



## Upcoming Adventures in June and July

Whether Zooming from your computer or flitting out in the woods, these summer Adventures aren't for the birds!



PHOTO ©C. Wallis

AWA's *Adventures for Wilderness* is in full swing, and from birding tours to painting lessons, the next two months are bringing more adventures than we can fit into one email!

In this newsletter our focus is on ways you can explore Wild Alberta from the comfort of your own computer. [Learn about dinosaurs](#) from paleoecologist Dr. François Therrien! [Take a virtual tour](#) of Alberta's roadsides, ancient volcanoes and glaciations with Dale Leckie! [Attend an online painting class](#) with Katrina Kindrat!

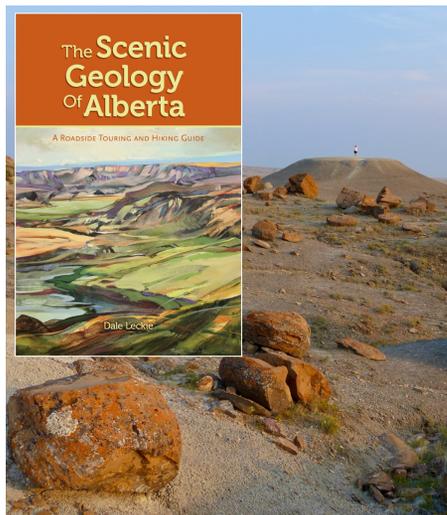
Or if you decide you've done enough hibernating and are itching to enjoy the summer outside, we have adventures that are sure to sate that desire as well.

[A series of Calgary-area birding tours](#) with Nathan Schmidt kicks off June 5th and runs throughout the summer. If you're down south you can [follow in the footsteps of renowned guide Bert Riggall](#) in his beloved Waterton region. [Follow along with Jim and Bob](#) as they embark on a mountain biking marathon circumnavigating Mount Rundle... or get on your bike yourself and join us for an insiders' "Bike and Hike" [tour of Plateau Mountain](#).

This is only a whirlwind introduction to the dozens of adventures we have this summer - truly too many to list here. Be sure to check out [the list on the Adventures for Wilderness website](#) for a complete and up-to-date catalogue of everything we have coming up!

In light of the very necessary Covid restrictions on outdoor gatherings, we have reduced the number of spots on many of our in-person 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.

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



## **Jun 1: Roadside Touring with Dale Leckie**

Join us as we tour Alberta's most scenic sites from the comfort of your own home! In this special online presentation, Dale will take us to explore volcanoes and glaciations long past with stops along well-travelled and not-so-well-travelled routes to fascinate curious adventurers.

[Discover Alberta's hidden geological history](#)

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## **Starting Jun 5: Calgary Birding Tours**

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 includes several outings over the course of spring and early summer 2021, with each one highlighting a different location. Current dates include:

- Jun 5 (Weaselhead)
- Jun 15 (Inglewood)
- Jun 26 (Fish Creek)

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



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### Jun 10: Paint Night with Kat

Get ready for a fun night of pushing your artistic boundaries, having fun in the comfort and safety of your own home, and forgetting about our troubles for a while. You will be following an online instructed class as we spend 2 hours recreating an acrylic painting. This is a step-by-step process for all levels, beginners to advanced painters. Previous painting experience isn't required.

[Get your creative juices flowing!](#)



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### Jun 14: In the Footsteps of Bert Riggall

This Adventure is a hike with Wendy Ryan to Big Sagebrush — a largely pristine and undisturbed area in Bert Riggall's cherished Waterton Area. Bert, the legendary guide and outfitter, established his guiding business in the area and brought his many clients and friends to it in the early 1900s. As well as having considerable experience of the wild lands of SW Alberta, Wendy knows Bert's life and achievements well. She will lead us on one of Bert's



favourite trails through some of Alberta's finest scenery and tell stories about Bert.

[Head out and smell the sagebrush](#)

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## Jun 27: The Rundle Ride

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Adventure for Wilderness for Bob Patterson and Jim Campbell will be to circumnavigate the iconic Mount Rundle on Saturday June 27, 2021 by cycling from Banff up the Goat Creek Trail, down the Spray Lakes Road, through the Canmore Nordic Centre, to return on the south side of the Bow River to their starting point at Bow Falls. A mountain bike marathon of 40+ KM. A few scrapes and flats are fully anticipated though all to the good of conserving Alberta's wildlife and wild places.

[Sponsor Bob and Jim and support Alberta's wild spaces](#)

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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](#)



Photo credit © Peter Helfrich

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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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## **Jul 16: Dinosaurs and Badlands / Albertosaurus Bonebed of Dry Island**

Sadly, the interpretive hike to Dry



Island has already filled up. However there are still remaining spots in the special Zoom presentation on the “*Albertosaurus Bonebed of Dry Island.*” This is an exclusive opportunity to virtually meet Dr. François Therrien, Curator of Dinosaur Palaeoecology at Royal Tyrrell Museum and attend his fascinating lecture.

[Sign up today to learn about the Albertosaurus!](#)

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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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## The Great Alberta Parks Bike-a-Thon 2021

Follow Sean this summer 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, telling the stories from this emerald archipelago that we came so close to losing.

The trip will end at #164, the [Strathcona Science Provincial Park in Edmonton](#), where we will celebrate with a picnic luncheon. Supporters are invited to join in!

[Sponsor Sean in support of AWA's work defending Alberta's 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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