

New Directions in Lake Monitoring and Management Bradley Peter, Alberta Lake Management Society



This presentation will provide an overview of citizen science monitoring of lakes in Alberta, with a focus on the Red Deer River Watershed. New technology used to monitor lakes as well as emerging threats to aquatic ecosystems will be explored.

Photos provided by ALMS

Bradley Peter is a Professional Biologist and the Executive Director of the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS). ALMS works to promote the understanding and comprehensive management of lakes, reservoirs and their watersheds. Bradley has spent time as a field technician collecting data on lakes across Alberta, and six years coordinating citizen science programs for ALMS.



Thursday, November 23 • Kerry Wood Nature Centre • 7:30 PM

No Charge • Public Welcome!

OWL AWARD – 2017

DOROTHY HAZLETT

By Judy Boyd

RDRN nominated Dorothy Hazlett for the Owl Award at the beginning of August of this year. Unfortunately, Dorothy passed away on August 15, so this will be the first time the Owl Award is given out posthumously.

Dorothy was a big behind-the-scenes supporter of RDRN. She never sat on the Board but she helped out where she could. One of the biggest things she did was to send out the newsletter every month. I think she did this for decades. She would go down to the City Mail Room, pick up the printed newsletters, go back to the Nature Centre, fold, stuff and put labels on the envelopes. Then she would go to the Museum and run the envelopes through the stamp machine and take them, after sorting them into local and non-local envelopes, to the mail boxes.

Dorothy could also always be counted on to help with the RDRN audit every year.

In 1969 Dorothy went across Canada in a Volkswagen Beetle with her friend Mary. To relieve the tedium of driving long stretches of highway, they started looking at the birds. Somewhere along the way, they bought a bird book and it was all downhill from there. Dorothy was hooked.

In 2000 Dorothy and I started going birding on Monday afternoons. After doing this for awhile, Margaret Coutts, the President at the time, asked us to open this up to RDRNers and thus the Bird Focus Group was revived. Dorothy never missed a Monday, except for the times she was in Mexico. She shared her expertise about birds and inspired the rest of us to learn more. She was an absolutely phenomenal birder, especially about identifying the bird songs. She could even tell the difference between the “chip” of a warbler and that of a sparrow. Apparently, the warbler’s is more “full-bodied” than the sparrow’s. I couldn’t hear that but Dorothy could. Even now, someone will ask me which bird is singing that song. When I say I don’t know, I’ll hear someone mutter, “Dorothy would have known.” And she would have.

Many of the Mondays were spent at Hazlett Lake. It was a wonderful place on extremely frigid winter days to watch the bird feeders from the warmth of Dorothy’s kitchen. She always had munchies and hot drinks for us. Often, we went there because a rare bird such as a Harris’ Sparrow or Barred Owl had showed up. She loved having all the birders out to her place to share her birds.

She would laugh when she had seen something really cool, just before we arrived, and it wasn’t there when we got there. Thus, began the saying, “You should have been here half an hour ago...”

Dorothy went on probably all of the RDRN field trips, both near and far. She went to learn but also to help others further their knowledge, not only of birds but butterflies and plants too. When RDRN hosted the 2006 Nature Canada Conference, Dorothy was a leader for the field trips so she shared her knowledge nationally, not just locally.

Dorothy will be greatly missed, not only for her birding skills but for her “cup-half-full” attitude towards life. She was a lot of fun to be with.



Dorothy’s brother, Geoff and his wife Delaine, accepting her Owl Award at the RDRN fall banquet.



REMEMBERING DOROTHY HAZLETT

by Dr. Dorothy Hill

I knew Dorothy Hazlett my entire life. In fact, I was named after her. Dorothy Hazlett was the lifelong friend of my mother, Shirley Hill (nee Nash) and she was my godmother. Dorothy and my mom grew up on adjacent farms north of Red Deer in the area that is now just north of Highway 11a and east of the QE 2. Both ended up in Calgary following high school graduation: Dorothy for nursing school and my mom for secretarial school. When I was born just two days before Dorothy's birthday, my parents thought it fitting to name me after my mom's dear friend. Dorothy took her mentoring duties seriously: she is the one who introduced me to the symphony and the ballet, to an array of exotic spicy food, and to birds.

As a teenager I accompanied Dorothy on Christmas bird counts and during one memorably cold count day the case which contained the contact lenses I had brought along to change into when I was "more awake" (like most teenagers, it was difficult for me to rise early on a weekend morning) completely froze! The lenses were never the same shape again and had to be replaced. Dorothy got my parents interested in identifying the birds in our back yard, and soon our home had binoculars and bird books. I was not one of those young people who was super-interested in identifying birds. I

went on the Christmas bird counts simply because I loved spending time with Dorothy, who I called "Auntie Dot". Nonetheless, through these experiences I did pick up on species identification.

At university I swayed off my original pathway towards physiotherapy and instead decided to study zoology.



Near the end of second year, I was interviewed for a summer job with the Canadian Wildlife Service and - guess what? - the interview included a quiz to identify 40 common bird species! The only reason I made it through the interview was because of Dorothy Hazlett and the bird counts. I got the summer job with CWS, which led to other bird-related summer jobs, and eventually to graduate school where I studied the evolution of parental care in birds for both my

master's and PhD. I now have the privilege of teaching biology classes to undergraduate students at Mount Royal University, a job I absolutely love.

My whole career came about because Dorothy Hazlett took the time to share her passion for birds and nature with me. I guess that is the point I most want to share with all of you: take the time to mentor young people and take the time to share your passion for nature with them. You never know how much of an impact you can have on someone's life. I will miss Dorothy Hazlett very much, but I will try to pass on her passion for nature to others as a way of honoring her life and the impact she had on my life.

Nominate Us! Four Central Alberta locations have been nominated as "places worth protecting" to the Nature Conservancy of Canada. More could soon be added to the list. The NCC is running a contest until Nov. 30 asking people to nominate a place they think is worthy of conservation. Four places in Central Alberta have already been posted. Maskapetoon Park in Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Lacombe Lake and Buffalo Lake. By sharing images on Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #PlacesWorthProtecting, photos will be added to the NCC's interactive map of Canada at www.placesworthprotecting.ca. "This campaign is aimed at helping people learn more about our conservation areas while also sharing their ideas of the beautiful places they cherish," said John Lounds, NCC president and chief executive officer. For every submission, TELUS will donate \$5 to help the NCC conserve land across Canada. Submissions are also entered to win a phone from TELUS.

BIRD FOCUS

NOTE: All hikes start at 1:30 PM.

November 4—Mackenzie Trails

November 18—Bower Woods. Meet on Selkirk Drive in front of #35.

November 25—Kin Canyon. Meet at the Rotary picnic parking lot.

December 2—Gaetz Lakes Sanctuary. Meet at KWNC

December 9—Gaetz Lakes Sanctuary. Meet at KWNC



Jim Potter sent us this image of Mr(s) Red Squirrel preparing for winter. There's nothing like old newspaper to use for insulation!

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 \$30.00 for families. Membership period: January 1—December 31.

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

November 15 • 10:00 AM • KWNC

Flowers of Glacier and Waterton National Park – Don Wales

A detailed look at a unusually rich floral display this summer in Glacier National Park, Montana. This topic is especially relevant after the recent devastating fires that ripped through Waterton and Glacier.



Photos by Don Wales

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Photos by /submitted by Judy Boyd unless otherwise noted