

# NATURE ALBERTA – DIGGING INTO THE ISSUES! Annual General Meeting Weekend

Friday - Sunday, April 11 - 13, 2014



## Call for Nominations!

Nature Alberta is currently seeking nominations for the position of Director of the Board. All nominees must be voting members of Nature Alberta.

Membership forms are available upon request. Membership is open to all who share the Nature Alberta vision and mission.

**Vision** - *Alberta's natural heritage is widely enjoyed, deeply appreciated and thoroughly protected.*

**Mission** - *To be a strong voice and an active champion for the greater appreciation and conservation of Alberta's natural environment.*

***Digging into the issues!*** This year during our Annual General Meeting Weekend, Nature Alberta will be taking a look at how we, the naturalist community, explore, discuss and act on key conservation issues. A full weekend of events is planned.

Board members will gather for a short board business meeting Friday evening. Saturday we invite our clubs, members and several conservation organizations to partake in ***'The State of Bird Conservation in Alberta'*** workshop that will see key priority bird conservation issues identified and discussed. A short Annual General Meeting will follow the workshop late Saturday afternoon. The purpose of the AGM is to approve the 2013 annual and financial reports and to ratify the 2014 Board of Directors and plans going forward.

The ever-popular Nature Alberta Annual Awards Dinner will take place Saturday evening where guests will enjoy a special presentation (guest speaker to be announced) and where the Board will acknowledge some well-deserving Alberta naturalists! Sunday, we again invite our clubs and members to participate in a 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop focusing on how Alberta's 'nature network' identifies, shares information and acts on key conservation issues.

Nature Alberta meetings and workshops are open to the public. However, to participate in the workshops, please RSVP to [petrar@naturealberta.ca](mailto:petrar@naturealberta.ca) or 780 427-8124. The Awards Dinner is based on cost-recovery: tickets (\$40) are available from the Nature Alberta office and must be reserved before April 7, 2014.

## Tentative Agenda

<b>Friday Evening, April 11, Board Meeting, Percy Page Building, Meeting Room 1</b>	
7:00–9:00 pm	Board Business Meeting
<b>Saturday April 12, The State of Bird Conservation in Alberta Workshop, Chateau Nova Hotel 13920 Yellowhead Trail</b>	
9:00 – 4:30	Hear presentations on current bird conservation initiatives and discuss future priorities. Workshop is free but please RSVP.
<b>Saturday April 12, AGM Meeting, Chateau Nova Hotel 13920 Yellowhead Trail</b>	
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Review and approval of 2013 annual and financial reports; 2014 board elections and approval of strategic plans moving forward.
<b>Saturday April 12, Awards Dinner, Chateau Nova Hotel 13920 Yellowhead Trail</b>	
5:00 pm	Cash Bar Open
5:30 – 9:00 pm	Dinner, Guest Speaker Presentation, Awards Presentation
<b>Sunday April 13, Issues Management Workshop, Location TBD</b>	
9:00–3:00	Participate in discussions about how Nature Alberta and its clubs (i.e. Alberta's nature network) can identify, share information on, and act effectively on key conservation issues. Workshop is free but please RSVP.
Safe Travels home.	

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## Notice of Annual General Meeting Resolutions:

Please be advised, on April 12, 2014, Nature Alberta will hold its Annual General Meeting and will propose the following:

*1, Be it resolved that, in order to better align with its sources of funding, to ease administrative burden, and to allow for better financial planning and reporting, Nature Alberta is changing its operating practice of financially reporting annually on the calendar year (January 1 – December 31) to reporting on a fiscal year of April 1 – March 31;*

*2, Be it resolved that, in order to provide greater AGM planning flexibility and to better align the timing of the AGM (where the annual audited financial statements are presented) with the preparation of such statements, Nature Alberta proposes to change its bylaws from the present wording:*

*‘The Annual General Meeting of the Federation will be held within four months of the start of the calendar year.’*

*To the following:*

***‘The Annual General Meeting of the Federation will be held within nine months of the end of the fiscal year.’***

*3. Be it resolved that, in order to facilitate the change in AGM timing, Nature Alberta proposes to have a one-time extension to the term of Directors (Directors normally serve a one-year term from one AGM to the next – in the year of change, they will need to serve an 18 month term from April 2014 AGM election to the October 2015 election). Terms will return to one year after this change period.*

*4. And finally, be it resolved that, in order to provide better clarity and allow for volunteers to audit NA books in the future (thereby reducing costs), Nature Alberta proposes to change its bylaws from the present wording:*

*‘The accounts of the Federation will be audited...by auditors appointed by the board....’*

*To the following (as per the Service Alberta Societies Bylaw template):*

***‘The books, accounts and records of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be audited at least once each year by a duly qualified accountant or by two members of the society elected for that purpose at the Annual Meeting. A complete and proper statement of the standing of the books for the previous year shall be submitted by such auditor at the Annual Meeting of the society. The fiscal year end of the society in each year shall be March 31.’***