



**Summer Adventures Coming Up:
From Bee Boxes to Biodiversity Bees, Dinosaurs & More!**



PHOTO © Ruthanne Schraeder

We're all abuzz!

We have some great adventures that we want to share with you this month! Just in case you thought our adventures were all about hikes and group outings... nothing could be farther from the truth! (Although of course we have plenty of those as well!)

Just in time for Mothers' Day, [Pollinator Power! Take 2!](#) is a *self-learning adventure*: We will give you some ideas about Queen Bees, their colonies, what they like and why it is so important to help them; and if you sponsor the adventure for \$55 or more, you will receive a fabulous hand crafted native bee nesting box she can use to attract a beautiful Queen bee. Hurry, though, if you want us to deliver it by Sunday!

On the topic of bees, Polly Knowlton Cockett and the Grassroutes Ethnoecological Association are offering up another round of the [Biodiversity Bees in Brentwood](#); every Tuesday throughout the summer there will be an opportunity to check out the Whispering Woods in northwest Calgary and take part in some socially-distant biodiversity stewardship.

Another adventure that is a reprise from last year: [Dinosaurs and Badlands](#). The ever-popular Dry Island Buffalo Jump in the Red Deer River valley will be the site of an interpretive paleological exploration in July... but if you're not up for the walk you can also join us the day before on Zoom for an exclusive chat with Dr. François Therrien, Curator of Dinosaur Palaeoecology at Royal Tyrrell Museum who will give a presentation on the "*Albertosaurus Bonebed of Dry Island*."

The educational excursions continue with [Discovering Ordovician Fossils in the Tyndall Limestone in Downtown, Kensington and SAIT](#). A half day urban field trip in Calgary with senior geologist Tako Koning, where adventurers will hunt for fossils in limestone-cladded buildings around Calgary, with stone coming from the Tyndall Formation which is quarried at Tyndall, Manitoba.

Along with all of the above, we of course have our regular full complement of hikes, rambles, tours and more. Read on below for more info and details!

In light of the very necessary Covid restrictions on outdoor gatherings, we have reduced the number of spots on many of these outings, so everyone coming along can be sure they will be safe and will have the opportunity to be properly distanced. We want to assure all participants that we place the utmost priority on everyone's well-being; in cases where the number of participants ends up exceeding guidelines we have contingency plans to split up into small, well-separated groups to ensure proper distancing.

In any case, we are sure you will find something in one of these Adventures that catches your fancy, however you end up spending the summer!

And as always...

~~~ ***Happy Adventuring!*** ~~~

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## **Pollinator Power! Take 2!**

Did you know that some of Alberta's Native Bee populations are really struggling? Our province is home to over 300 different native bee species. We can help the bees by planting native flowers in our yards and providing a space for a queen bee to make a colony. These bees



are pollinators not honey bees. It is exciting to help our pollinators do what they do best...pollinate!

[Learn about native pollinators and get a bee box](#)

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## Jun-Aug: Biodiversity Bees in Brentwood

Following on the 2021 Earth Day theme of *Restore our Earth*, this year's World Environment Day, June 5, will kick off the UN *Decade of Ecosystem Restoration*. And, it all comes together nicely under the 2021 theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity: *We're Part of the Solution*. It seems like the perfect year to join in with communal stewardship right here in Brentwood – with plenty of space to keep 2 metres apart.

[Support local native biodiversity](#)



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## May 29: Ice, Glaciers, Gravel and Oil - Cochrane North Field Trip

In a reprise of his popular adventure from last fall, we're heading out for a road trip with Senior Petroleum Geologist Tako Koning, where we will see various forms of glacial geology in the Cochrane & Lochend areas, as well as learn about the



rapidly developing program of fracking for oil in the Lochend area. Tako will be joined by Gerry Bietz of the Big Hill Creek Preservation Society who will have much to say about the impacts of gravel mining in the region.

[Click here to register](#)

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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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## May & June: Calgary Birding Tour

Join AWA Board Member Nathan Schmidt and AWA volunteers Alexa Escobar and Joel Forre as they tour some of the best birding locations in Calgary. Tours will talk about the basics of responsible birding as well as tips for species identification and other helpful birding resources.

This adventure will include several outings over the course of spring and

early summer 2021, with each one highlighting a different location.

[Be sure to bring your binoculars.](#)

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## Jul 16 & 17: Dinosaurs and Badlands

This is a two-part adventure combining an online presentation and an interpretive hike. There is an exclusive opportunity to virtually meet Dr. François Therrien, Curator of Dinosaur Palaeoecology at Royal Tyrrell Museum and attend his special Zoom presentation on the “*Albertosaurus Bonebed of Dry Island.*” The next day there will be an interpretive hike to the *Albertosaurus* bonebed and other sites at Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park.



[Sign up today for one or both parts of this Cretaceous double-header!](#)



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## Jul 11: Discovering Ordovician Fossils in the Tyndall Limestone in Downtown, Kensington and SAIT

On this half-day urban field trip with Senior Petroleum Geologist Tako Koning we will look at buildings clad in fossils-rich limestones of the Tyndall Formation. Beginning in downtown Calgary, we will visit several historic buildings around the inner city including Kensington, and SAIT where a wide variety of fossils (corals, sponges, nautiloids, algae, pelecypods, brachiopods) are exquisitely preserved in the limestone that clads the Senator Patrick Burns building.

[Here's your chance to learn from a true expert in this fascinating field!](#)

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## Jul 11: Plateau Mountain - Bike and Hike

Plateau Mountain is a prominent landmark in south western Alberta between the Livingstone Range and the prairie. It was declared an Ecological Reserve in 1991 and AWA have been stewards of this unique place for decades. This is a chance to see Plateau Mountain and its spectacular views in some detail – we will be covering some of the route by mountain bike and the rest on foot.



[Sign up for this rare opportunity!](#)

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## Summer: 21 Mountains

Alexa and Joel will be climbing 21 mountains in 2021, raising funds to help defend Wild Alberta!

If you'd like to follow along with them, or even join them on a few of these ascents, check out their adventure. They'll be posting updates from their enterprise, and giving heads up about upcoming peaks, so if you see one you'd like to come along on, there will be space for a few fellow alpinists.

[Follow along with Alexa and Joel!](#)

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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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