

CASTLE WILDERNESS NEWS

Vol. 18, No. 2, May 2008

CCWC Summer Plans

by Wendy Ryan, Stewardship & Outreach

2008 is the year in which the Alberta Government is developing a Provincial Parks Plan and completing the Land Use Framework, which we understand will include a pilot project for SW Alberta. CCWC will be involved in both these planning efforts, and hopes that each of you will write the current Ministers to move things along (see page 4). In addition, we hope you can be involved in our summer programs: hiking, stewardship, and outreach.

Hiking

The hiking schedule has been planned through late August, and is included with this newsletter. Be sure to register several days ahead, to make sure there haven't been changes. Changes and additions will be posted on the website; and so will late-summer hikes (which will also be sent out with the August newsletter). Remember that you will be expected to sign a waiver form and that dogs are not invited.

Stewardship

Stewardship of the Castle Wilderness is our opportunity to give back to this place. Please contact Wendy at the office, at home (403 627 4106, wendydav@shaw.ca), or at the AGM to get involved:

- take on an area that you will personally observe, report on, and help initiate restoration if needed
- join early-season observing and reporting hikes with Wendy and James to determine what restoration tasks most particularly need attention—such as weeds, erosion, trash
- join the restoration crew and help reverse environmental damage.

Skills workshops for stewards will include

- Observation and Location Skills Workshop
- Bear and Cougar Aware Workshop
- Cows and Fish Riparian Workshop
- Weed Identification
- Amphibian reporting in the Castle

Outreach

Outreach is important. Many people are unaware of the problems. Do you like to write? Do a letter to the editor or the

Parks Minister and other politicians (addresses on page 4), or get involved in a series of articles. Are you good on the computer? Help us design a brochure describing what the stewards have learned, or help post their reports to the web. Do you like to talk to people? Join our Outreach crew, taking our display and information around to fairs. Do you hike or fish in the Castle outside our scheduled hikes? Tell us what you learn.

Youth focus

Wendy plans to involve folks from Scouts, Junior Forest Wardens, and other youth groups in both hikes and stewardship projects.

New staff at SRD

Carita Bergman, Regional Biologist, has moved to a National Parks job in the Queen Charlotte Islands. CCWC wishes her well and welcomes her replacement, Greg Hale. Greetings, Greg, we look forward to working with you in the office and on the trail. We also hear that SRD has expanded its field staff here in the Southwest, which we applaud.

Andy Russell – I'tai Sah Kop Park Proposal

A new Park brochure is included with this newsletter, and available on the website. Anyone able to distribute these in the region please call 627 5059.

Various opportunities to discuss the potential Park are being organized by Dianne Pachal of the Sierra Club, on behalf of the many people and organizations who are urging government to establish it. Contact her at 403 234 7368 or dpachal@telus.net if you'd like to be involved.

Crowsnest Pass Stewardship Day

See Wendy's plans for June 7th on page 3. •



Wendy Ryan

Box 2621, Pincher Creek, Alberta T0K 1W0
Telephone 403 627 5059
e-mail: office@ccwc.ab.ca
website: www.ccwc.ab.ca

CCWC Board of Directors

Jillian Lynn-Lawson (Cowley)	President
David Keith (Calgary)	Vice President
Jillian Lynn-Lawson (Cowley)	Treasurer
Mari Decker (Calgary)	Secretary
Jim Cameron (Pincher Creek)	Director
Mike Lynch (Calgary/Beaver Mines)	Director
Dianne Pachal (Calgary)	Director
Gordon Petersen (Pincher Creek)	Director at large
Nancy Tripp (Pincher Creek)	Director
Robert Campbell (Lethbridge)	Director at large
Jeff Emmett (Calgary)	Director at large
Peter Lee (Edmonton)	Director at large
Michelle Spencer (Pincher Creek)	Director at large

Staff

Judy Huntley, Executive Director
(address/phone/e-mail as above)

James Tweedie, Conservation Director
403 628 2422
e-mail: jtweedie@xplornet.com

Wendy Ryan, Stewardship & Outreach

Upcoming Meeting

Members are welcome to attend board meetings. Contact the office for details. Annual General Meeting: May 31.

Membership

Note the CanadaHelps button on the website for donations by credit card—and thanks to those who have used it already!

Newsletter

Editor: Judy Huntley.

This newsletter welcomes comments and/or submissions from members and others. Please send submissions by mail or e-mail to the office. Please check with the office for submission deadlines.

The opinions, evaluations, claims and assertions contained in articles appearing in the Castle Wilderness News are the responsibility of their authors, and may not reflect the policies of the Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition. The office takes responsibility for articles, notices, etc., for which an author is not identified.

Production: Murray Coppold. Thanks to Rosemary Coppold, who addresses, stamps, stuffs and mails the newsletter to you.

*Donations to CCWC are tax creditable
and greatly appreciated.
Alberta's new Community Spirit Program
means that both you and CCWC will benefit
more from your contributions.*



Coalition News

Board and Office Changes

CCWC thanks Michelle Spencer for her contribution as a board member, regrets that she is no longer to fill that role, and is delighted that she will still be involved as a director at large. Gordon Petersen is back from a year of travels, and we welcome him warmly back to the board.

Wendy Ryan will be back with us full time beginning in early June.

Summer jobs at CCWC

We are hoping to raise enough summer funding to make it possible to hire at least one summer staff person. The tasks will include observation hikes, recording of information learned, riparian restoration, weed removal, mentoring youth and other volunteers, developing a brochure and web postings, and doing outreach. If you are interested, please submit a resume and letter of interest to office@ccwc.ab.ca.

May is renewal month

Please renew your support of CCWC by mailing a cheque to the office. Include your phone number, address, and email, and specify if you want a print copy of the newsletter mailed. Note that if you get it by email, it is now in gorgeous colour.

Or go to www.ccwc.ab.ca, click on the CanadaHelps icon, and make your contribution on line. Then email office@ccwc.ab.ca with your contact information.

Thanks for support

CCWC again sends warmest thanks to our members, funders, donors, and volunteers. Our major funders are: **Wilburforce Foundation, LaSalle Adams Foundation, Alberta Stewardship Network, Alberta Ecotrust, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Fanwood, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Alberta Conservation Association.** Thanks to you all. •

Don't miss the

Annual General Meeting

Saturday May 31

10:30–2:30 at the Lebel Mansion, Pincher Creek

Guest speaker: Ian Dyson, Director, Alberta Environment

*Land Use Framework, the SW Pilot Project, and proposed
Cumulative Impacts Legislation*

Followed by a hike to Mt. Backus

Lunch will be served



Crowsnest Pass Stewardship Day

by Wendy Ryan, Stewardship & Outreach

I am planning five projects for the Ed Gregor day, June 7th, in the Castle River area:

1. Reclaiming the Table Mt. Trail. What was an easy to moderate hike is now moderate to difficult, due to a 500-metre section.
2. Reclaiming the Barnaby Lakes Trail, plus ensuring hikers can find their way from the trailhead.
3. Fencing off the Beaver Mines road wildlife water hole and mineral lick (which has recently been used by mud boggers).
4. Removing all the derelict 1990 wooden bridges installed by ORV in the Castle Crown before they deteriorate into a clutter of rusty nails, hopefully to be done by the ORV users.
5. Removal and cleanup at the old forest warden's station (cement foundations, old cistern/water well, old outhouse).

I have had great response from a local Scout Leader, the Camp Impessa guardian, the Chinook Group of the Sierra Club of Canada, members of the Syncline Castle Trail Association X-C Skiing group, CCWC, and the women's group from Castle Mountain Resort.



Derelict bridge in need of reclamation (above), and scene from 2007 pack trip. Photos by Wendy Ryan.

I have registered the events with ASRD and have a follow up meeting in May in Blairmore to fine tune the details along with signage.

The date again is June 7th—mark your calendar. It should be a lot of fun and a big accomplishment to those helping. This work will immensely help anyone that hikes these trails this summer enjoy them so much more and eliminate getting lost on either trail system and from causing any further erosion/damage.

Everyone is invited to a free breakfast in the Crowsnest Pass at 8:00 am at the Forestry Office compound, with introductions and other project announcements for the day. Waivers for WCB are filled out and everyone heads out on their desired project. (I can arrange to bring out the waiver forms for those that do not want to drive out to the Pass, and have you sign them at your trailhead or road side project). After the work is completed or the day is done, everyone is once again invited back to the CNP for a BBQ, awards and prizes.

I attended my first full day with the group last year and was amazed at all the people that show up for this from all over southern Alberta and beyond (mostly ORV users). I would love to hear from you to help organize the number of people per project and select Team Leaders. Most of the tools I can borrow from SRD in the Pass but if you have the proper tools for trail work (Adz, pulaski, shovels ... please bring them along, as there may not be enough for all the projects.). Backpacks, three litres of water, gloves, rain gear, hats, and lunch are just some suggestions to also bring along. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know at wendydav@shaw.ca or 403-627-4106. •





Other News & Events

by Judy Huntley, Executive Director

The Alberta Wilderness Association is planning a weed pull Thursday July 10, in Spionkop (Smith) Canyon, and possibly Yarrow. They would welcome anyone from CCWC to join in. Contact Wendy at CCWC or Nigel Douglas of AWA, awa.nd@shaw.ca or phone: (403) 283-2025 or toll-free: 1-866-313-0713.

on some beautiful locations, and taking time to learn about wildflowers and the landscape along the way. Two events are planned for the Crowsnest Pass. See: http://www.natureconservancy.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=vfn_volunteer_AB&JServSessionIdr005=gwqt7v7gt5.app1b

Nature Conservancy of Canada's field season includes Conservation Volunteers events. The following link takes you to the Alberta events website, where you can find and register for events. There are events in the Waterton Park Front on June 17, June 19 and July 12—they'll be pulling invasive plants

The National Geographic Geotourism Map of the Crown of the Continent is now available. Paper copies can be ordered, and internet information about the Crown can be found, at www.crownofthecontinent.net •



Letter to the editor

...The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative workshop on April 12th was a bright illumination on what we here in the Pass have and how what we have could keep itself into the future if we are determined enough to pay attention and ... own our future Architectural heritage was a central focus but I wanted raise the importance of our natural heritage and landscape, how we share it and protect it. The discussion was by necessity limited and came just to our multi-use conflicts with motorized recreation.

responsible shared use of our natural heritage. **Our transportation corridors:** Highway # 3 and the Road Watch Program and carnivore connectivity studies; CPR's attempt to tighten grain doors to reduce animal fatalities along the rail line. **Habitat sharing:** Nature Conservancy of Canada is surveying endangered and threatened plant locations; the Municipality is vigorously dealing with invasive weeds that human use has brought; the Kerelian dog program is teaching our bears, moose, elk and sheep to avoid human habitat and conflict; the Bear Smart program is teaching people to do their duty to not tempt infringement into human habitat. **Sharing our Crowsnest River:** Trout Unlimited is mitigating riparian zone abuse while increasing recreational access and cooperating agencies are planning the restoration of the natural river channel to improve water quality and fish habitat. Municipal Council



I wanted to clear my head, refresh my perspective, and think further on how we share our natural heritage so I skied across the gravel flats along the West Castle River and turned onto the multi-use trail up to Middle Kootenay Pass where skidoos and alpine ski tourers share the deep powder without conflict. But I looked forward to the solitude of the Middlepass Creek drainage just through the Pass into British Columbia to do my thinking. This area is designated non-motorized under the government of British Columbia's Wildlife Act as a Wildlife Management Area Every drainage, every mountain bowl was trashed by redundant Alberta snow machine riders illegally abusing their responsibility to limit their recreation activities to designated trails. So much for solitude; so much for responsible shared multiple use.

and the Chamber of Commerce and the Crowsnest Heritage Society work hard to ... preserve our landscape and our shared use of our place within this natural bounty. So much positive, constructive work by so many to responsibly share our natural heritage.

How are we going to get motorized recreation to share this responsibility, to stay on designated trails, to respect restrictions preventing their illegal abuse of Wildlife Management Zones?

Please write and express your wish for the Andy Russell – I'tai Sah Kop Park to the current Ministers and Critics:

Premier Ed Stelmach
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800 - 97th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Hon Cindy Ady, Parks
#229 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Evan Berger, MLA for
Livingstone-Macleod
#642 Legislature Annex
9718 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4

Harry Chase, Lib Parks
#201 Legislature Annex
9718 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4

Hon Ted Morton, SRD
420 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Ms Rachel Notley, ND
501 Legislature Annex
9718 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4

Hon Rob Renner, Env
#425 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

David Swann, Lib SRD and Env
#201 Legislature Annex
9718 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4

We in the Crowsnest Pass are lucky, though—we have many examples of

—Tim Grier