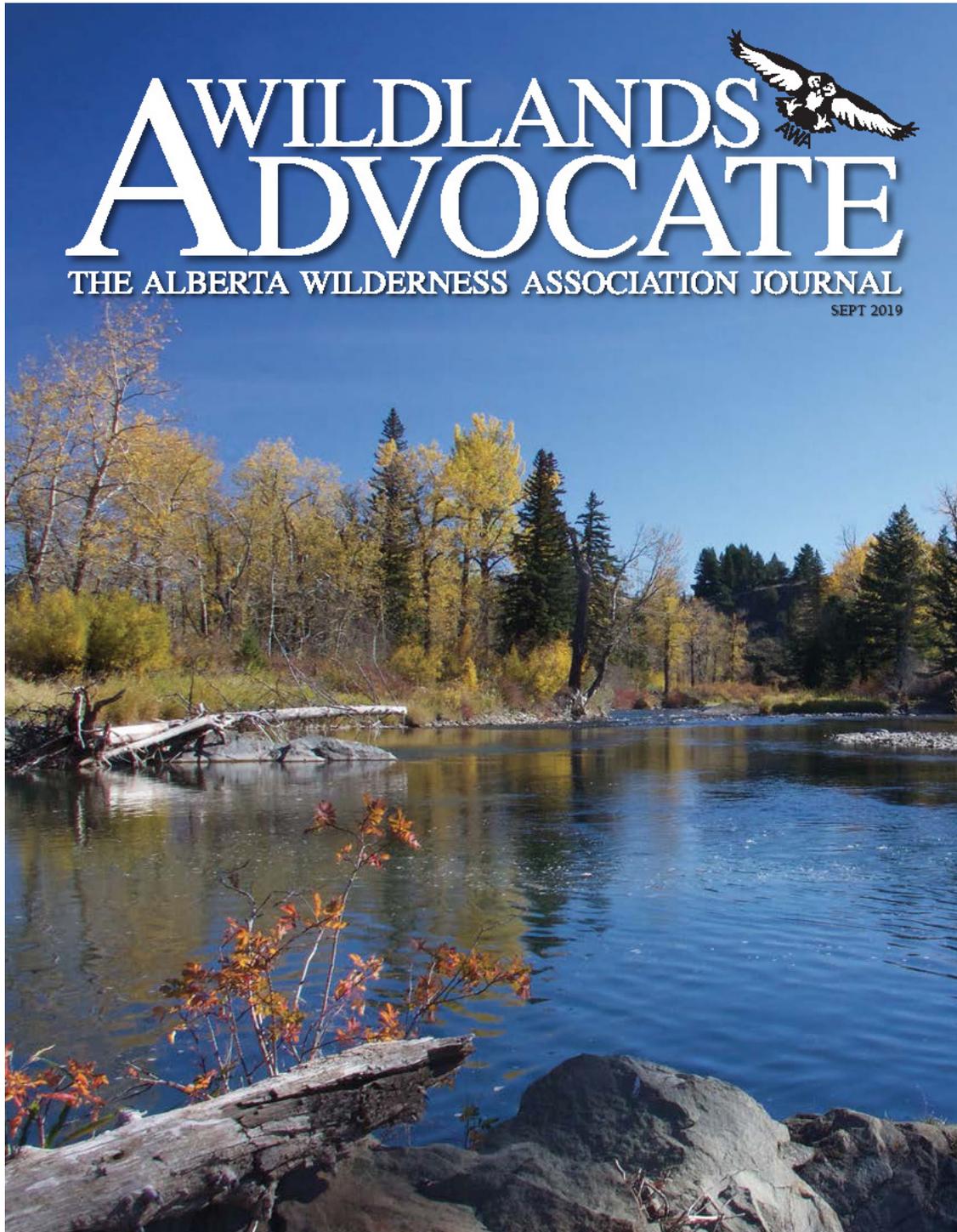


## September Wild Lands Advocate Now Online

October 3, 2019



The September issue of *Wild Lands Advocate* is now [online](#).

September's Feature articles look in several directions. Several articles highlight the important commitments of individuals to strengthening the place of conservation in our lives. My first article, entitled "Citizens: Putting the "C" Into Conservation," highlights a small sample of initiatives where like-minded individuals come together to further conservation values. The Vipond family offers their stories on what they are doing to try to reduce our environmental footprint locally and further afield. Nissa Petterson's reflections on the 2019 Keepers of the Water Gathering in Wabasca also may be seen in this light. There you found individuals, as well as the organizations some of them represented, coming together to reflect on the many meanings water may have in our lives.

Outside of the Features section, this theme also lives in Vivian Pharis's interview with Jill Seaton. Jill, along with Dr. Mark Boyce, will receive a Wilderness Defenders award during November's Martha Kostuch Annual Lecture and Awards evening. So too will you find it in actions like Owen Duke's lemonade stand and Patsy Cotterill's comment on Grace Wark's June article on wilding our urban environments.

Back in the Features section Joanna Skrajny walks us through the debate and content of Bill C-69. You'll likely remember this piece of legislation for the controversy it generated in some quarters about the possible damage it might do to the Canadian petroleum industry.

Taylor Bujaczek, the latest in a long string of guest (volunteer!) writers who have contributed to the *Advocate* over the years, helps us to understand the state of wetlands in the settled areas of Alberta. She offers an assessment of where Alberta stands currently and where we may go in the future.

There as well you'll find Grace Wark's report on where Canada stands with respect to keeping the international biodiversity commitments the Conservative government of Stephen Harper made in 2010. Unfortunately, its assessment leads me to wonder if I have more chance of seeing a Sasquatch in my lifetime than in seeing a national government keep one of its international environmental commitments.

In the penultimate Features article (before the poetry of Audrey Lane Cockett and Jill Seaton) I start to explore the question of the relationship between conservation and modern conservatism. There I'm happy to discover that a search for conservative champions of conservation is more productive than any past quests I've made to find Bigfoot. I hope to add to my sightings of "Conservative Conservation Champions" in future issues of the *Advocate*.

If you weren't able to join us this year for September's Wild West Saloon you missed a heck of a party. It had it all...great food, foot-stomping music, games of chance, and a wonderful assortment of baked goods, raffle

prizes, and auction items. And, the camaraderie in the Hillhurst Cottage School was equaled only by the lovely fall evening outside. Thanks to all who volunteered for that evening and to those who contributed in one way or another to the more than \$20,000 we raised.

In addition to learning from our customary wilderness updates I hope you enjoy the marvelous woodcuts created by Calgary artist Lisa Brawn that grace this issue.

Finally, I want to offer a tip of my hat to all of those who contribute to making *Wild Lands Advocate* a magazine I am very proud of. Your staff are excellent in communicating the work of AWA to you; our guest contributors have improved our knowledge and understanding on a wide range of issues. And, then there's Doug Wournell, our graphic designer. It's been a genuine pleasure to work with Doug for the last six years. His skill and creativity, like the natural world AWA speaks up for, is impressive indeed.

- Ian Urquhart, Editor

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Dedicated to the conservation of wilderness and completion of a protected areas network, AWA inspires communities to care for Alberta's wild spaces through awareness and action.

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