



A4W Spring 2021 Adventures

Feeling an itch to get out of the house and into wilderness?



Happy springtime, Wilderness Adventurers!

It is very often the case when thinking or writing about our adventures, that I start leaning my chair back from the computer and end up gazing out the window, to the (sometimes) leafy Hillhurst street where you'll find the AWA

office and my home-away-from-home.

Today as I engage in this ritual, I keep returning to one train of thought:

Technically it is still winter, and spring is still 2 days away.

Technically those leaves have yet to appear and the tree branches are bare.

Technically there are still a few dwindling piles of snow, in the shadier spots.

But I don't care. The sun is shining, my computer tells me its **17 degrees** out, and those piles of snow are dwindling fast. There's a pair of running shoes in my backpack, and I can't wait for the day to be done so I can get out for a good run. It's spring as far as I'm concerned!

That means that, as I imagine you also are, I'm feeling the annual yearning to shake off the gauze of hibernation and leap into nature...

For example, last weekend I made a quick trip to Banff to take part in Jamie Jack's Strava-based [March Snow Sport Challenge](#) (see below — still 2 weeks left to get some adventuring in for that one!) and while there was definitely still snow left there, you could feel spring in the air, even in the mountains.

Speaking of mountains, that's where most of our adventuring has taken place so far in 2021. Last weekend, Jamie also led [a fun cross-country ski trip around the Mount Shark Loop](#) in Kananaskis. [Check out her Instagram highlight reel](#) for photos from that adventure!

And a few weeks ago now, Heinz Unger led a snowshoe-hike up the Waiparous Creek canyon in the foothills of the Ghost. [Read his stories from that adventure and see photos here.](#)

But of course, that's only the beginning. As always we encourage you to read on - as you'll be sure to find something coming up this spring and/or summer that will sate your own hunger for adventure.

We also have several more adventures on deck that I'm *super* excited to tell you about — but we're still finalizing some details, so can't quite draw back the curtain on them juuust yet. But keep an eye on further newsletters that will have all the goodies!

Finally, you can always check out all our [photos and stories from 2020](#) to get an idea of how past adventures have gone... or, if you don't see anything here that tickles your fancy, for some ideas that you can use to [create your own adventure!](#)

~~~ *Happy Adventuring!* ~~~

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**Mar 24: Crocus Hunt on**



## Nose Hill

Join Christyann in an Adventure in memory of Margaret Main, one of AWA's dedicated volunteers. In years past Margaret and Christyann would check hillsides for the first crocus blooms, a symbol of spring that meant so much to both

[Only a few days left to join the hunt!](#)

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## All Month Long: March Snow Sport Challenge

Complete 50 km of winter activity!

This adventure can be taken at your own pace - join the A4W club on *Strava* and take part in your favourite winter activity.

Ideas include: Nordic Ski, Snowshoe, Hike, Backcountry Ski, Backcountry Snowboard, Ice Skate, Toboggan, and more...

[Join the Strava Club with us](#)



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## Jun 5: Mount Hoffmann Hike

Offering some truly extraordinary views of the Sheep River valley and surrounding foothills, this scenic hike west of Turner Valley is not particularly busy, but is often a favourite of those who do know of it.



[Sign up for some great views!](#)

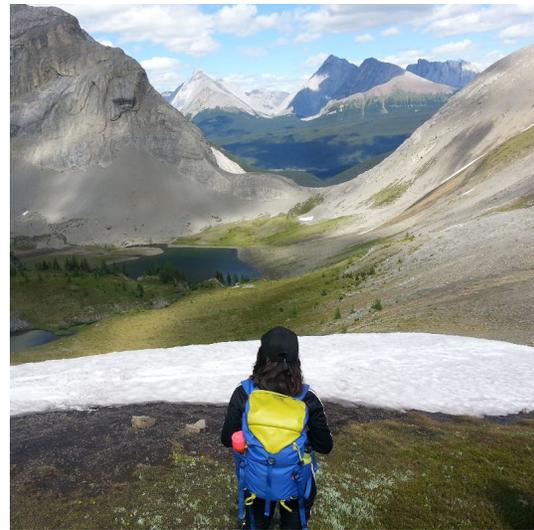
*Get in on this one quick - this adventure is nearly sold out!*

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## **Ends Apr 4: Photographs for Winter Wilderness**

Share your adventures in Alberta's winter wilderness through the art of photography!

[Submit your photo & help support Alberta's Wilderness!](#)



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## **Jun 20: Forgetmenot Ridge**

Join coordinator Chris Saunders on a tour of the interesting wildlife and flowers that can often be seen on Forgetmenot Ridge at this time of year. Forgetmenot Ridge is a high north-south foothills ridge which stands between higher mountains to the west and much lower hills and prairie to the east, with great views in all directions.



[Join Chris for a walk among the wildflowers.](#)

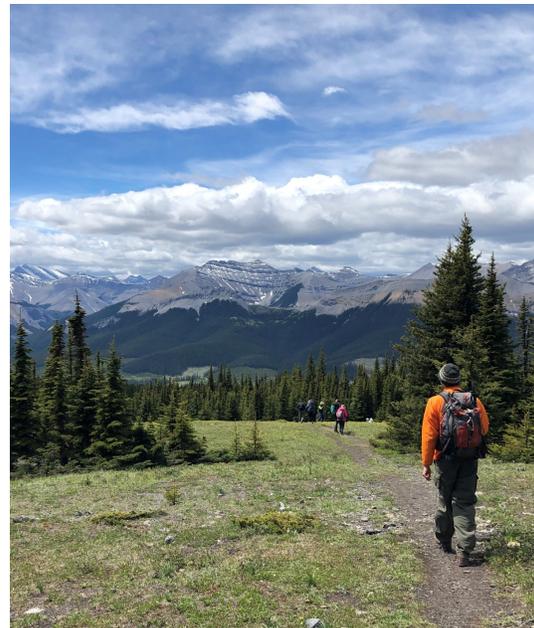
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## **Jun 26: Jumpingpound & Hounds Hike**

Kate Van Pernis is calling all lovers of mountains, wildflowers, hikes, and dogs!

Join us for a moderate trek up Jumpingpound Summit in Kananaskis. Dogs (on a leash), children, and adults who are children-at-heart are all invited to enjoy the woods, wildflowers, summit views, and company on this favourite jaunt.

[Register today to join along with your good boy!](#)



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## **June: The Great Alberta Parks Bike-a-thon 2021**

Follow Sean this June as he bikes



around Alberta on a 3,500+ km odyssey, visiting the 164 parks slated for delisting by the Government of Alberta in 2020. Sean will be posting regular updates, photos and videos from each park, telling the stories from this emerald archipelago that we came so close to losing.

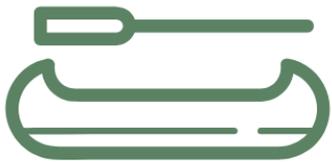
The trip will end at #164 on the list, the [Strathcona Science Provincial Park](#) in Edmonton on Canada Day where we will celebrate the occasion with a picnic luncheon, to which supporters are invited to join in!

[Sponsor Sean in support of AWA's work protecting Alberta's Provincial Parks.](#)

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## What is Adventures for Wilderness?

Adventures for Wilderness is AWA's annual program to engage Albertans in wilderness conservation. We believe an Adventure can be anything from climbing a mountain, to walking by the river, to enjoying the beauty of nature in your own backyard ([literally YOUR own backyard!](#)) Visit our website to learn about the Adventures this season and how you can support Alberta Wilderness Association.



[Learn more](#)



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