





Hikers enjoy rambling the Whaleback ridges on last year's spring adventure. **Photo © L. Wallis**

spectacular; we connected over 400 participants with Wild Alberta. We explored dunes near Wainwright, rambled along ridges on the Eastern Slopes, and revelled in the riot of wildflowers blanketing the Milk River Ridge. We learned about pollinators and birds, beavers and geology. Some places we visited, like the Rosebud, are under threat. Artist Carolyn Fisher and AWA conservation specialist Devon Earl took folks for a day of art and education in the upper Highwood which, thanks to thousands of folks pushing back against industry, has a brief reprieve from the logging that was planned for the past two winters.

We also journeyed to places where degradation and destruction have already run rampant. More than 50 folks showed up in mid-March to the Oldman Reservoir. They heard stories of communities having to dredge and pump the river bottom or truck water in because of severe drought conditions and wanted to learn more. It was like a punch to the gut to see hundreds of metres of mud stretching along the valley bottom of what used to be a clear, vibrant river, home to many native trout. We only witnessed a dirty trickle of water wending its way through a deeply eroded channel in the parched, cracked reservoir. Despite this, we learned about its history, and

drew strength from the fight against the dam. Local biologists shared their knowledge about what must happen in the future to support healthy rivers for people and wildlife.

It is such a pleasure to share the fantastic work that other individuals and organizations are doing to protect Wild Alberta. AWA partners with numerous organizations to help amplify their messages, and our adventures were led by almost two dozen knowledgeable volunteer coordinators. We learned about beaver coexistence projects, how conservation easements protect private land, and how volunteers are working to save native fish from irrigation canals.

This year's adventure calendar is filling up — join us on an Adventure for Wilderness, or help us celebrate AWA's 60th anniversary by answering the question, "What's your 60?" and create your own nature-based challenge around the number 60. It can be done anywhere in the province and can be whatever speaks most to YOU. The only limit is your imagination! On top of connecting with nature however you can, it's also a concrete way you can support conservation.

Learn more about joining the challenge on our website, where you can also sponsor other participants who have committed to goals like 60 nature walks, writing 60 nature haikus, or taking 60 photos of flowers. There are also people hiking, biking or skiing 60 trails, visiting 60 parks, writing 60 letters to government officials or planting 60 native plants on their properties. We can't wait to find out what's YOUR 60?

-Lindsey Wallis



Kirby England ferries adventurers across part of a beaver pond as they learned first-hand the importance of this misunderstood rodent to our watersheds. **Photo © L. Wallis**