



## Bat Week October 24-31

Bat week is an international celebration of the role of bats in nature. These flying mammals are vital to the health of our natural world. They eat insects, pollinate flowers and spread the seeds for new plants and trees. Sadly, populations are in decline nearly everywhere. Threats include habitat loss, pesticide use, destruction of roost sites, climate change and more. How can we make a difference? Check out the Alberta Community Bat Program for best management practices and great resources for kids, too.

[Alberta Bats: Bat Basics Video](#) | [Resources for teachers and parents](#)

## Workshops & Events - Join Us



### Stewardship Community of Practice

**Date:** 11 October 2024

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

**Location:** Terry and Faith Gabert's NCC Property

**About the Event:** Take a tour around the Gabert's NCC property.

[Register](#)

## Connecting People & Science Series

# CONNECTING PEOPLE & SCIENCE

## A Citizen Science Workshop

Hosted by: Citizen Science Alberta Community of Practice | [citescialberta.com](https://citescialberta.com)

### Citizen Science & Policy: Monitoring to Drive Change



REGISTER



OCT 30  
9:00 AM -  
4:00 PM  
(MDT)



BISON LODGE  
9430 SCONA RD NW  
EDMONTON

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### Citizen Science & Policy: Monitoring to Drive Change

**Date:** 30 October 2024

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (MT)

**Location:** Bison Lodge, Edmonton

**About the Event:** Citizen Science & Policy: Monitoring to Driving Change is a workshop dedicated to supporting citizen science projects, creating a network of organizations and individuals committed to citizen science, and engaging the citizen science community in Alberta. The workshop aims to collectively advance citizen science in Alberta. It will also showcase the new Hub as a means to enhance resources and skills available to citizens, practitioners, and researchers in the citizen science community.

[Register](#)

## Connecting People & Science Series: Webinar Wednesdays

### Empowering Future Stewards with Lynn Smith

**Date:** 2 October 2024

**Time:** 12:00 - 1:30 PM (MT)

**Location:** Webinar

**About the Event:** Lynn Smith is a proud member of the Peavine Metis Settlement in Northern Alberta. In her role at the Settlement's Consulting Department she developed a partnership with NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) and is leading her community in being stewards of



their homeland.

[Register](#)



**Transformative Tools: Managing Big Data with Kyle Horner**

**Date:** 9 October 2024

**Time:** 12:00 - 1:30 PM (MT)

**Location:** Webinar

**About the Event:** Kyle Horner, Birds Canada's NatureCounts Engagement Coordinator, will discuss innovative tools to support the effective collection, management, and use of citizen science data.

[Register](#)



**Place-Based Partnerships with Dr. Patrick Hanington**

**Date:** 23 October 2024

**Time:** 12:00 - 1:30 PM (MT)

**Location:** Webinar

**About the Event:** Dr. Patrick Hanington, a professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta, will talk on his research aims to advance our understanding of organisms in our aquatic ecosystems by connecting DNA-based surveillance with community, school, industry and government partnerships.

[Register](#)

**Important Bird Area - Bird Monitoring at Wavy Lake **\*\*Postponed\*\*****

**Date:** Spring 2025

**About the Event:** BRWA staff have had to postpone this bird count until the spring due



to low water levels at Wavy Lake. If you are interested in taking part in this event, please email [stewardship@battleriverwatershed.ca](mailto:stewardship@battleriverwatershed.ca) for updates.

[For more BRWA events check out our events page regularly!](#)

## In The Classroom

### Caring for Our Watersheds - Contest for Grade 7-12 Students

The Caring for Our Watersheds program asks students to submit a proposal that answers the question, "What can you do to improve your watershed?" Students must research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern and draft a written proposal containing one realistic solution. Community judges select the top entries to compete at a final, verbal competition for cash prizes. BRWA staff can help your class get started; book a classroom presentation today!

[Book a Classroom Presentation](#) | [About the Contest](#)

### Youth Education Program Bookings for Spring 2025

[About BRWA's Youth Programs](#) | [Sign Up for a Field Trip or Presentation](#)

### Grade 5 Curriculum Changes

With the changes to the Alberta Grade 5 Curriculum, BRWA is looking for Grade 5 teachers to fill out a survey on what kind of programming they would like based on the new curriculum.

[Fill out the survey](#)

### TELUS World of Science: Our Climate Quest Exhibition - Opening Oct. 5

Explore the TELUS World of Science's new *Our Climate Quest* exhibition. Educational fun for all ages. Learn more about what small things you can do to make significant change to protect our climate.



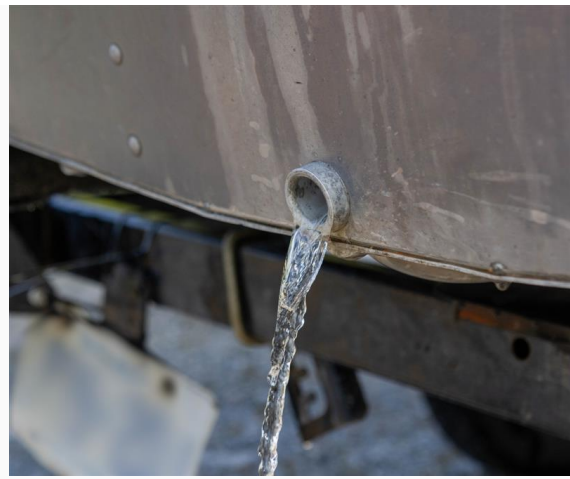
## Water Matters



### Curly Leaf Pondweed - Found in Alberta Lakes

Curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) is an aggressive aquatic invasive species that poses a significant threat to Alberta's freshwater ecosystems. This fast-growing plant can outcompete native vegetation, leading to reduced biodiversity and altered habitats. Its dense mats can clog waterways, hinder recreational activities, and impact fish populations by disrupting spawning grounds. Curly leaf pondweed has not been found in waterbodies in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.





## Prevent the Spread

Invasive species pose a significant threat to natural habitats, disrupting ecosystems and harming native wildlife. Recently the Alberta government increased fines for boaters who fail to remove the drain plug when transporting a watercraft on a roadway. The fine is now \$600. There is also a fine of \$4,200 for failing to stop with a watercraft at an open inspection station.

The best practice is to use the "Clean, Drain, Dry" method, which is a simple yet effective way to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

- **Clean** your boats and gear to remove mud and plant material
- **Drain** all water to eliminate potential hitchhikers
- **Dry** equipment before moving between waterways

Together, we can protect the environment and preserve the beauty and biodiversity of our natural spaces!

[Learn more about Alberta's new regulations on watercraft inspections.](#)

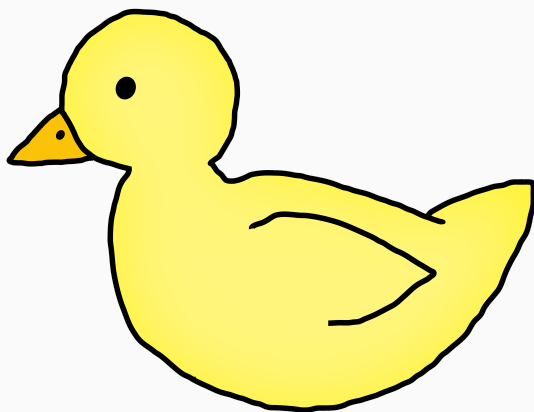
\*Photo Credit: Invading Species Awareness Program



## Riparian Partnerships

A special thanks to the 6 landowners partnering with BRWA to conserve and restore shorelines and protect water quality in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds as part of our RiparianCARE program.

## The Alliance



### 2024 OTIS Award Nominations Now Open!

The OutsTanding In Stewardship (OTIS) Award recognizes individuals, agricultural initiatives, businesses and organizations, and youth in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds who are outstanding in stewardship.

Deadline: March 31, 2025

[Learn more](#)

## Partner Events

- [Fall 2024 Working Well Workshops: Water Well Management for Well Owners](#)
- [Alberta Nature Strategy Engagement - Survey](#)
- Watch [Singing Back the Buffalo](#), a film about the rematriation of buffalo across the Great Plains
- [Lesser Slave Watershed Council](#) is hiring for their [Watershed Science and Stewardship](#) position

## In Other News

- [Alberta farmers ahead of schedule on harvest, but remain on knife's edge of drought](#)
- [Alberta First Nation suing federal government over unclean tap water](#)
- [Alberta government raises fines to prevent invasive aquatic species](#)

\*Many of the articles we feature have been shared through the Alberta Water Portal Society. If you are interested in water-related issues in Alberta, we encourage you to subscribe.



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