

Society of Grasslands Naturalists

2021 Indoor Program Report

January 2021 – December 2021

The Indoor Program Committee has one member, Linda Fisher, she chose herself as Chair.

Due to COVID restrictions put in place by Alberta Health Services we were unable to conduct the monthly General meetings and Speaker presentations in the auditorium at the Nature Centre auditorium in Police Point Park for the entire year.

The Executive Board of Grasslands Naturalists is looking forward to returning to our Indoor Speaker programs as soon as it is safe to do so in consideration of the health our membership and following AHS guidelines.

On September 14, 2021 we held an afternoon outdoor Annual General Meeting on the back patio of the Police Point Nature Centre – socially distanced, with mandatory sign in, hand sterilization and masking. There was a good turnout of members who greatly enjoyed being able to be together in one place again.

The Executive Board decided to move ahead and begin holding online Zoom monthly meetings so we could continue the 'live' Business meetings, speaker presentations and the social contact for members. Ian Turner is the organizer and technology person for this new format which we seamlessly joined under his guidance.

Appropriately on November 23, 2021 GN founding members Rob and Corlaine Gardner were our first Zoom speakers and finally able to present their previously postponed program - *Dodo's Guide to Conservation - New Parks for the Endangered Species of Mauritius*, highlighting their tropical experiences in the late 1990's on the island of Mauritius where Rob was hired to design the country's first National Park Interpretation Program. Many members joined online for this first Zoom meeting.

The December post-Christmas Bird Count Potluck Dinner was not able to be held due to the COVID restrictions in place at that time.

The monthly online Zoom general meetings will be held going forward into 2022. When we are once again able to conduct the monthly meetings in person at the Nature Centre auditorium we plan to have the option of either attending in person or via Zoom. This will allow members to take part in all meetings wherever they live or whatever the weather.

Submitted by Linda Fisher