



# ON THE TRAIL NEWSLETTER



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012/ 2013

EVENTS	DATES for 2012
<i>Hike Season Ends</i>	Wed, Oct 31, 2012
<b><i>POT LUCK SUPPER &amp; VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION</i></b>	Sat, Oct 20, 2012 @ 6:30 pm
<b><i>Membership Renewal Deadline</i></b>	December 1, 2012
<b><i>SPECIAL MEETING TO PASS BYLAWS</i></b>	December 6, 2012 @ 7:00 pm
EVENTS	DATES for 2013
<b><i>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/WINE &amp; CHEESE</i></b>	Sat. Jan. 26/13@ 6:30 pm



### Message from the President

The theme this year is transition. We are making a smooth transition to a web-based system thanks to our webmaster Fritz Kiessling, our Hike Coordinator Lynn Williams, the web committee volunteers and all those hikers who have embraced the new system.

Now let's put our attention on the next big change, our bylaws. Since the AGM in January, your bylaw committee (Terry Wilson, Fritz Kiessling & Marlene Wiens) went back to the drawing board. We made changes needed to help the club function efficiently and economically in the future. These changes were sent to the Alberta Societies to make sure we had acceptable wording.

Now it is your turn. The bylaws with their changes are either in your newsletter mail package or an email attachment, and are accompanied by a proxy with instructions. The point is that **WE WANT YOU TO RETURN THE PROXY NOW** so we will have all your votes for the Special Meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2012. Our current bylaws state that we need a 75% approval by the membership for changes to be made. This requirement translates into 323 'yes' votes. Do you see the challenge? Please do your part by completing the proxy and sending it in even if you think you will attend the meeting. If you have any questions, please ask a member of your executive.

Just one more transition item to note: The renewal deadline for your club membership will be moved up to December 1st. Please read Membership Coordinator's message for details.

We have an excellent, hard working executive. If you are hiking with them, please give them a pat on the back with a thank you, because

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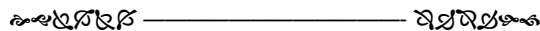
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## The CWH Executive Committee

Past President: Ken Melville	Hike Planning Coordinator: Lynn Williams
President: Marlene Wiens	Social Coordinator: Palma Hemings
Secretary: Wanda Dennis	Newsletter Editor: Steve Thor
Treasurer: Terry Wilson	Statistition: Joyce Leong
Membership Coordinator: Ann Murphy	Communications Coordinator: Fritz Kiessling

they are doing this for you and the future of the Calgary Weekend Hikers.



### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE CHANGE!**

This year the deadline for Membership Renewal submission will be December 1, 2012. You can expect to receive your Membership Application Forms in mid October. We will not be accepting membership renewals in January and February.

We have moved the renewal process forward for several reasons.

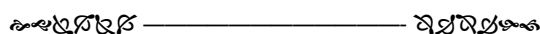
1. In order that the renewal process will have been completed before the A.G.M. in January
2. To give us enough time to fill membership openings from the waiting list
3. To provide the Hike Coordinator a complete and up-to-date membership list from which to select Trip Coordinators

This move will give the Membership Coordinator and the Hike Coordinator more time to put together the Membership List and Hike Schedule Package for distribution earlier in the spring.

The club has 307 membership units, 4 Associate, 3 Founding, 22 Honorary Family, 48 Honorary Single. We have 230 Active Units made up of 90 Active Family, and 140 Active Single which is 70 units short of our maximum.

As of May 31<sup>st</sup> we have 55 names on our waiting list. This year is an excellent year for your friends to add their names to our waiting list as the first 70 names are guaranteed membership for 2013.

A Message from your Membership Coordinator, Ann Murphy.







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## New Member's Night

by Stephen Thor



I am happy to report that we had a good turnout at the Newcomer's Orientation. The newbies looked liked seasoned veterans and we have already heard of one in the group having a vast array of experience in the mountains.

The evening featured presentations of interest to new hikers. I found the presentation of the contents of Lynn Williams' backpack interesting. It was something like seeing the contents of a ladies purse - personal and informative. Lynn mentioned a bevy of reasons for taking all the items she carries that may slip our thought process, so it is always good to review your pack contents occasionally.



The hiking books Terry showed us included a book or two I do not have and the presentation on the web that Fritz gave had me scratching my head again. The program ended with a showing of the bear aware video.

The food was great and I felt Palma's hospitality. In all, the evening was a success judging from the feedback received from new members.



## Bugs On Snow- Springtime Bugs

by Stephen Thor

Yesterday I was hiking after a new snowfall and happened upon a fellow 3-season hiker. She had lived in Alberta for 13 years and hiked most Wednesdays, but had not seen some things I have noticed, such as insects.

When the snow is nice and white, you can see the tracks of animals and bugs that are moving about. She was surprised at the number and diversity of bugs that appear like little black specks on the snow. There are flying bugs that look like mosquitoes (but don't bite). There are also small flies that like to be out in spring. Then there are the



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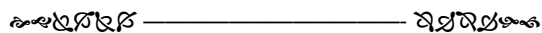
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snow fleas that come up the tree trunks and hop around on top of the snow. In April, when the sun is out and warm on a new white layer, you may see them as a black spot that was there and suddenly it isn't anymore. If you are lucky you can see a depression in the snow that looks black at the bottom. If you bend over, you can see an individual spec when suddenly it hops! Then you notice all the specs are hopping about. It is a city of thousands of fleas. Then there are the spiders. I noticed a small wolf spider on a hike up Sulphur Mountain and a few other spiders that were too small for me to identify.

Do you have some bug experiences to share? Write to me, Steve Thor.



## **Hike Coordinators Appreciation Night**

by Lynn Williams, Hike Planning Coordinator



A special Hike Coordinators Appreciation Night was held to thank the 98 Hike Coordinators that volunteered to lead 164 scheduled hikes in the 2012 Season.

The evening started off in the relaxing atmosphere of a candlelit dinner and wonderful desserts accompanied with a little wine, tea and coffee. Lynn gave a warm

thank you to those that helped with the dinner and evening preparations.



The Hike Planning Team were acknowledge with great appreciation for all the work they did to call each club member looking for trip leaders and then compiling the complete

2012 Hike Schedule. Lynn also gave big hugs of gratitude to the Hike Phone Team for maintaining and updating the hike phone throughout the year.



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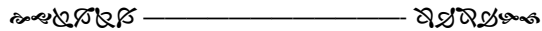


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Lastly was a warm thanks to the Hike Coordinators for leading trips to beautiful fields, vistas and mountain tops that we all so enjoy.

To wrap up the evening, further detailed information was provided about the website, website related responsibilities, new website processes and a Q&A opportunity. It was fun, relaxing and informative evening that was enjoyed by all who attended. What to come next year - great - just lead your favorite hike and you too can join in on the fun!



## **Hike Planning Coordinator Report**

by Lynn Williams, Hike Planning Coordinator

I hope everyone is enjoying the hiking season and the new website.

Please ensure the Hike Phone Coordinator is advised of all new hikes or hike changes before Thursday 8:00pm for weekend hikes and Sunday at 8:00pm for mid-week hikes. All new hikes need to be added to the hike phone to qualify as a club hike.

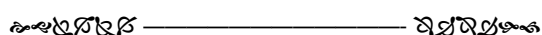
If a hike has an asterisk in front of the name the hike does not have on-line registration available. If you are the hike coordinator and want to change to on-line registration please contact Lynn Williams at (403) 830-7373 or email hikes@calgaryweekendhikers.com asap.

If you are a hike coordinator that does not have access to a computer or decided not to have on-line registration, the procedure has changed. Please mail the trip report to Lynn Williams at 11, 3800 Fonda Way SE, Calgary, AB T2A 6G8. This will allow the hike participants to be given credit on the website before forwarding to the Statistician. The official hike count will continue to be from the Statistician's records as there are some participation records missing from the website for this year. We will review the process and make improvements for our next season.

Lastly, if you are thinking of adding a hike to the website, please review the document on the website under 'Other > Documents called 'Possible Choices for Additional Hikes' since this list represents hikes that we were not able to offer to the club members this year.

I would like to thank all the hike coordinators for volunteering their time and expertise to offer a fabulous array of hikes and a special thank you to the Hike Phone Coordinators for their ongoing, tireless efforts keeping the club members updated the whole season long. It is an honor and privilege to work with each of you.

Have a great hiking season! Lynn Williams





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## Trip To Alberta Birds Of Prey Nature Centre

by Barry Simpkins

On June 03, 2012, Susan Korba coordinated a visit by 12 Calgary Weekend Hikers to the Alberta Birds of Prey Nature Reserve in Coaldale, 13 km east of Lethbridge. What a treat we were all in for! Granted, it was a fairly long drive to get there – about 2 ¼ hours – but it was well worth it. Having very pleasant weather all day certainly enhanced our enjoyment.

Mike Weir and some friends initiated the Centre 25 years ago as a “labour of love”. Mike continues to manage the place, and exudes a passion for the wonderful creatures in his care. Without the benefit of government funding, he’s had to seek out corporate and individual financial support, and he has obviously been very successful. He’s developed some beautifully landscaped water features within the 70 acres of prairie wetlands, together with wonderful habitat for his birds.

Erin, a very knowledgeable student staffer, gave us a 2-hour group tour. The first birds we met were a pair I’ll call “Homer & Jethro”, a very bonded pair of male ducks, one a mallard, the other a white crested. We were then approached by a female Canada goose and her three growing goslings. These birds were not the least bit shy, fully aware of the safety of their surroundings. Next we came to an enclosure of a gaggle (?) of white ducks, which Steve Bodie took great pleasure in releasing. They surrounded us in hopes of being fed!

Then on to the birds of prey. We had already been introduced to Alex, the burrowing owl “mascot”, in the Visitor Centre. Now we had a chance to meet various other gorgeous owls – short-eared, barn, great horned, great grey – in their outdoor habitats, along with hawks, falcons, eagles and a turkey vulture. Mike and Erin gave us a demonstration of a golden eagle’s flying techniques, and finally we had an opportunity to get “up close and personal” with some of the birds, even petting the owls. It was a truly memorable experience for all of us, and especially fun to watch some young children learning about, and interacting with the birds.

Following lunch on the grounds, we drove to the University of Lethbridge visitors parking lot for a 10-km hike in the Oldman River valley. We had a bit of route-finding challenge locating the correct parking lot, but were underway before long. The hike took us north under the famous railway trestle, all the way to Hwy. 3, across to the east side of the river, and back to Fort Whoop-up, where we stopped for some great ice cream.

It was 5:30 before we got back to our cars, so we decided we would stop for a fried chicken supper at the 7-11 in Claresholm, eating outside the store on picnic benches. I have to say I’ve tasted better chicken, but what the heck – it staved off our hunger!

**Thanks, Susan,** for a terrific day! Anyone interested in learning



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about the *Birds of Prey Centre* should visit the Website – [www.burrowingowl.com](http://www.burrowingowl.com). There was a consensus among the participants that this trip should become an annual feature of the Calgary Weekend Hikers schedule.

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## **POT LUCK SUPPER & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION**

by Palma Heming, Social Convener

**Stanley Park-Parkhill Community Centre  
4013 Stanley Road SW  
Saturday, 20-Oct 2012 @ 6:30 pm**

Please bring a family-size potluck dish with 2 serving utensils (so we can serve from both sides of the table at once).

Please cut your potluck dish up into servings (if appropriate) prior to bringing it to the event. (so you don't have to spend time doing this in the kitchen prior to dinner).

We ask that you RSVP how many are coming to Palma at [pheming@telus.net](mailto:pheming@telus.net) or leave a message at 403-933-3970 as we only have seating capacity for the first 100 people.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

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## **Techy Bits**

by Fritz Kiessling, Communications Chair

We have gratefully received an advisory note from one of our members regarding emailing your trip photos to our fotki.com photo archive.

When you send photo files to [photos@calgaryweekendhikers.com](mailto:photos@calgaryweekendhikers.com) make sure to send the photos as "attachments". Otherwise our photo archivist can't populate the respective trip folder with your photos. If the photos are not sent as attachments, they will likely be "imbedded" in the email, and that causes all sorts of problems.

Most email programs or email services do that automatically, but be aware that some do not. Look for this feature and check, especially after "upgrades" to your email software, or after "improvements" to your email service have been announced, that the configuration has not been changed.

In closing, a little reminder to change, where possible, the photo file name to read like the photo caption, but don't include any names. Photo captions makes viewing much more interesting and fun.

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