

Society of Grasslands Naturalists  
2022 Indoor Program Report

January 2022 – December 2022

The Indoor Program Committee has one member, Linda Fisher.

The January through May General meetings were conducted via Zoom only – with both the Business Meeting and the Speaker presentations being made available to members online.

With the mid year relaxation of Alberta Health Services COVID restrictions; the Executive Board voted to return to in-person gatherings for the monthly General meetings beginning in September while following all AHS protocols in place at the time of each monthly meeting. Due to the poor ventilation inside the theatre at the Police Point Park Nature Centre, members were urged to use a mask at their discretion and to follow AHS guidelines if feeling unwell.

Because of a majority of members' favourable responses to the Zoom format, the Executive Board voted to offer a Hybrid General meeting with both in-person and Zoom options so members could attend wherever they were or whatever the weather.

After numerous practice sessions a team composed of David Gue, Ian Turner, Phil Horch, Alicia Lew, Angela Turner and Linda Fisher made this happen. We experienced a few glitches; tried new revisions in subsequent meetings and forged ahead.

September 27 was slated to be the first Hybrid General meeting, but with a possible COVID exposure of the entire Zoom tech team it was changed at the last minute to a Zoom meeting only, with speaker Hyland Armstrong and his wife, Ian and Angela Turner, Alicia Lew and Linda Fisher the only people present in the Theatre, where Hyland Armstrong's presentation was then broadcast to members via Zoom.

**Finally, on October 25, 2022, GN members were able to gather in person and attend a General meeting in the Theatre at the Police Point Park Nature Centre for the first time since February of 2019 !!**

It was wonderful to see all who attended that day. This was also the first Hybrid General meeting held; with the November 22 General meeting also a Hybrid meeting. Additional technical revisions continue to be made to make the hybrid meetings enjoyable for Zoom participants and for members in attendance in the Theatre. No coffee and cookies were available at either Hybrid General meeting due to COVID considerations.

After a 3 year break, the traditional post-Christmas Bird Count Potluck Dinner was once again held at the Nature Centre, following the bitter cold bird count earlier in the day.

### **Programs offered in 2022**

January 25 – Cliff Wallis presented - Grasslands – Planets Coming into Alignment? via Zoom.

February 22 - Ron and Cathy Linowski presented – Rare Mosses and Ferns of the Arid Mixed Grass Prairie via Zoom.

March 22 – Dr. Glynnis Hood presented - The Beaver, the Switch, and its Wardrobe via Zoom.

April 26 – longtime GN member Bob Townsend presented – Police Point Park – Medicine Hat's Treasure via Zoom.

May 24 – Api'soomaahka (Running Coyote) – William Singer III presented - Healing the Land and Empowerment via Zoom.

June 28 – The Annual General Meeting was held outdoors on the back patio at the Police Point Park Nature Centre. It was wonderful for members to once again be able to gather before and after the Election of the Executive Board. Cake, pizza and pop were enjoyed by all present.

September 27 – Hyland Armstrong presented – Managing for Biodiversity in Western Canada via Zoom.

October 25 – Dr. James Byrne presented - Integrating Ecosystems, Agriculture, Renewable Energy Development in Southern Alberta and Beyond, (our first GN Hybrid General Meeting).

November 22 – Sandi Robertson presented – Sand Dune Restoration and Recovery of Ord's Kangaroo Rat, a Hybrid General meeting.

December 18 – Post Christmas Bird Count Potluck Dinner was held at the Police Point Park Nature Centre. Thank you Ian Langill and the MHIP staff for organizing all of the day's bird count and potluck dinner activities.

Submitted by Linda Fisher