

2021 OWL AWARD: DOUG PEDERSEN

By Tony Blake

Each fall, RDRN presents the Owl Award to a member of the organization who has shown a long-time commitment to the objectives of the society. Whether it's for education, conservation or the day-to-day operation of our organization, the efforts of these dedicated members are vital to our success. The Owl Award is intended to recognize and celebrate their hard work and dedication.

Doug Pedersen is that kind of member. Originally from the magnificent mountains, forests and rivers of Oregon, he learned to hunt and fish at an early age. As a young man, he came north to do mission work with native communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Doug grew to appreciate their culture and connection to the land and he eventually decided to become a permanent resident.

Doug made his home in Lac la Biche and for many years worked as a timber cruiser in the vast boreal forest. It was a great opportunity to develop his powers of observation and to plug into the local naturalist community.

Doug moved to Central Alberta in 2005 to pursue a new career as a graphic artist. Before long he was helping Ju-dy Boyd with RDRN species counts and acting as a principal observer for the Rocky Mountain Eagle Watch. When he joined the RDRN board of directors in 2007, he began using his artistic flair and computer skills by designing the RDRN newsletter header and creating meeting posters. Since then, his striking designs have add-ed a beautiful touch to almost everything RDRN does.

Doug's digital art has few limits, combining photography and painting to interpret nature. Some of his recent creations can be viewed on his website www.featherededge.ca.

