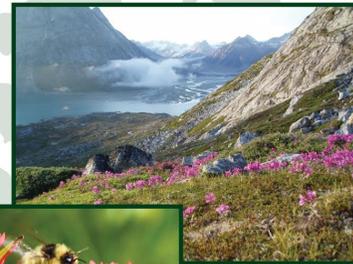


RED DEER RIVER NATURALISTS Annual General Meeting

Thursday,
January 28, 2016
@7:30 pm
Kerry Wood
Nature Centre,
Red Deer

Check out
what RDRN has
been up to over
the past year.



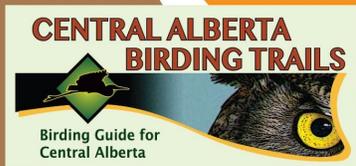
Don Wales



Alexandria Farmer



Elyse Williams



Myrna Pearman



Elyse Williams

EVENTS
SPEAKERS
PUBLICATIONS
AWARDS
& MUCH MORE

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- Admission free and
open to the public

2015 OWL AWARD: DON WALES

by Tony Blake

Don Wales came on the RDRN Board in 2006, jumping right into the fray as Vice-President. He became President in 2008, Past President in 2010, Director in 2012, and President again in 2014. He will be ending his presidency at the next Annual General Meeting in January 2016 which, by natural progression means he again becomes Past President.

Don has assumed responsibility for the Flower Focus meetings, which meet on the third Wednesday of each month. This involves organizing the program, making sure the room is set up and conducting necessary field trips. He organized and conducted a Flower Focus field trip to Waterton Park last spring and at that time conducted a special auxiliary trip for the RDRNers who were present. He has also helped with the inventory of Butcher Creek flora.

He has twice spoken at RDRN general meetings. In fact, one of his talks had 115 people present, the largest crowd we've ever had for a speaker.

Don has been a wonderful resource for RDRN in that he closely monitored what the City of Red Deer was doing environmentally. His views are well respected and sought after. Don's soft-spoken approach with City of Red Deer Administration and his tireless vocal support for the City of Red Deer Parks has helped to shape the policies that have made Maskepatoon Park what it has become. Some refer to him as "The Champion of

Maskepatoon."

He has also been champion of the natural area behind Red Deer College, an area about which he is especially passionate. There, he has conducted field trips for RDRN and other individuals and organizations, all to make sure that others know what a treasure is located there. This fit very well with his previous career as an instructor at Red Deer College.



He has also personally kept an eye on mountain bike parks, both legal and illegal, so that damage to the environment would be minimal.

He has been working hard this year at restructuring the RDRN Board.

He is one of those people who never tires of gaining new knowledge and of going to new places. He is a true naturalist and as such I am pleased to be able to present Don Wales with the 2015 Owl Award.

WHAT TYPE OF BIRDER ARE YOU?

Some bird lovers like watching beautiful birds flutter outside their living room windows. Others travel near and far to check another species on their life list. Some observe bird behaviors and submit their observations to citizen-science projects. How do you enjoy watching birds? <http://dl.allaboutbirds.org/what-kind-of-birder-are-you>

Discover your birding identity



JUDY BOYD PHOTOS

From top left: Great Blue Heron, Immature Swainson's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Solitary Sandpiper.

THANKS JUDY! Judy will be taking a year's sabbatical from RDRN. She has been a tireless worker for all things RDRN and we will miss her. Enjoy your break and see you in a year. **THANK YOU** for everything you've done for this organization!



**The next Great Backyard Bird Count will be held on
February 12—15, 2016**

Check out www.BirdCount.org for more information.

BIRD FOCUS

By Keith Kline

Last fall, I decided to try something different with the Bird Focus group. I decided to pick areas in Red Deer and walk those areas to see what we could see. We visited Heritage Ranch three times, Riverbend Golf Course and Gaetz Lakes Sanctuary twice, the Michael O'Brien Wetland, Three Mile Bend, Mackenzie Trails, Bower Woods and Kin Canyon. We didn't see many birds or other wildlife but we did see enough to keep things interesting. A Long-tailed Weasel was a highlight. I did see a lifer for me, a Marsh Wren, at the Michael O'Brien Wetland.

Seven people participated in these bird focus field trips. Three of them were new.

In April we will start again and add more sites to what we've visited. Watch for a schedule in the newsletter. I would like to start visiting all the sites listed on the Birding Trail map. If anybody has suggestions for this venture, let me know.

I will also be suggesting that we run joint Bird and Flower Focus groups together for a couple of field trips.

22 DAYS BIRDING & EXPLORER TOUR NAMIBIA

MARCH 2016 – firm dates pending

22 Days / 21 Nights

Price per person sharing a double/twin room:
approximately \$6,450.00

For information, contact Dr Lu Carbyn at
lcaryn@ualberta.ca

The Red Deer River Naturalists, the first natural history organization to be established in Alberta, was incorporated as a society in 1906. The objectives of the society are to foster an increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation of natural history, and to support conservation measures dealing with our environment, wildlife and natural resources.

Annual membership is \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families.

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of most months at the Kerry Wood Nature Centre, 6300-45 Ave., Red Deer, AB. Non-members are welcome.

Members are encouraged to contribute to this newsletter. Deadline is the last Friday of the month.

FLOWER FOCUS

Waterton Trip

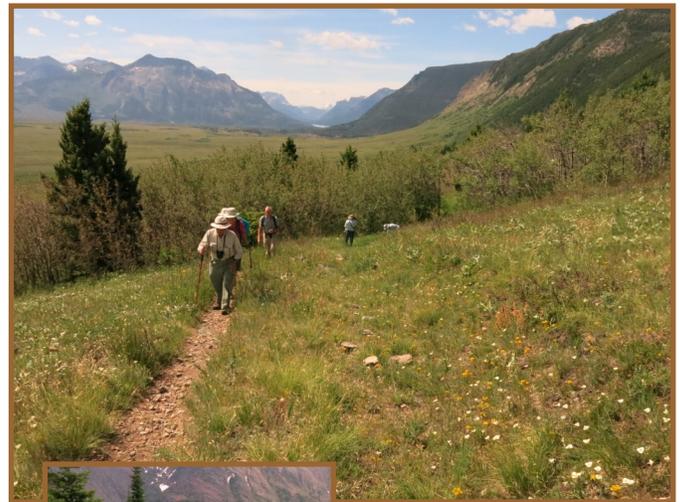
Bertha Ford and Bonnie Mullin

January 20

10:00 AM — 12:00 PM

Kerry Wood Nature Centre

Bonnie and Bertha will share their photos and stories from a RDRN trip to the Waterton Wildflower Festival last summer.



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