



Alberta Wilderness Association

Congratulations to our award winners!

AWA Awards and Annual Lecture Friday, November 18, 6 p.m.

On Friday we will gather to honour those who strengthen the Alberta Wilderness Association through their dedication to conservation and our organization. Richard Thomas and Mary Kettenbach will be presented with this year's Wilderness Defenders Award and Tako Koning with the Great Gray Owl Award. Read on for a snapshot of these inspiring individuals.

Please join us via Zoom for the awards and AWA's annual lecture. This year the lecture will be given by Richard Thomas and is titled "If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention". Rather appropriate given the current state of things here in Alberta. We are reminded why folks like Tako, Mary, Richard, and all those [Wilderness Defenders](#) and [Great Gray Owls](#) who have come before are so important to our cause - Defending Wild Alberta Through Awareness and Action.

This virtual talk is free to attend, though we gratefully accept donations in honour of Mary, Richard and Tako.

[Register or donate](#)



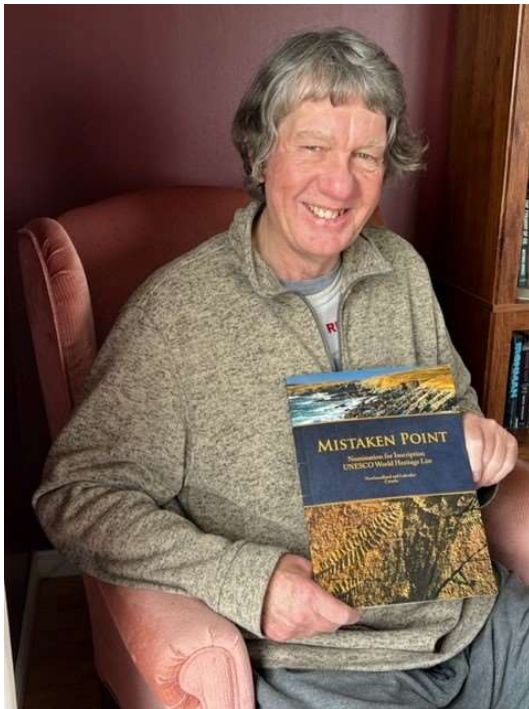
time Defender of Wild Alberta. At the age of 86, Mary took the bus from her home in Strathmore to Calgary and Medicine Hat to make presentations on Encana's proposal to drill over 1000 wells in the Suffield National Wildlife Area. Today, in her 90s, she is working to ensure wetlands near her home are protected.

Stay tuned for an article about Mary in our next Wildlands Advocate.



Tako has devoted a considerable amount of time to organizing field trips for AWA, the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and the Alberta Paleontological Society. Each trip has had an environmental, geological or paleontological emphasis. He was inspired to do so after his experiences in Africa, first with the Nigerian Field Society and then with the Angolan Field Group, created by him and his wife Henrietta.

He has been a very valuable contributor to AWA's Adventures for Wilderness program, organizing and leading numerous Adventures, drawing on his deep knowledge and enthusiasm for geology and his concern over environmental damage.



“It is Richard’s claim that AWA, through the support of Cliff Wallis, initiated his life as an environmental rebel when Cliff approached him at the geology department to review geotechnical documents associated with a proposed dam on the Oldman River. The implications he saw affected him and caused him to want to speak out. Since then, Richard periodically researched and wrote for, led field trips for, and represented the AWA in many instances, particularly associated with the Boreal Natural Region - he even served for a year on the AWA board.

At an AWA board meeting in 1990, Richard astonished members by pulling a crumpled, used hanky from his pocket and plopping it on the boardroom table. He used this disgusting medium to illustrate an idea burning in his head. AWA was influenced enough to commission its first and only painting....”

[Read more about Richard in the autumn issue of the Wildlands Advocate.](#)

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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