



Recipients of the 2015 Nature Alberta Awards

Loran L. Goulden Memorial Award

Named for respected Alberta naturalist, Loran L. Goulden, this award is presented annually to an exceptional individual in recognition of his or her outstanding contributions to natural history in Alberta. The award recognizes both specific and long-term aggregate contributions to any field of Alberta natural history. Recipients' accomplishments follow the example set by Loran L. Goulden to foster amateur natural history study, contribute to our knowledge of Alberta natural history, support conservation of Alberta's natural heritage, show leadership and be willing to share one's knowledge.

2015 Recipient – John Acorn

John Acorn is an internationally known scientist, author and broadcaster whose career has been marked with creativity and a passion for science. As research associate at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology and the E.H. Strickland Entomology Museum, and instructor at the University of Alberta, Acorn continually goes beyond his professional commitments and generously gives his time to promote the field. As the host and creative force behind the popular TV series *Acorn, the Nature Nut*, he has educated and entertained audiences worldwide. His award winning TV series consisting of 88 episodes including insects, birds, butterflies, beetles, spiders, scorpions, fish, invertebrates, lizards, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, plants, pets, marine creatures, and dinosaurs. As a best-selling author, he has had a huge impact on amateur entomology, and his field guides have earned him numerous awards. Passionate about nature and science and generous with his time, John has, and continues to make learning about nature fun for audiences of all ages by sharing his extensive knowledge and contagious and enthusiastic interest in all living things.

Frank and Alice Harper Memorial Award

There are many "unsung heroes" among the naturalist community. They are the role models who give whole-heartedly of themselves in carrying out the duties associated with keeping Alberta's nature clubs on track, active, organized and able to provide the services that are basic to Clubs' continued existence. Frank and Alice Harper were two long-time naturalists, with the Lethbridge Naturalists Society, who exemplified those admirable qualities we associate with "unsung heroes". This award, named in their honor, recognizes an individual's unassuming commitment and service to a local nature club, and their efforts to support the betterment, efficiency, administration, operation and fulfillment of the club's mandate.

2015 Recipient – John McFaul

For more than thirty years John McFaul has been, and continues to be, a valued member of Nature Calgary's Board of Directors. John's tenure on the board has included three years as Vice-President and he has also served as Program Manager for most of that time. In this capacity

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he has organized nearly three hundred talented speakers for the club's highly anticipated monthly meetings at which speakers cover a wide range of timely and sometimes controversial topics. His lengthy tenure with Nature Calgary makes him the "go to person" for background knowledge and history of the society. John unselfishly gives his time to represent Nature Calgary at local meetings and functions with respect to local environmental and wildlife issues, and enthusiastically participates in Nature Calgary's activities including coordinating bird counts, leading field trips and other year-round outdoor excursions. Over the years, John has contributed to writing and publishing several books and field guides, his spectacular photographs have been featured on CFNS fundraising note cards and he has written many articles promoting a variety of nature activities.

Honorary Life Member

From time to time, Nature Alberta honors outstanding naturalists or conservationists who have made substantial, life-long contributions to Alberta's naturalist community through their commitment to and volunteer efforts in support of Nature Alberta. In recognition of their long-time efforts and significant impact, these individuals are made Honorary Life Members of Nature Alberta.

2015 Recipient – Dennis Baresco

For more than twenty-five years Dennis has worked with amazing persistence, in the face of many difficulties, to further conservation goals, in particular, promoting wider understanding of the lands, waters and wildlife – the natural history – of southeastern Alberta. His unquenchable sense of humour and his easy-going, down-to-earth style, together with his writing skills, and the intelligence and thoughtfulness he brings to the table, have enabled him to reach out and form effective partnerships with many groups and individuals of diverse perspectives, both rural and urban. Dennis has spent significant volunteer hours serving on boards and committees, developing and implementing impactful interpretive outreach and extension programs, conducting breeding bird surveys and compiling bird records, co-authoring various publications and much more. In his time as President and while on the Board, he worked hard to bring Nature Alberta and other provincial ENGOs together, he chaired many committees, and was Nature Alberta's representative on the Canadian Nature Network's Alternate Energy Committee. He has worked on industrial wind farm issues and their impacts on prairie landscapes, and provided Nature Alberta input on Alberta Parks' policy for the Cypress Hills Management Area. He chaired Nature Alberta's publications committee, and since 2008, he has been the Editor of Nature Alberta magazine. Dennis' long-standing contribution to conservation of the land that he knows and loves has been outstanding, and he is an inspiration to others.

Volunteer Award

Each year, Nature Alberta recognizes individuals for their commitment to volunteerism, and for making important contributions that support their local club, Nature Alberta, or other initiatives that benefit Alberta's natural heritage.

2015 Recipients – Jordan Brown and Michael Rowell

Over the past three years, Jordan Brown and Michael Rowell have volunteered considerable time to update and maintain Nature Alberta's IT infrastructure. This includes office set-up for the internet line, establishing a firewall and an office shared file directory, installing a main server and back system, 13 desktop computer stations, computer software, Gmail accounts and other hardware and software. Additionally, Jordan reached out to his company when they were

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upgrading their IT equipment, resulting in the donation of about a dozen new desk top computers with associated monitors, keyboards, and mice. Michael took on the task of building a new server to ensure a backup system is in place. Throughout this time, Jordan and Michael have also made themselves available to Nature Alberta to do routine backups, to trouble shoot problems, and to help start documenting processes so that future Nature Alberta staff and volunteers can manage this system. With this improvement to the infrastructure, and with the continued volunteerism of Jordan and Michael, Nature Alberta was able function without paid IT staff. This has resulted in significant savings to the organization.

Youth Award

New for 2015, Nature Alberta has established the Youth Award to recognize the efforts of young individuals who are active participants in and members of their local nature club or affiliate club. Youth Award recipients demonstrate a passion and appreciation for, and clearly enjoy Alberta's natural history through their participation in regular club activities. Their keen interest in learning about Alberta's natural resources and natural elements of Alberta's wild environment makes them role models that inspire other young naturalists.

2015 Recipient – David Grinevitch

David is a keen birder who, at a young age, knows his bird IDs very well. He attends as many of the Edmonton Nature Club field trips as his highly supportive parents are able to attend. A focused young man, David is either watching to be the first to spot a bird or concentrating on catching a grasshopper. He has been very excited to see many live birds and learns intently from the expert birders leading the trips. He often goes into what others in the club have affectionately called the "David squat" – crouching down, binoculars in hand, so he can better settle into the world he observes through his binoculars. When looking through those lenses he is completely immersed in what he is seeing, and if he continues to follow his passion for birds he will soon become an expert in his own right.