



AWASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, April 6, 2018, Central Lions Recreation Centre, Edmonton

AGENDA

1. Welcome: JoAnne Burek, President
2. Minutes of AGM, April 7, 2017
3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 28, 2018
4. Reports
 - a. President: JoAnne Burek
 - b. Membership/Donations: Sandra Carruthers
 - c. Trail Maintenance, Beyond Events, Permissions: Karen Bell
 - d. Website: Lee Stickles
 - e. Hikes: Lee Stickles
 - f. Birkebeiner: Sherri Kunkel
5. Announcements
 - a. Skyline Trail: Oscar Zawasky
 - b. September Beyond Event: Anita Piebiak
6. Nominations and Elections: JoAnne Burek
7. Order of the Laces
8. Adjournment

INTERMISSION

PROGRAM

Dr. Colleen Cassady St. Clair, Biologist

Waskahegan Trail Association

2017 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Date: April 7, 2017

Time: 7:03 pm

Location: Central Lions Recreation Centre, Edmonton

Members:

Karen Bell, JoAnne Burek, Jaynee Carre, Sandra Carruthers, Kim Cassady, Judy Cornish, Louis Davis, Stephen Dobson, John Dodd, David Dorward, Diane Duke, Terry Elrod, Lorraine Faulds, Rob Faulds, Johanna Fischer, Michele Fortin, Rosa Garcia, Bonnie Guo, Gail Helgason, Bill Hinchey, Brad Jordan, Lin Keehn, Sherry Kunkle, Jim Lange, Marta Miller, Florence Miskiw, Gene Miskiw, David Mutch, Grecia Navarro, Ben Newman, Anita Piebach, Jerry Shaw, Tony Sheep, Lee Stickles, John Scotvold, Phyllis Verhaar, Peter Verhaar, Kathy Will, Scarlet Wong, Oscar Zawalsky

1. Welcome

JoAnne Burek, Past President, is filling in for Buck Buell and called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

2. Minutes of AGM April 15, 2016

Moved by Terry Elrod, seconded by Kim Cassady. **Carried.**

3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 28, 2017

Financial Statements were presented by Treasurer Lee Stickles and audited by Helen Whitson and Lin Keehn.

Moved by John Scotvold, seconded by Oscar Zawalsky. **Carried.**

4. Committee Reports

a. President: JoAnne Burek for Buck Buell

b. Membership/ Donations: Sandra Carruthers
See separate report

c. Trail Maintenance/ Landowner relations: Karen Bell
See separate report

d. New Initiatives: Terry Elrod
See separate report

e. Newsletter: JoAnne Burek

- Newsletters are not being mailed out anymore, they are only emailed out
- Landowners will now receive a newsletter

f. Website: Lee Stickle

g. Hike Coordinator: Lee Stickle

- More people are attending the hikes
- Meeting locations have changed to the Park+Ride locations at the LRT Stations Belvedere and Century Park
- Hikes are now offered on Saturdays and Sundays
- Saturday night hike in the summer
- Mid August short hike with lunch
- Find some experts to come along on hikes

5. Announcements

- Oscar talked about the Skyline Hike and the Birkenbeiner
- WTA received a certificate of recognition from the Canadian Birkie Ski Festival for 28 years of Service

6. Nominations and Elections

- No nominations
- See separate report

7. Order of the Laces

- Jerry Shaw received this year's Order of the Laces

8. Honorary Member Induction

- Louis Davis became a Lifetime Honorary Member of the WTA

9. Adjournment

7:36 pm

Nominations for the Board

The following candidates have been nominated for the board:

Candidate	Year of term
Sandra Carruthers	5 th year
Karen Bell	4 th year
Lee Stickles	4 th year
Jerry Shaw	2 nd year
Terry Elrod	2 nd year
John Scotvold	2 nd year
Johanna Fischer	2 nd year
Kim Cassady	1 st year
Lin Keehn	1 st year
JoAnne Burek	1 st year

If there are no changes to the above, the new board will look like this:

President: JoAnne Burek

Treasurer: Lin Keehn

Secretary: Johanna Fischer

Membership: Sandra Carruthers

Vice President: TBD

Trail Maintenance and Events: Karen Bell

Landowner Relations: TBD

Permissions: Karen Bell/Sandra Carruthers

Webmaster: Lee Stickles

Hike Coordinator: John Scotvold

Publicity: Jerry Shaw

Archives: Jerry Shaw

Director at Large: Terry Elrod

Director at Large: Kim Cassady

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION**BALANCE SHEET**

As Of February 28, 2018 - Year End

Year End Feb. 28, 2018

ASSETS**Cash Assets:**

GENERAL Bank Account Balance	19,563.59	✓
CASINO Bank Account Balance	1,064.29	✓
TOTAL Cash Assets	20,627.88	

Investments:

GENERAL Invest. Account (Term Deposit)	0	
CASINO Invest. Account (GIC's)	65000.00	✓
TOTAL Investments	65000.00	

TOTAL ASSETS**85,627.88** ✓**LIABILITIES & EQUITY****Current Liabilities**

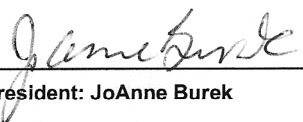
Outstanding Cheques	0
TOTAL Current Liabilities	0

EQUITY

0

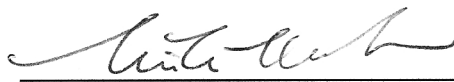
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **85,627.88**

Approved for the Association by:



President: JoAnne Burek

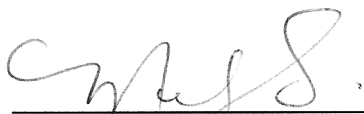
Date: March 17, 2018



Treasurer: Lin L. Keehn

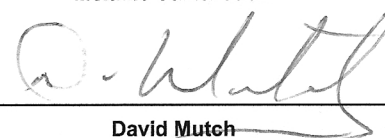
Date: March 17, 2018

Audited by:



Melanie Samaroden

Date: March 17, 2018



David Mutch

Date: March 17, 2018

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION**STATEMENT OF INCOME - GENERAL ACCOUNT**

As Of February 28, 2018 - Year End

Year End Feb. 28, 2018

REVENUE (GENERAL)	
Donations	413.00
Interest Income	0.00
Grants	0.00
Membership Dues	2720.00
GST Rebate	313.46
Sales - Pins, Crests, etc.	19.00
Income Shipping (Guidebooks)	300.00
Sales of Guidebooks	696.00
TOTAL REVENUE (GENERAL):	4461.46
EXPENSE (GENERAL)	
GST Expense	275.85
Bank Discrepancy	
Meetings	323.33
Misc. Expenses	212.46
Newsletter	64.05
Office Expense (Non Newsletter)	1217.10
PayPal fees	72.56
Printing & Reproduction	0.00
Volunteer Appreciation	936.23
Website	338.88
TOTAL EXPENSE (GENERAL):	3440.46

STATEMENT OF INCOME - CASINO ACCOUNT

As Of February 28, 2018 - Year End

Year End Feb. 28, 2018

REVENUE (CASINO)	
Interest Income	0.00
GST Rebate	174.30
Casino Income	72,648.71
TOTAL REVENUE (CASINO):	72,823.01

EXPENSE (CASINO)	
Casino Administration	1,463.00
Casino Event (return of excess payment)	-10.28
Equipment (Purchases)	1,001.97
Brochures	580.00
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	2,691.33
Equipment Storage	2,825.98
GST Expense	256.80
Leases & Licences	200.00
Transportation - Work Crews	4,336.78
Transportation - Scouting	1,413.40
WCB Fee	200.00
TOTAL EXPENSE (CASINO):	14,958.98

58,885.03

President's Report

Meetup Group

Last year we set out to increase our membership by tapping into Meetup.com. If you're not familiar with Meetup, it's an online community of many thousands of people, of all ages. It's especially popular with younger people and newcomers to the area who want to find things to do with like-minded people.

Last spring, we set up our Meetup group and called it "Hike the Waskahegan Trail." We use it to promote our guided hikes.

In these reports, you'll hear how our membership grew by almost 50%. We're certain that some of the increase was due to Meetup. I have talked to two people who found us on Meetup and immediately took out a Waskahegan membership. The board knows of others who joined after attending a hike. There were also many people who came on just one hike and never came back, and that's a normal thing no matter where they come from. And then there were a few who came back week after week, and still didn't become members, and probably never will. Overall, having the Meetup group helped grow our membership.

Having Meetup people on our hikes created interesting times. When there are just a few non-members, they naturally fall in line with the pace and behaviour of the experienced hikers around them. But occasionally the Meetup people numbered 10 or more, and that sometimes created a bigger job for the leader. Nevertheless, I loved having the Meetup people on my hikes—particularly the younger generation and their curiosity and enthusiasm.

As a board we decided that we would continue keeping our Meetup group. Indeed, it creates more work for hike coordination and hike leading, but it's an excellent channel for publicity. Thanks to Terry Elrod for spearheading this and doing so much work to get it off the ground. Thanks also to the hike leaders for their perseverance.

Currently our Meetup group has 791 members. You can find it at <https://www.meetup.com/Hike-the-Waskahegan-Trail/>.

Weekly Emails

After some experimentation, I settled into a routine of sending weekly (or almost-weekly) emails about our activities and the upcoming hikes. Currently 256 people subscribe to these emails. This includes all the membership, previous members, anyone who has come on a hike and offered up their email addresses, and several non-members who voluntarily signed up to receive emails using the opt-in form on the website.

I would like to thank everyone who has sent me kind words about these emails. I personally love writing them and I really appreciate your comments.

Landowner Newsletter

The annual newsletter to landowners went out via email to 57 addresses and regular mail to 46 addresses. The letter is included in these reports.

Hike leadership

In the past year, there has been a decline in the number of hike leaders. It feels like crisis level.

At the same time, newer members have been telling us that they would like to lead a hike, but they want to go out with an experienced leader first.

Rather than trying to match experienced leaders with new leaders, we are trying to put in place a system so that these two groups can connect and arrange to work together themselves. This will probably involve creating a registry on the website. Stay tuned for more to come.

Flower Project

A fun new project this year is brought to us by Ilona Ryder and Jerry Shaw. We are going to have a section on the website with a page for each of the native flower species that we find on our trail. Each page will include the botanical information about the species and possibly a "Waskahegan Field Notes" section that says something about the area where the flower was found. As much as possible, the photos will be of flowers actually found on the trail. Members will be invited to contribute to the pages.

We hope that the Flower Project web pages will become an authoritative Internet source of information about our local flora.

Slow Poke Hikes

Since last year, we have been talking about the need to accommodate slower hikers without slowing down the hike for everyone. Quite often, there is so much to explore and admire along the way that you just can't do the whole 10km. And sometimes, not everyone wants to go the whole distance.

This year, we are excited to introduce Slow Poke Hikes. These hikes will coincide with the regular hike, except the Slow Poke group will only go to a half-way point. At a designated time, both the regular group and the Slow Poke group will head back. Both groups should arrive at the cars around the same time.

Certain trail sections are better for this than others. Hikes that include a Slow Poke Hike will be identified as such on the hike calendar.

The Slow Poke Hikes will be advertised to the Edmonton Native Plant group in their *Wildflower News* newsletter. Thanks to Jerry Shaw for leading the way on Slow Poke Hikes.

I would like to thank all our board members for all their hard work, dedication, enthusiasm, and support.

It's been a lively and productive year.

Respectfully Submitted

JoAnne Burek



WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 131
Edmonton, Alberta,
T5J 2G9
www.waskahegantrail.ca

Dear Landowner,

Thank you for your continuing permission allowing us to maintain the trail on your land.

Included with this letter is the hike schedule we have planned for May through October. As always, our plans can be affected by heavy rain and surprises like washouts and beaver activity. The guided hike page (<http://waskahegantrail.ca/events/category/hike/>) will always have the most up to date schedule.

Annual General Meeting

You're invited to the AGM on Friday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Lions Recreation Centre, 11113 – 113 Street NW, in Edmonton.

Following the business meeting and election of a new board, there will be a presentation by Wayne Oakes, an Edmonton photographer and naturalist, on the Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve. He'll talk about the wildlife and about his photography gear.

Ways to keep in touch

Here are the ways you can contact us:

1. Email us at information@waskahegantrail.ca
2. Use the form on the Contact Us page at waskahegantrail.ca

You can also subscribe to our email list. You'll find the sign-up box at the bottom of our home page. We send almost-weekly emails to talk about recent activities and to announce the next Sunday hike.

Finally, I want you to know what an impression your generosity makes on city folk. On our Sunday guided hikes, we always remind the hikers about the rules and the need for respect, and that we are on this private land only due to the generosity of the landowners. Every time we give this speech—especially to newcomers—you can see the surprise and awe, and then gratitude, wash over their faces. I am convinced that this makes them appreciate the beauty of the land even more.

Wishing you all the best in 2018.

JoAnne Burek, President

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP REPORT AGM

APRIL 06, 2018

Sandra Carruthers, Membership Secretary took over duties as of April 11, 2014 is beginning her Fourth year . The duties of the Membership Secretary include being the primary contact for membership, mailing of the cards, books, crests, decals, pins, and donation receipts. Keeping records and statistics are also part of the duties of the Membership Secretary. Membership activity for yearend February 28, 2018.

Memberships as of March 31, 2017	111
New Members	56
Reinstated Members	00
Resigned / Expired Memberships	11
Memberships as of February 28, 2018	156

Historical trend in number of memberships and book sales

Trends in Membership and Book Sales				
AGM in April	Number of Members to Feb.28/18	New	Resigned/Expired	Books Sold
2014	109	22	31	22
2015	111	35	34	22
2016	107	29	33	25
2017	111	41	37	28
2018	156	56	11	56

Membership numbers have soared throughout 2017 / 2018. WTA signed on with MEET UP groups online which has generated a number of new members. As well, it is thought that with this group, a good number of folk browsing meet up sites have learned about WTA, and although not directly members of meet up, have decided to join WTA. Another factor in rise of new members is that our team has made numerous changes to WTA website, making it very interesting and easy to navigate encouraging interest for new members. WTA continue to encourage payment through PayPal which has proven to be very successful for new members and renewal members alike.

New members are always welcome so please take a few of the new brochures to pass along to friends and family.

We are always grateful for the donations so generously given and note that the yearend showed a total \$363.00. Thank you goes out to T. Kemball, Steve Dobson, Terry Elrod, Roy Yee, Heather Shankowsky, and Donna Cissell.

Thank you also to those board members for their support during my term of Membership Secretary. The changes during my 4 years on the Board have been significant, improving the overall WTA Website, enabling easier navigation and control of WTA documents, new initiatives for the increase in membership, along with mapping trails, and many others headed by our great team of volunteers. I wish to welcome Karyn Murray to the WTA Board as she will be taking over the duties of Membership Secretary. Welcome Karyn.

Submitted by

Sandra Carruthers

Trail Maintenance - AGM 2018

-As much as I like to plan, trail clearing can be unpredictable. At the start of the season Miquelon surprised us again with our 10ft section boardwalk underwater and when we moved further north there still was a lot of water on the trail we have not had in the past. At Hastings Lake a frantic barking dog soon started to whimper and cry when hit by a skunk which he drop in front of the oncoming mowers which Gary move quickly to toss aside. At Coal Lake we tackled a neglected area finding the trail with difficulty until a wall of knotted down trees stopped us.

-We put up newly printed landowner signs at trailheads and we built boardwalks and stiles along the Kopp Lake, Hastings and Wanison. We reopened a blue alternative route along Bigstone Creek and a section of Hastings Lake that had issues.

-The building of our longest bridge over the Battle River, an accomplishment for maintenance crews many years ago was the subject of a presentation at our last AGM.

Sadly, we were forced to dismantle and remove it last fall before it fell into the river. On the positive side the landowner Kelly Bradford helped us do so using his heavy equipment and we got to know him. As well Brad Jordan used his bigger truck to haul the material, making what would have been a much harder job go smooth and efficient.

-We purchased a second Ariens lawnmower for \$999, a sale price John Scotvold was able to talk them down to. We spent money on the landowner printed signs, lots of wood as well as regular maintenance & repairs. We picked up wood donated by Peter Verhaar. We added to our existing animal cart we use for transporting supplies down the trail with a used jogging stroller.

-This past season we worked at the garage 4 times and had 26 crews out clearing trail, which is more than we've had for years. (2016 was 23 times; 2015 22 times)

-Crews go out weekly usually on Wednesdays from April to October. We will likely add some Saturdays this year too. It is always great to have more people out for maintenance. Check the website to see where we are working next and let me know if you can make it. The first crew will be May 2 going to Battle River Duhamel.

-Thank you to the 34 volunteers that made trail maintenance a big success last year.

Oscar Z., John S., Bonnie G, Darlene B., Brad J., Gary D., Sherry K., Narda B., Ellen H., Jerry S, Helen W., Terry E, Adrian J., Linda P., Svetlana K, David M, Wayne C., Donna C., Michele F., Sandra C., Kelly Bradford (landowner Low's Bridge), Martha Conrad & Glen Rabby(Hastings Landowners), Garry W, Rejaune W., Jim Hole (landowner Battle), Gladys V., Gabrielle L., Anita P., Edda., Donna B., Carl, Tim R. & me

Events Beyond the Waskahagan Trail)

-Last year our September Membership BBQ at Coyote Lake was a great success, with 30 people and sunny weather. Oscar led half the group around Coyote Lake and the other 15 trekked the Geneese Natural Area looking for plant fossils along the North Saskatchewan river. Sandra hosted a fine feast led by bison smokies that were secretly simmered in beer.

We also did a hike on the new Devonian trail from Prospector's Point to the Devonian Gardens in May and at the new Bunchberry trust property last fall.

This year, besides the annual BBQ, Anita is planning a trip to Goldeye in September.

Landowner Permissions

- Between Terry Elrod and myself we sent out 4 welcome packages to new landowners. We made visits to two landowners in Hastings where we had issues with new fences to sort out. We are happy to report the two landowners will be maintaining our trails there for us! Terry convinced another Battle River owner wanting to rescind his permission to let us continue hiking when we ask ahead of a planned hike.


- With the centennial in the national parks the administration at Elk Island Park were unable last year to address our trail, so hopefully this season we will be able to set up a land stewardship agreement to continue maintenance which would include an approved bridge.

-Three of our four leases on crown land need renewing this year (Wanison, Miquelon and Ministik). With the new government regulations we will need to spend money for survey sketches to meet their requirements.

-Between Terry, Sandra and myself we connected with many landowners and updated their information. There is much work needing to be done still this year as after 50 years a lot of land has been sold.

Karen Bell

<http://www.waskahegantrail.ca/> *Report for AGM*



Waskahegan Trail Association

Alberta's Premier Hiking Trail

- Home
- About
- Event Calendar
- Hiking ▾
- Trail Maintenance ▾
- Membership
- Volunteer ▾

- We migrated the web site to “Webnames”
 - Last year I’d mentioned we were starting to get performance issues & were reviewing our options
 - we had been on the Telus shared service but performance was unreliable
 - Telus didn’t have a reasonable alternative will Webnames was only marginally more expensive with a committed service
- There are some options that JoAnne has been looking at to better integrate PayPal, so hopefully that ‘Lost Private Link’ issue many of you have had when renewing will soon be gone

<http://www.waskahegantrail.ca/> Report for AGM

Waskahegan Trail Association

	Date	Attendees	Date	Attendees
• Average number of hikers per hike: 16.35	15-Jan-17	11	2-Jul-17	12
• 68 members attended a hike (vs 51 in 2016)	29-Jan-17	20	8-Jul-17	16
• 99 non-members attended (includes Meetup)	12-Feb-17	15	30-Jul-17	23
• New Additions -	26-Feb-17	10	6-Aug-17	16
○ We also ran several Saturday hikes in May	12-Mar-17	11	13-Aug-17	12
○ Saturday evening hike (& campfire) at Wanison	30-Apr-17	17	20-Aug-17	27
○ There was a slower paced hike at Ministik & targeting 3 this season, as 2 groups	6-May-17	16	10-Sep-17	17
✓ Pipestone Creek	7-May-17	21	17-Sep-17	17
✓ Stoney Creek	13-May-17	16	24-Sep-17	28
✓ Ministrk Lake	14-May-17	12	1-Oct-17	15
• Hike Leaders	20-May-17	20	8-Oct-17	13
○ Anita, David, Elizabeth, Gladys, Helen, Irene	21-May-17	25	15-Oct-17	11
& Scotty, JoAnne & Lee, Johanna, John,	28-May-17	22	29-Oct-17	13
Karen, Martha, Oscar, Sandra, Stella & Terry	4-Jun-17	22	19-Nov-17	14
	11-Jun-17	11	17-Dec-17	11
	18-Jun-17	13	Average	16.35

What walkers say & WHAT THEY MEAN

"Not far now"

No idea how far now

"This way!"

Possibly this way

"Just checking the map"

Absolutely panicking

"Cows are as afraid of us as we are of them"

I am much more scared than I am prepared to admit

"Pretty sure that's a Hawthorn"

Pretty confident you're out of 3G to check what it is

"Morning!"

I am normal. Let's not talk.

"Crisps?"

Take the plain so I don't have to

"Let's see if they do food"

We're having a pint here

"I've got a bit of chafing"

You may find the bathroom door locked tonight

"Imagine if I'd dropped the car key!"

WHERE is the SODDING car key?

"Fancy a cuppa?"

Suggest a pint. Suggest a pint. Suggest a pint.

Birkebeiner Report

Thank you to all those who volunteered for this year's Birkebeiner: Rob Faulds, David Mutch, Oscar Zawalsky, Edda Loomes, Bonnie Guo, Jerry Shaw, Faye Malsbury, Elizabeth Alke, Kate Welsh, Dianna Riggs, Anita Piebiak, and Brad Jordan.

A special acknowledgement goes to our drivers—Rob, Anita and Jerry.

Lee Stickles and JoAnne Burek also let their names stand as team alternates which was additionally much appreciated.

When asked to give their impressions, the volunteers' responses were overwhelmingly positive. They mentioned the organization at station and event level; the social opportunities (the ride out, the good and friendly teamwork, meeting old friends and making new ones); and the conditions (perfect weather, heated cabin). They said that the experience was interesting, fun, gratifying, and enjoyable.

They also gave suggestions for improvement. For Waskahegan's consideration, they mentioned:

1. Doing a headcount of our team
2. More efficient food handling:
 - a. better matched rate of preparation to consumption
 - b. better means of covering/preserving prepared fruit
 - c. starting out with the full variety of food offerings
 - d. having more trays, for both serving, and use as snow covers
3. More effective task assignment:
 - a. gender-equitable division of serving duties
 - b. use of roster/ time shifts
 - c. include a metal basin for washing hands and cleaning up knives, boards
4. More creative effort, such as decorating the cabin, putting up the banners earlier, and having costumes or some means of identifying the team as a group

Perhaps the best gauge of how the event went was in the responses to the last question: "Based on this experience, would you think of returning?" Not one of the team said no—10 of the 13 said, certainly, while the remainder would definitely consider it.

The Birkebeiner team would like to thank Rob Faulds, who stepped up on short notice to be the team captain and got our group off the ground. We also want to express a special thank you to Oscar Zawalsky for all his help leading up to and on the event day.

Respectfully,

Sherry Kunkel

Nominations for the Board

The following candidates have been nominated for the board:

Candidate	Year of term
Lee Stickles	5 th year
Jerry Shaw	3 rd year
Terry Elrod	3 rd year
John Scotvold	3 rd year
Johanna Fischer	3 rd year
Kim Cassady	2 nd year
Lin Keehn	2 nd year
Ellen Homola	1 st year
Sherry Kunkel	1 st year
Carissa Wasyliw	1 st year
Karyn Murray	1 st year

If there are no changes to the above, the new board will look like this:

President: JoAnne Burek

Treasurer: Lin Keehn

Secretary: Johanna Fischer

Membership: Karyn Murray

Vice President: TBD

Trail Maintenance: Ellen Homola

Landowner Relations: TBD

Permissions: TBD

Hike Coordinator: TBD

Webmaster: Lee Stickles

Publicity, Archives: Jerry Shaw

Director at Large: John Scotvold

Director at Large: Terry Elrod

Director at Large: Kim Cassady

Director at Large: Sherry Kunkel

Director at Large: Carissa Wasyliw

Program

Kris Kendell, ACA

Kris Kendell has been a naturalist all his life, long before he became a professional biologist. Today, Kris feels fortunate to have made his passion and interest in wildlife, particularly amphibians and reptiles, his career.

Kris has worked at Alberta Conservation Association for nearly 20-years, where he focuses on citizen science, habitat stewardship, inventory and monitoring, translocation and outreach initiatives that relate to amphibians and reptiles.

He earned his B.Sc. from the University of Alberta in 1998, enrolled in Environmental and Conservation Sciences with a Conservation Biology and Management Major.

In his free time, Kris is particularly interested in creating aquarium biotopes as an aquarium hobbyist, and aspires to move beyond consumptive aspects of fishkeeping and into fish breeding for conservation. He is also an avid gardener and enjoys many outdoor pastimes.

Kris is a former co-chair and remains involved with the Northwest Chapter of the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NW PARC) and currently chairs the Alberta Amphibian and Reptile Specialist Group. More recently, he has become a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Amphibian Specialist Group, Canada. He has served as a director with the Canadian Herpetological Society and currently assists with the society's *Important Priority Amphibian and Reptiles Areas* project.