

Nature Alberta Annual Report for 2020

We have been the Grasslands Naturalists club representatives with Nature Alberta since the fall of 2017. This year we listened in to meetings on April 4th, May 23rd, September 12th, and November 21st (the AGM) via teleconference.

Some of the highlights from the meetings were as follows:

1. Nature Alberta no longer had the funds for the paid position of the Executive Director, Brian Illnicki, so his term terminated at the end of April. Thankfully, Rick Schneider, has volunteered to take on the position for now.
2. Finances have been an issue for the past few years. Grants aren't as readily available. Nature Alberta is operating at 2/3 of last year's budget. Reserve funds will have to be used for the next two to three years to offset this.
3. The Communications Director resigned and a new Communications team were hired and have been doing an excellent job. The aim is to shift focus to social media, continue magazine development, and complete build-out of the website.
4. The Nature Alberta magazine has been revitalized with a new format and template that was used starting in January, 2020. The new format of the magazine is of excellent quality --- 'top notch'. It had not been updated for about seven years. AGLC gave permission to use casino funds for the NA magazine.
5. The Nature Alberta website was rebuilt and restructured. It has three main components: 'Learn About Nature', 'Explore Nature', and 'Protect Nature'. The website is current and continually updated.
6. For the 50th Anniversary of Nature Alberta a \$10 lifetime membership was available.
7. Linda Howitt-Taylor stepped down as President and Liz Watts agreed to step into this position.
8. Nature Alberta wants to create and implement a Nature Network to increase relevance of Nature Alberta and improve effectiveness of the organization. Through this Nature Network they want to provide: insurance; access to free Zoom meetings; promote clubs; promote club events and outreach efforts; provincial conservation advocacy; library resources for small clubs; host a forum for clubs; and help clubs with advice, speakers, issues, etc..
9. A Government of Alberta operating grant of \$23,800 was received.

We are pleased to announce that a new Grasslands Naturalists member, Brooke Kapeller, has taken on the role of representative for our club with Nature Alberta. Thank you Brooke!!

Ian and Angela Turner

Nature Alberta Club Representatives