

Activity Level Descriptions

All: Activity may occur indoors; minimal walking is involved; some venues are wheelchair accessible.

Moderate: Participants must be sure-footed, able to ascend a path the equivalent of a few flights of stairs and walk on uneven surfaces up to 3 km (2 miles) at a 3 km/h pace (2 mph).

Easy: Participants must be able walk the equivalent of 5 city blocks on uneven ground, stand for up to an hour, and get in and out of a motor vehicle easily.

Challenging: Participants must be in good health, be mobile, and able to participate in 3 – 5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking up to 8 km (5 miles) at a 4 kmph (2.5 mph) pace over uneven ground.



Waterton Wildlife Weekend

Considered the hidden jewel in the Crown of the Continent, Waterton Lakes National Park is the place where multiple ecosystems converge and the mountains meet the prairies in a stunning visual collision.



Photo: Frank Weinschenk

Waterton holds the most wildlife diversity of all Canadian national parks. In fact, it is very rare to not see some sort of wildlife, whether it be a mule deer, big horn sheep, or black bear.

Experience guided hikes, photography and art workshops, International Wildlife Film Festival screenings, as well as star gazing. Drop-in for kids and family activities. Meet people at the Waterton Community Centre (WCC).

SAT & SUN (11:00-14:30): Lunch at the WCC!

Artisan Fair

September 21 & 22 from 10:00 to 16:00

Treat yourself to nature inspired crafts and artwork or find a unique gift for your loved ones. Enjoy browsing through locally created jewelry, paintings, photographic art, pottery and natural body care products. Meet the artisans, craftsmen and local nature conservancy groups.



Photo: Travel Alberta, Celestine Aerden

International Wildlife Film Festival

Thursday & Friday at 16:00
Saturday & Sunday at 13:00
At the Opera House

Festival Sponsors



12th Waterton Wildlife Weekend & Artisan Fair

September 19 - 22, 2019



Photo: Joe Desjardins

Experience Nature at its Best

**Wildlife – Walks – Talks – Photography –
Geology – Natural History – Arts –
– First Nations – Movies – Live Music
& Free Activities**

Artisan Fair (Sep. 21 & 22)

Waterton
Community Centre



1-877-780-1998

WatertonWildlife.com



Activity Descriptions A-Z

(Find more details online!)

General Information

All activities and the Artisan Fair take place or start at the Waterton Community Centre (WCC). Please go directly to the venues: Opera House, Falls Theatre.

Locations are marked on the map in this brochure.

Advanced Techniques for Wildlife Photography (SUN, \$50.00)

Presenter: **Joe Desjardins**

Joe Desjardins will share some advanced techniques to capture those amazing moments in the field. Joe will also discuss composition and safety. Participants should have a good knowledge of their camera.

Bats are Superheroes! (SAT, free)

Presenter: **Pamela McDowell**

Bats may be tiny, but they are ecological superheroes! Join the children's author to learn about the unique features of bats and the conflict with wind turbines, which inspired her book "Bats in Trouble". How can we balance species conservation and energy development? The session will end with a reading from "Bats in Trouble" and some origami, if time permits. "Bats in Trouble" is an early chapter book suitable for readers 7 - 10 years old. Venue: WCC North Room

Bear Bites (SAT, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Melodey Wood**

Ever wonder what our bears in Waterton eat? Come to an interactive slide-show presentation where you will not only find out, but will also sample some bear food snacks! No mama bears expecting cubs, please.

Venue: WCC North Room

Bear Man of Kamchatka (THU, FRI, SUN, By donation)

Charlie Russell grew up and lived just outside of the National Park. He was an avid advocate for a harmonious co-existence with bears. "The Bear Man of Kamchatka" is a 2006 BBC documentary about Charlie's incredible work with grizzly bears. See how he introduced wild grizzly bear cubs back into the wilderness. After this film you will look at bears differently. Charlie was an important part of the festival, he passed away in 2018.

Venue: WCC North Room

Bears & Berries (FRI, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Melodey Wood**

Take a walk on the wild side while we learn (and possibly sample) what bears eat in their natural surroundings.

Bison, the Fat of the Land (THU, FRI, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Brenda Holder**

Learn about the importance of bison/buffalo to Indigenous cultures; how they provided for daily living and taught about relationships and respect. Brenda will also relay some of the gifts of moose and their importance in areas where bison were sparse or absent.

Book "Birthday Party for Cougar Frenzy" (SAT, free)

Presenter: **Pamela McDowell**

It's a book birthday! Join the author for the launch of her new book. "Cougar Frenzy" is the fourth book featuring young animal activist Cricket McKay and her friends in a story set in Waterton. Pamela will share cougar facts and photos, read from the book and personalize copies for readers. It's a book birthday - which is a great reason to have cupcakes! "Cougar Frenzy" is an early chapter book suitable for readers 7 - 10 years old. The party is suitable for everyone! Venue: WCC North Room

Curious About Cougars? (SUN, free)

Presenter: **Pamela McDowell**

Cougars are shy and secretive - and seldom seen. Learn cool facts about this amazing animal - including how a late-night visitor to Waterton inspired the book "Cougar Frenzy". This is Pamela's fourth book featuring young animal-activist Cricket McKay and her friends in a story set in Waterton. The presentation will be followed by a reading and Q & A with the author. Cougar Frenzy is suitable for readers 7 - 10 years old. Venue: WCC North Room

Dark Skies & Nocturnal Creatures (THU, \$50.00)

Presenter: **Dark Sky Guides**

Join local Waterton residents and tour guides, the Dark Sky Guides, as they go out to discover the night sky. This low-intensity, introductory stargazing tour focuses on exploring the night sky through telescopes and stargazing binoculars, while also shedding light on some of the different wildlife that thrive under the Dark Skies of Waterton Park. Remember to dress warmly. Shuttle provided for this session.

Do we need Bear Cub Rehabilitation? (FRI, By donation)

The documentary "Charlie and Maskwa" (20 min) directed by Xavier Catterinich about the ups and downs of bear cub rehabilitation in Alberta will be followed by a panel discussion. A discussion about the ethics of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and return to the wild.

Venue: Falls Theatre

Getting Started in Wildlife Photography (SAT, \$50.00)

Presenter: **Joe Desjardins**

Joe will get you started with the basics of wildlife photography. An introduction to gear, camera settings and hands on techniques in the field will be provided!

Hiking Along the Milky Way (SAT, By donation)

Presenter: **Alan Dyer**

There are few places in Canada better than Waterton Lakes National Park to see the Milky Way, visible this weekend under Waterton's dark skies. Astrophotographer Alan Dyer presents a tour of the celestial wonders you can see along the Milky Way. In a talk, illustrated with his astrophotos, Alan will show you how to find popular constellations, sparkling star clusters, and glowing nebulas. He'll explain what it is we see when we gaze up at the Milky Way from a Dark Sky Preserve such as Waterton. Venue: Falls Theatre

Indigenous Cooking (FRI, \$35.00)

Presenter: **Owena Scott-Big Bull**

Join Owena to learn about the importance of bannock and berry soup in this

interactive class while listening to eye-opening stories about food, relationships and Canadian history from a First Nations perspective.

Venue: WCC Kitchen



Introduction to Wildlife Photography (SAT, \$50.00)

Presenter: **Kyla Black**

Join Kyla in the field for an introductory course on the basics of wildlife photography including go-to camera settings and tips and tricks for spotting and approaching wildlife. Learn techniques, composition and wildlife safety. All skill levels are welcomed. Participants are required to bring a DSLR or mirrorless camera with telephoto lens.

Loop to Knowledge (FRI, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Ron McNeil**

Join Ron as he takes you around Linnet Lake and learn about amphibians of Waterton and adjacent habitat use by Big Horn Sheep.

Mirror Mirror on the Wall: Wolves as a Scapegoat (THU, By donation)

Presenter: **Sadie Parr**

Wolves have been resurrected in western Canada as the classic scapegoat. As the human population continues to expand, we condemn wolves for being what they are; an awesome and important part of Nature. If we continue to condone killing wolves on a massive scale to protect industrial interests, will our wilderness and ecosystems continue to be whittled away? Venue: Falls Theatre

Night Sky Photography (FRI, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Alan Dyer**

Join astrophotographer Alan Dyer on a shoot of Waterton's amazing night sky and Milky Way above a scenic landscape. Learn the basics of night-sky photography at one of Canada's darkest Dark Sky Preserves. Where we shoot from will be decided on the night of the workshop based on sky conditions and access. Participants must have a DSLR or good mirrorless camera (sorry, pocket travel cameras will not work!), ideally with a wide-angle lens, preferably f/2.8 or faster, and a good tripod. Dress warmly, as the session might go until 23:00.

Photography with Mike Drew (FRI, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Mike Drew**

Join Mike Drew, a professional photographer for more than 40 years. For the first 90 min of the session, learn the importance of composition and environment, as well as technical details for taking wildlife photos. Then grab your gear and head outside to learn how to use your vehicle to get great pictures and how to have fun and get dirty.

Piikuni - Land of the Natural Flow (FRI, By donation)

Presenter: **William Big Bull**

William Big Bull is the author of "Piikuni - Land of the Natural Flow". He will read from his autobiography about a very interesting life, growing up on the Piikuni Reserve in Brocket (near Pincher Creek). His grandparents taught him the traditional Blackfoot life and William was lucky to still learn their native language. After the reading, there will be time for questions. Venue: WCC South Room

Continued inside >

Wildflower Festival 2020:
June 18 to 23
WatertonWildflowers.com



To see all activities, descriptions and bookings, visit:
Program.WatertonFestivals.org

At-A-Glance with
dates & times inside
this brochure.



Photo: Kyla Black

Activity Descriptions A-Z continued

Reconnecting with the Cosmos (FRI, \$45.00)

Presenter: **James Van Leeuwen**
We have marveled for millennia at the wonders of the night sky, pondering their nature and meaning. Urbanization and street-lights have disconnected us from the night sky, and from our deepest origins. Join night sky interpreter and guide James Van Leeuwen in this opportunity to reconnect with the cosmos. After an indoor presentation this activity will be held outside the WCC. Venue: WCC North Room

Riding into Elk Habitat (THU, \$109.00)

Presenter: **Alpine Stables**
Experience a memorable horse-back ride into elk habitat. Seeing elk beds, elk trails and rubbings from elk antlers will give you an insight into the life and behaviour of these magnificent ungulates. A potential close-up with the elk and their behaviour in the stunning landscape of Waterton Lakes National Park is not assured but is very possible. Do not get to Alpine Stables as the horses might be provided at a different location, depending where the elk are at that time! You will receive an email with the meeting place ahead of time.

Salamander 'Byway' Volunteer Event (SAT, free)

Presenter: **Parks Canada**
Help the long-toed salamanders and other amphibians by volunteering to assist Parks Canada staff with some habitat work along the shores of Linnet Lake, located in the main Waterton valley. Great for families and no prior experience required, just a willingness to lend a hand and do some light work. We'll be doing things like moving some dead brush to the shoreline to provide escape cover for these fascinating creatures. If time permits, we will also check and clean the byway system that provides safe passage for them under the Entrance Road.

Sid Marty in Concert "A Music Matinee" (SAT, \$12-\$20)

Music, storytelling and readings from the famous Alberta naturalist writer. Sid is a fascinating and fun entertainer with a gift for words and music. Who better than this fellow who spent years in the Canadian wilderness as a park warden, and who wrote books and songs inspired by his experiences? His writings have received many awards and accolades. For an unforgettable and intimate sharing of songs and stories. Venue: Opera House

Sketch and Draw (SAT, \$99.00)

Presenter: **Julie Strong**
Enjoy the morning outside gathering information by sketching, sketch painting and photographing the beautiful fall scenery. Come enjoy a blend of outdoor and indoor art that celebrates the wonders of Waterton. Min. of 5 participants. Venue: WCC South Room

The Beauty of Fall Birding (SAT, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Kim Pearson**
Birdwatching is an inspiring, accessible, and restorative year-round pursuit. Spend a morning exploring the migrant and resident birds making use of the Waterton area in early autumn. Please bring binoculars if possible.

The Magic of Encaustic (SUN, \$59.00)

Presenter: **Mireille Cloutier**
During this session, participants will learn about encaustic (beeswax - also known as hot wax painting), its possibilities and versatility. Each participant will create an organic work, ready to frame. Natural elements will be used to create an everlasting artwork. No artistic experience required. Wood panels, encaustic medium and tools will be provided. Min. of 7 participants. Venue: WCC North Room

The Teachings of the Bear (SAT, SUN, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Brenda Holder**
Learn how bears taught us to survive on the landscape in all seasons, how to live in harsh climates, what food was good for us, how we learned their medicines and how to gather medicine.

Track and Games (THU, FRI, SUN, By donation)

Kids can drop in to this session to make their own track casting. While waiting for the cast to dry, they can enjoy detective and memory games, colouring and more. Venue: WCC South Room

Wetlands (FRI, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Ron McNeil**
Join Ron as he takes you to the Maskinonge area to experience wetland plant communities and discuss springs. Learn how the area greatly supports elk and beaver habitats.

What Makes Waterton Unique? (FRI, SAT, SUN, \$45.00)

Presenter: **James Goulet**
Waterton is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in part due to its unique landscape, climate and watershed. Hear how some of the events over the past 2 billion years have formed the Waterton of today. Be surprised what interesting facts lay just in front of your feet.

Wild Waterton: Carnivores and Predators (SUN, \$65.00)

Presenter: **Tamarack Outdoor Adventures**
Join local guides from the Tamarack on this educational guided hike. Learn about Waterton's predators and how they live in and contribute to our diverse ecosystem. Discover more about mountain lions, wolverines and other species as well as basic trail safety and how to reduce our impact on their habitat. Learn why they are important members of the food chain and more about these unique and often misunderstood species.

Wildfire and Wildlife (THU, free)

Presenter: **Parks Canada**
Join Barb Johnston on a walk and talk to learn about the effects of the fire on the Park's wildlife.

Wildlife and Munchies (FRI, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Joanna Fraser**
The forest and the grasslands of Waterton Lakes National Park provide wildlife with the goodies they need to survive over the fall and winter months. Joanna will take you on a walk to look at the native vegetation, and hopefully spot some wildlife too! During this walk you will learn about the connection between Waterton's plants and the animals that depend on them for their nutrition.

Wolves and Family (FRI, \$45.00)

Presenter: **Brenda Holder**
Wolves are an important part of family teachings, how they taught us to hunt cooperatively, the importance of leadership, the importance of family and to take only what is needed. Hear stories of wolves on a walk with Brenda and learn some interesting relationships between many of her family members and the wolf!

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Time	Duration	THURSDAY 19 SEP 2019	FRIDAY 20 SEP 2019	SATURDAY 21 SEP 2019	SUNDAY 22 SEP 2019	
8:00 to 11:00	3 h	Descriptions, Reservations & Tickets: Activities: program.watertonfestivals.org Opera House: opera.watertonfestivals.org Falls Theatre: By donation. First come first serve		Getting Started in Wildlife Photography Presenter: Joe Desjardins	Advanced Techniques for Wildlife Photography Presenter: Joe Desjardins	
8:30 to 11:30	3 h			The Beauty of Fall Birding (2.5 h) Presenter: Kim Pearson	The Teachings of the Bear Presenter: Brenda Holder	
9:00 to 12:00	3 h			Indigenous Cooking Presenter: Owna Scott-Big Bull	Sketch and Draw (6 h) Presenter: Julie Strong	The Magic of Encaustic Presenter: Mireille Cloutier
9:15 to 12:15	3 h			Wetlands Presenter: Ron McNeil	The Teachings of the Bear Presenter: Brenda Holder	What Makes Waterton Unique? Presenter: James Goulet
9:30 to 12:30	3 h		Wolves and Family Presenter: Brenda Holder	9:45 Bears & Berries Presenter: Melodey Wood	Salamander 'Byway' Volunteer Event (2.5 h) Presenter: Parks Canada	
11:00 to 12:00	1 h	NOON	11:00 Piiikuni - Land of the Natural Flow (1 h) Presenter: William Big Bull	11:00 Book "Birthday Party for Cougar Frenzy" (1 h) Presenter: Pamela McDowell	10:30 Track and Games (1.5 h)	
12:30 to 13:30	1 h		Free Movie: "Bear Man of Kamchatka" Documentary about Charlie Russell		Curious About Cougars? (1 h) Presenter: Pamela McDowell	
13:00 to 14:00	1 h			International Wildlife Film Festival	International Wildlife Film Festival (1.5 h)	
13:00 to 16:00	3 h		What Makes Waterton Unique? Presenter: James Goulet			
13:30 to 16:30	3 h		Photography with Mike Drew Presenter: Mike Drew	What Makes Waterton Unique? Presenter: James Goulet	Wild Waterton: Carnivores and Predators Presenter: Tamarack Outdoor Adventures	
13:45 to 16:45	3 h		Wildlife and Munchies Presenter: Joanna Fraser	Bats are Superheroes! (1 h) Presenter: Pamela McDowell	Free Movie: "Bear Man of Kamchatka" (1 h) Documentary about Charlie Russell	
14:00 to 17:00	3 h	Wildfire and Wildlife Presenter: Barb Johnston	Bison, the Fat of the Land Presenter: Brenda Holder			
14:15 to 17:15	3 h	Bison, the Fat of the Land Presenter: Brenda Holder	Loop to Knowledge Presenter: Ron McNeil	Wolves and Family Presenter: Brenda Holder		
14:30 to 16:00	1.5 h	Track and Games	Track and Games	15:00 Introduction to Wildlife Photography (3 h) Presenter: Kyla Black		
14:45 to 15:45	1 h	Free Movie: "Bear Man of Kamchatka" Documentary about Charlie Russell	Free Movie: "Bear Man of Kamchatka" Documentary about Charlie Russell			
16:00 to 17:00	1 h	International Wildlife Film Festival	International Wildlife Film Festival	Sid Marty in Concert "A Music Matinee" (2 h)		
17:00 to 19:00	2 h	Riding into Elk Habitat Presenter: Alpine Stables		Bear Bites Presenter: Melodey Wood		
19:30 to 21:00	1.5 h	Wolves as a Scapegoat Presenter: Sadie Parr	Night Sky Photography (3 h) Presenter: Alan Dyer	Hiking Along the Milky Way Presenter: Alan Dyer		
20:00		Dark Skies & Nocturnal Creatures (2 h) Presenter: Dark Sky Guides	Reconnecting with the Cosmos (3 h) Presenter: James Van Leeuwen			

Festival Headquarters (Registration) and Artisan Fair at Waterton Community Centre (WCC)



Presenter: **Brenda Holder**
Wolves are an important part of family teachings, how they taught us to hunt cooperatively, the importance of leadership, the importance of family and to take only what is needed. Hear stories of wolves on a walk with Brenda and learn some interesting relationships between many of her family members and the wolf!

Program subject to change.
Updated: 2019-09-17
For latest information go online:
program.watertonfestivals.org

LOCATION	ACTIVITY LEVEL
Artisan Fair	Family/Kids
Opera House	Presentation*
Falls Theatre*	All
	Easy
	Moderate
	Challenging

* by donation