

Stewardship Update on Owl Ridge Tall Buttercup



July 9th marked our second annual **Buttercup Blitz** at the **Owl Ridge Conservation Property** near Water Valley, Alberta on the edge of the Winchell Lake Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).

For promoting the success of native species and helping to restore balance in our natural areas, I would like to extend **huge thanks to everyone who joined us for the Blitz**—Sharon, Ally, Jayne, Neil, Alicia, Grant, Twila, Don, Alistair, Sally – and Barb and Doug Collister, the hosts.

This invasive plant has taken over two main fields on the Collister property and smaller clusters have dispersed around its perimeter. Doug and Barb have been persistent in their daily battle to remove as many patches of Tall Buttercup as possible.



I cannot deny the skepticism about the efficacy of taking on such an ocean of *Ranunculus*. **Selective hand-picking** can seem like a daunting task—but this multi-year experiment is **already showing positive results**. Herbicides and mowing are not part of the stewardship plan because of the impact that would have on native species that are slowly beginning to reappear.

By the time you read this most of the Tall Buttercup in Mountain View County will have seeds reaching maturity. Please avoid picking a patch when seeds are ready to be dispersed.

We are very optimistic about Buttercup Blitz 2021—working with the land to return it to a more natural state is a rewarding experience. So too are the people you meet. We hope you'll join us next year!

*Jordan Collin
Jr. Conservation Area Interpreter*