



Park Post

FALL 2014

GRASSLAND RESTORATION UNDERWAY

This fall marks the beginning of the Shell Grasslands Recovery Project at Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.

The park protects a fragment of the native rough fescue grasslands that once covered much of the native grasslands of Alberta and beyond. Like much of the province, portions of the park have been cultivated during the parks ranching history and the Shell Grasslands Recovery Project is researching the most effective methods to restore this ecosystem.

Historically rough fescue grasslands provided forage for roaming herds of bison and provided habitat for many wild species. Rough fescue grasslands commonly occur on fertile soils and the majority of these communities have been lost or degraded over the last century as the result of competing human uses. Despite historic losses, it's now been recognized that our native rough fescue communities represent some of the best grasslands for raising cattle, and if properly managed, cattle grazing can provide conditions that support many of Alberta's wild species.

With funding from Shell Canada, The Calgary Foundation, The TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and an anonymous funder, the Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation (GRPF) has begun its research. The research field, located

to the east of the corrals and north of the railway tracks has been prepared for planting and over 290 research plots have been marked out. Researchers and volunteers will evaluate 58 different treatments and will be hand planting over 2800 live plant plugs and 19 million seeds of eight different native grass species.

Like many research programs, the project faces many challenges. Some of the most recent include the snow fall in September and the lack of Parry Oat Grass seeds available to purchase due to a number of poor seed years. Not to be stopped, GRPF volunteers have handpicked over 4 million seeds (about 15 kg) for planting.

Seed planting for both Parry Oat Grass and the other 7 grass species will be completed this fall. Planting seed in the fall ensures the seed is ready to germinate the following spring and mimics natural processes occurring in the wild. The project will deliver both short-term results that will help guide restoration practices in Alberta, and provide a unique opportunity to examine long-term changes in restored grassland communities over the coming decades.

To stay connected on this important research, visit the GRPF blog at <http://www.grpf.ca/science-research/research-blog>





SUPPORTER SHOUT OUT!

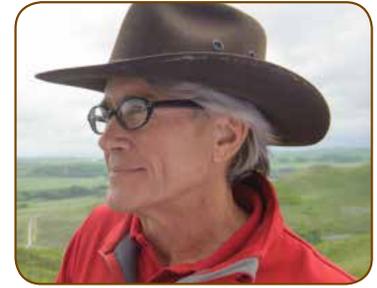
TOTEM CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

\$5,825 from the Totem Charitable Foundation to support the "In The Trenches" workshops



THE CALGARY FOUNDATION FOR CALGARY FOREVER

\$30,000 from an Anonymous Donor through the Calgary Foundation for the Grasslands Restoration and Public Engagement Program



\$10,000 from Andy Crooks for operational support

THANK YOU!

THROUGH YOUR LENS



Harvey Martens



Linda Vick



Linda Vick



To submit your photos e-mail tara.mcfadden@grpf.ca



IN THE TRENCHES

"In the Trenches" Workshops Announced by Community Partnership

A community focused partnership is offering "In the Trenches" workshops aimed at providing local non-profit organizations and small businesses with practical skills they need to succeed.

The partners include Bow Valley College (BVC) in Cochrane, the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP), Community Futures Centre West (CFCW) and Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation (GRPF).

"These sessions follow the successful workshops we offered in partnership with Bow Valley College last year," said Tara McFadden, Development Officer, GRPF. "We had positive feedback from non-profits that wanted to see more of these programs. Thanks to BVC's initiative we've been able to expand the partnership and offer a broader range of topics."

"Bow Valley College is proud to be a part of this partnership. Together we are providing a Cochrane created learning experience that will enable our communities to have greater success," said Shauna Cox, Regional Lead Bow Valley College Cochrane

The workshops provide a range of practical educational opportunities for non-profits and small businesses. Topics include, Grant Applications, Marketing and Social Media, Business Planning, and Sustainable Tourism.

Past programs were created to meet non-profit needs but Jodie Eckert of Community Futures Centre West (CFCW), saw an opportunity to support both non-profits and local businesses. "A good understanding of business planning is necessary for any project, and we are glad to be a partner in providing the tools for success."

"The workshops offer a broad range of skills, but as tourism grows in our region, it becomes more important that businesses



L-R: Jodie Eckert, Community Futures Centre West, Bob Miller, Calgary Regional Partnership, Shauna Cox, Bow Valley College, Tara McFadden, Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation

understand how best to engage the tourism market and provide a balance between environmental and economic concerns. The Calgary Regional Partnership is glad to be a part of this workshop series," said Bob Miller, Economic Prosperity Lead, CRP.

Program Information

Workshops will be offered over the fall and winter and will be hosted at the Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park. Each workshop will be a full day session and participants will receive a certificate of completion.

- Grant Application Workshop: October 24, 2014
- Marketing & Social Media on Shoestring Budget: November 21, 2014
- Build Your Business Plan: January 23, 2015
- Sustainable Tourism: March 13, 2015

Workshop fees are \$95/each and include lunch. For more information and to register for the programs, visit the GRPF website at www.grpf.ca/inthetrenches.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Register and see all our programs and events at www.grpf.ca/events

October 23 Partial Solar Eclipse at Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.

Come to the park to take in the partial solar eclipse (should be very good in Calgary area). It will start at 14:43 in the afternoon and end 17:22 with the peak at 16:06.

October 23 Star Night at Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park

Join the Royal Astronomical Society for an exciting star-filled evening at Glenbow

Ranch Provincial Park. The park skies are dark, so the heavens are brighter than ever!

October 24 In The Trenches – Grant Application Workshop

This is a practical, skill building workshop that will explore: where to find grants, the basics of grant writing, and how to write a case for support. Participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

November 21 In The Trenches – Marketing & Social Media On A Shoestring Budget

This is a practical, skill building workshop that will explore: marketing through social media basics, how to invest time wisely, and social media platforms and tools to use for marketing purposes. Participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.



PERKS PARTNER



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Hire Big Sky Landscaping for your landscaping needs and they will donate 5% to GRPF

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Trailblazers

5% Discount on regular priced merchandise

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Visit for a FREE evaluation of your retirement plans and \$20 is donated to GRPF

Rose & Crown of Banff

20% off regularly priced food menu

Grand Avenue Pharmacy

10% off ALL front store merchandise

Riverbend Interiors Floors & Decor

20% off any in stock cleaning supplies & area rugs

Portofino Italian Ristorante

2 for 1 pasta

Olive 'R Twist

10% off FOOD order for member and a guest

Capture the Flag Paintball & Airsoft

Free Game Fee plus Upgrade Level 3 Marker

MacKay's

\$1.00 off a 32oz take home ice cream

Home Quarter

10% off regular priced merchandise. Excluding Furniture and Consignment Items.

The Rose Wellness Centre

\$5\$ will be donated to the GRPF when a GRPF member gets a massage

Big Hill Pizza

10% off Food order and when a Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation Pizza is ordered, Big Hill Pizza will donate \$1.00 to the GRPF

Wholesale Warehouse

10% Off

Drycleaning by Dave

2 for 1 Sweaters & Pants - \$1.00 OFF Laundered Shirts

Spray Lake Sawmills Family Sports Centre

2 for 1 drop-in day pass (KID Zone, Sticks & Pucks, etc.)

Mountain View Optometry

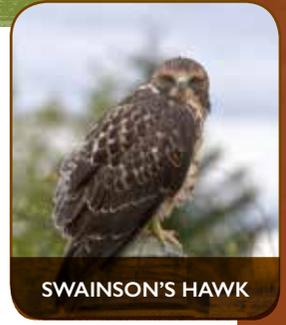
10% off prescription eyeglasses

Visit www.grpf.ca/perks for all the details!

CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Be a GRPF Citizen Scientist

Ever see something cool at Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park and thought someone should know? Now you can help GRPF monitor wildlife and plants with our checklists.



SWAINSON'S HAWK

For more information and to help, visit www.grpf.ca/citizenscience or pick up a checklist at the Visitor Information Centre.

Harvey Martins

WILDLIFE CAMERA

Remote cameras are being used to research wildlife corridor and habitat use at Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park. This project is a partnership between Alberta Parks ecologists and University of Calgary and Mount Royal University researchers.



MULE DEER FAWN

Species: Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

Date: August, 2014

Location: West end of the park

TriOil Resources Camera I

PARK INFORMATION

Visitor Centre Hours

Winter Hours

(September thru May)

(pending volunteer availability)

11am – 3 PM

Get involved with the Park

Join the GRPF Membership Program, subscribe to our e-newsletter or get updates from our website at www.grpf.ca.

Help Create a World-Class Park Donate Today!

www.grpf.ca/donate or contact

Tara McFadden at 403-851-9053

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