitzer.

Tuesday, May 9: "Neighbourhood Walk around the NE Stormwater Retention Ponds:" Meet at the Northhill Co-op at **10:30**. Led by Elaine Spitzer.

Saturday, May 13: "Annual Field Trip to Sauder's/Murray Reservoir": Led by Phil Horch: Meet at the A&W on Gershaw Drive at **07:30**. This trip should end slightly after noon. As usual after visiting Sauder's and Rattlesnake Reservoir a pit stop will be made at Premium Sausage at Seven Persons. One can imbibe in a smokie and/or purchase your meat supplies if you so wish. From here we will proceed to Murray Reservoir and then back to the A&W.

Chinook Greenhouse Tour by D. Myers

This past Saturday, John Slater, led a group of 13 Grassland Naturalists on a tour of a reforestation greenhouse, Chinook Greenhouses, that has the capacity to grow 10 million container seedlings at one time in a 23,225 square metre production facility.

Grower Russ Braham led the tour inside the greenhouses explaining how such a massive operation works and he amiably answered all our questions. It is quite the impressive site and is located on Bridge Street right here in Medicine Hat.

The crop consists mostly of White Spruce and Lodgepole Pine, but also includes Black Spruce, Larch, and Poplar seedlings. All is climate controlled specific for the type of seed planted and is hydrated by automatic watering with fertilizer mixed right in the water. Seeds are catalogued to identify where each seed came from to ensure that the seedlings, once grown to a required height, are sent to a similar area and elevation.

Planting and harvesting is automatic with state of the art seeding and harvest equipment. Seeds are planted into individual trays able to hold from 50 to 144 seedlings. Weeding and thinning on the other hand requires intensive manual labour and relies heavily on the availability of temporary foreign workers largely from Trinidad.

There is also a cold storage facility that can keep close to a million seedlings cold enough to remain dormant after the seedlings are packed in boxes for shipping later in the spring.

Dwayne Myers (along with many other GN members) took lots of photos from the Chinook Greenhouses GN visit this past Saturday and has posted some on Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BzUzuailzJ1TSmtqcFExVTYyRms?usp=sharing>

Quite a massive undertaking and well worth the tour.

Thank you very much.

Annual Manyberries Area Field Trip led by Ben Velner

Twelve participants braved the Manyberries Chinook to participate in this outing. Again the trip did not disappoint as 42 species of birds were observed along with 5 mammal species (not counting the pot-bellied pigs at the Stryker's Ranch). The Sharp-tailed Grouse again put on a show with some 30 plus dancers on the lek (note we did not approach the lek but observed this phenomena through scopes from the graveled Range Road). We did not see the vast numbers of waterfowl observed in the past. Mr. Stryker indicated that thousands of Swans had passed through a couple of weeks earlier. However we did tally 7 species of raptor.

On the return to Medicine Hat Ben led us over to the Eagle Butte Road via the Wildcat Road where a number of Mountain Bluebirds were seen as well as an immature Golden Eagle and a Northern Shrike. If you wish a complete list of species seen contact Milt Spitzer at: milton.spitzer@gmail.com.



Photo by D. Myers



Photo by: O. Mognard

Presentation on MULTISAR by Rachel Whitehouse

Grasslands Naturalists members who attended the March 28 AGM and the following Indoor Speaker presentation, enjoyed a talk by Rangeland Agrologist, Rachel Whitehouse on MULTISAR (Multiple Species at Risk). Brad Downey, MULTISAR Coordinator for Alberta Conservation Association, was also present and provided pertinent feedback to certain questions from members.

Rachel opened the presentation with an excellent video which can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhRoRkAG_kk. It explains what MULTISAR does and why they do it, and also showcases some ranches involved and the unique plants and animals that live on them. A constant theme throughout was the importance of landowner opinion, and the effort MULTISAR makes to build mutual trust and respect with these stewards of the land. Ranchers play a vital role in preserving species at risk. As stated in the video, without the ranching community there may not be any native grassland left because of pressure from other types of development (such as urbanization and industry). Sadly, there are only 36% of native grasslands remaining in Alberta. 75% of our species at risk can be found on the grasslands.

The MULTISAR project was started in 2002 as a way to achieve multi-species at risk management at the landscape level, through habitat stewardship, while still maintaining viable ranching operations. MULTISAR succeeds due to the co-operative teamwork of all partners. Some of these primary partners are; first of all the landholders (mostly ranchers), the Alberta Government, Cows and Fish, Prairie Conservation Forum, Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Environment and Parks, the Canadian Cattleman's Association (CCA) and others. As Rachel noted, MULTISARS is a grassroots community and habitat stewardship program that aims to influence, create, assist and implement. A few of the tools that MULTISAR provides to producers include range health assessments, riparian health assessments (through Cows and Fish) and wildlife assessments.

Rachel explained the five questions that are considered in order to achieve a final score for the range health assessment tool;

1. What kinds of plants are on the site?
2. Are the expected plant layers present?
3. Does the site retain moisture? What is the percentage of litter (mulch) present?
4. Is there accelerated soil erosion and bare ground?
5. Are noxious weeds present?

The total score is added to get the percentage from hi- healthy (86-100%), to low- healthy with problems (50-60%). All the range health is then compiled to make a map which helps to provide management recommendations to the producer. Cows and Fish will also give their riparian health assessment score, and their management recommendations. According to Rachel, the producers bring excellent ideas from their years of experience on the land, and they remain in the "driver's seat".

Wildlife and range health data, as described in the paragraph above, is collected from surveys carried out by range agrologists, riparian specialists, and biologists. A report, or ranch plan, is created and provided to the producer that includes specific management recommendations for maintaining and/or increasing species at risk habitat, as well as sustainable ranching. Financial assistance is another important tool that may be provided under the Habitat Conservation Strategies, to carry out improvements that can benefit wildlife habitat as well as the ranching operation. Funding for such ventures as establishment of upland watering sources to get cattle away from riparian areas may be provided. Portable stock watering units, wildlife friendly fencing, native grassland restoration and even ferruginous hawk poles are further examples of projects for which the producer may receive funding.

MULTISAR is a very useful organization for landholders who wish to provide a welcoming habitat for species at risk, as well as receiving significant benefits to their operation and livestock. Everyone gains. Thanks to Rachel for explaining this organization to Grasslands Naturalists.

Summarized by B. Rainville

Ecotrust Environmental Gathering attended by Martha Munz/Gue

I was privileged to attend, on behalf of Grasslands Naturalists, the second annual EcoTrust Environmental Gathering in Edmonton on February 23 -25. There was much opportunity to meet and mix with people from many different aspects of environmental care.

The gathering opened Thursday evening with a reception at the Alberta Art Gallery where we were entertained by flute and drumming by indigenous guests in ceremonial dress. The first speech was by the Alberta Minister of the Environment, Shannon Phillips, who described the positive trends for the environment and how Alberta is pushing for even more positive changes. Watch for a rapid change as new projects in renewables and conservation result from the revenues from carbon tax. Since taking office, Ms. Phillips has led the government's Climate Leadership Plan which is designed to diversify the economy, create new jobs and improve Alberta's health. As Minister of Environment and Parks, she has been responsible for the creation of Alberta's newest park in the Castle and a historic reinvestment in Alberta's park system.

The second speech was by Chief Littlechild who is involved with the Truth and Reconciliation movement and with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The "a-ha moment" in his speech for me was the realization that, not only were the children removed from their families to attend residential schools, but they were also removed from the land, and the lessons that the land taught their parents. Not only did the children miss being amidst their extended family, the families grieved for their children.

On Friday and Saturday at the (very) early breakfast we could choose a discussion topic to explore while enjoying a very healthy start to the day. Morning presentations on "breakthrough" projects introduced, to the crowd of more than 100, successful efforts to improve relationships among groups seeking positive change. In the afternoon we had a number of topics from which to choose our smaller group workshops and presentations. The Keynote address given on Friday evening was from Dr. Renee Lenzman on improving communication to reduce the divide that often occurs in difficult conversations that matter. Dr. Lenzman says that when it comes to meeting our most urgent ecological challenges, our engagement and communications efforts require a fundamental fluency in how people not only think, but feel about our changing world. The greatest barrier facing engagement is not more education or awareness-raising. It's how people may find it hard to process such challenging information, such as climate change threats, water and food security, threats to wildlife conservation, or our relationship with energy.

The final presentation about Social Entrepreneurship was by Shaun Loney, a senior government official who left his employment with the Department of Indian affairs to embark on initiating social enterprises among hard-to-employ people (no employable skills, addictions, repeat offenders). The successes of the social enterprises are in the book that was distributed to the first 100 people who registered. The book I received will be in the library at the Nature Centre, for your inspiration. Its title is "An Army of Problem Solvers (Shaun Loney)".

If you have an opportunity to attend the EcoTrust Environmental Gathering next year, you will be among friends who are making a difference for the environment.

Find out more at: <http://albertaecotrust.com/gathering2017/>.

Photos taken during the Past Months Activities



Enduring the Manyberries Chinook: photo by D. Myers



Ferruginous Hawk: Photo by D. Myers



Birding Tales Group with Carvers Activity at Masterpiece



Imm. Golden Eagle: photo by O. Mognard



**Territorial Dispute
Photo by D. Myers**



**Hugh
Armstrong's
Feeder Bird.**

**Sharp-
shinned or
Coopers
Hawk?**



GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Box 2491, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8G8

Membership Form for 2017

YES! I would like to be part of the Society of Grasslands Naturalists.

Name: _____ Name of 2nd Family Member: _____

Address: _____

Membership:

Individual: \$20/year _____

City / Prov: _____

Family: \$25/year _____

Postal Code: _____

Organization: \$25/year _____

Telephone: _____

Donation: _____ Tax Receipt Available

Email: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Prefer to receive GN Chronicle by: Post _____ Email _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Informed Consent and Waiver Form for 2017

I may wish to participate in field trips and events organized by Grasslands Naturalists.

I affirm that as a participant I am prepared to stay with the group and follow the directions of the coordinator. If I choose to bring my child(ren)/ward(s), I will ensure they also stay with the group and follow the directions of the coordinator and activity leader.

I affirm that, knowing my personal state of health, I feel that I am mentally and physically capable of participating in the trips and events that I choose to attend.

I acknowledge that I am aware of the inherent risks, hazards and dangers associated with activities arising from my participation in trips and events which may result in injury to me or result in my death.

Therefore in consideration of my participation in these trips and events, for myself, my heirs, my executors, my administrators and my successors, I voluntarily assume all risks and hereby waive all my rights against Grasslands Naturalists and unconditionally release and discharge the Grasslands Naturalists, its members, directors, officers, its affairs and its coordinators from all manner of activities, causes of action, suits, claims and demands for damages due to personal injury, death, loss or damage to property, expenses or otherwise which may or shall arise in any way as a result of my participation in the above trips and events.

Photograph Release

The Grasslands Naturalists have my expressed permission to use photographs of me in their publications.

Email Consent

The Grasslands Naturalists have my expressed consent to email me with information regarding my membership. Should I choose to revoke this consent, I may do so at any time by contacting Grasslands Naturalists to that effect.

Signature of Member

Signature of 2nd Family Member