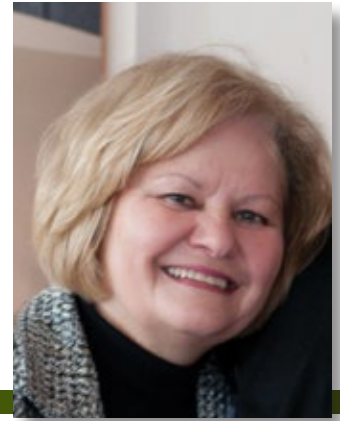


Alberta Wilderness and Wildlife Trust

Wilderness Defender Awards 2013

By Christyann Olson, AWA Executive Director



On October 25th, we were pleased to host the 13th annual Wilderness Defender Awards evening. The Alberta Wilderness Defenders Awards are dedicated to individuals who have inspired us with their love of Alberta's wild lands, wild rivers and wildlife, and their efforts and achievements for conservation. In the past many of AWA's *Wilderness Defenders* weren't recognized and celebrated enough. AWA introduced these awards as a way of bringing to light the difference they made and creating a lasting tribute to them. We all appreciate that Alberta's wilderness is among the most pristine and beautiful in the world. Our wild places are the source of our health, wealth, and quality of life. We also realize

Alberta's wilderness cannot be taken for granted and we must take an active role in its conservation. Alberta Wilderness Association is pleased to present these annual awards to recognize individuals who have made a difference and who have taken the road less travelled to promote the conservation of our wild places.

This year we recognized Roger Creasey. Roger passed away suddenly last year and we wrote about him and his contribution then. Keeping his legacy alive and recognizing him in a lasting way was important for AWA and we were pleased to present him with this award posthumously. Roger's plaque on our wall of Defenders includes the photo below of him in a stunning grove of trees and its accompanying text.

After Mona Creasey, Roger's widow, read Denise Leverton's poem *Sojourns In A Parallel World* to the crowd attending the evening, she offered us some thoughts about Roger and how much he cared. "I think he understood how important preserving natural areas, in his beloved home province is to helping us all maintain sanity in a wildly spinning world. The quiet voices that speak to us there tell us how much nature longs for us to see ourselves as part of the life of the earth, equal to and not separate from all other important species. He understood that we are not just here to take, but that we also have the responsibility to give back ...most importantly, to remain cognizant of our duty of care. Roger gave his heart for his vision."

Sojourns In A Parallel World

by Denise Leverton

*We live our lives of human passions;
cruelties, dreams, concepts, crimes and
the exercise of virtue in and beside a world
devoid of our preoccupations,
free from apprehension - though affected,
certainly, by our actions.
A world parallel to our own though
overlapping.*

*We call it 'Nature' ... only reluctantly
admitting ourselves to be "Nature" too.
Whenever we lose track of our own
obsessions, our self-concerns because we
drift for a minute, an hour even, of pure
(or almost pure) response to that
insouciant life;
cloud, bird, fox, the flow of light, the*



Roger Creasey 1953-2012

Roger Creasey was an industry man with a difference. He thought like an environmentalist always seeing beyond to the bigger picture and the farther horizon. He was an environmental biologist and maintained dual careers in the petroleum industry and as a university educator. Full of good humor, Roger had a rare talent for pulling together disparate sides and working towards compromise while ensuring environmental principles underpinned each decision. There were few as capable as Roger at working successfully across a range of sectors: government, industry, science and environment, while always incorporating human values. His legacy is his ability to see and act for the greater good for all. Roger was a friend and intelligent adviser to the AWA.

*dancing pilgrimage of water,
vast stillness of spellbound ephemerae on a
lit window pane;
animal voices, mineral hum, wind
conversing with rain, ocean with rock,
stuttering of fire to coal...*

*then something tethered in us,
hobbled like a donkey on its patch of
gnawed grass and thistles,
breaks free.*

*No one discovers just where we've been
when we're caught up again into our own
sphere (where we must return, indeed, to
evolve our destinies) - but we have changed
...a little.*

Roger's legacy is his vision and we are all better for the difference he has made. Shell's President and Country Chair Lorraine Mitchelmore, the guest lecturer for the *Martha*



Mona Creasey accepting Roger Creasey's Wilderness Defenders Award
PHOTO: © K. MILHACHEON

Kostuch Wilderness and Wildlife Trust Lecture, shares Roger's legacy and outlook. Shell spent months thinking about how they might

help AWA best recognize and remember Roger. After delivering our annual lecture Lorraine Mitchelmore, on behalf of Shell and the colleagues who joined her that night, donated \$50,000 to AWA for our library in memory of Roger. AWA will rename our library in honour of this gift and the support received from Shell Canada Ltd.

AWA's library is recognized as the only collection on wilderness in Alberta. The collection spans 45 years of history and includes publications, letters, documents, and records of what people were thinking through the generations, the decisions that were made, the frustrations we've experienced as we struggled to create a better, more widespread understanding of the importance of wilderness to our quality of life. The library is recognized as an outstanding collection made possible by the dedication of many individuals. We will be honoured to keep Roger's memory and legacy alive through this gift. 🌱