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The Official Newsletter

of The Wildlife Society, Saskatchewan Chapter



Meet your new executive!

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Saskatchewan Chapter AGM

The Saskatchewan Chapter AGM was held in Regina on November 18, 2012, and 15 members were in attendance. Here are a few shots of the good time had by all!



A whole lot of visiting goin' on!



Shiny happy people holding coffee cups.

Wayne Pepper shares the history of TWS in Saskatchewan.





The Saskatchewan Chapter of the Wildlife Society is dedicated to the conservation and protection of our wildlife and natural resources by providing the opportunity for wildlife professionals and students to exchange ideas and experience while promoting and upholding responsible wildlife stewardship.

President's Message

Greetings SCTWS Members,

I am thrilled to take on the role of President of the Saskatchewan Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SCTWS) for 2013. I am continually impressed by the growth of our chapter and the involvement of our members, and I look forward to meeting more of our new and returning members this year.

Our first annual general meeting took place in Regina on November 18, 2012 and was a definite

success. I would like to thank Wayne Pepper for delivering an inspiring presentation that covered the past, present, and future of TWS in Saskatchewan. Dr. Yeen-Ten Hwang also led a thought-provoking discussion focusing on what our members want to see from SCTWS in the coming years. I truly enjoyed the opportunity to hear from our members; many promising ideas for future events and initiatives came out of this discussion.

In 2013 I hope to see our chapter continue to grow, and I am also eager to learn more about our current members. The executive is planning an annual mixer for early this spring, and we hope that many of you will be able to attend and to share your ideas about what you would like to see from SCTWS in the future.

Thank you all for your continued support of SCTWS!

Sincerely,

Gillian Treen, SCTWS President

Thank you to our outgoing president!

On behalf of the SCTWS Executive I would like to thank Jennifer Sheppard, our outgoing President, for her outstanding contributions to the formation and development of our chapter. Jenn has been involved in TWS since 2008, and her previous experience with the UNBC student chapter of TWS proved invaluable to getting SCTWS

established. Jenn reported that at the 2012 TWS AGM in Portland many attendees were impressed with the progress of SCTWS over the past year, including our two successful events and our quarterly newsletters. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without Jenn's hard work and expertise. I am continually impressed by

Jenn's dedication to SCTWS, and we are very glad to have her serving on the Executive as Past President for 2013 so that we can continue to benefit from her enthusiasm and her knowledge of all things TWS. Thank you Jenn!

Gillian Treen,
SCTWS President

Why Sturgeon River Plains Bison do what they do

By Jerod A. Merkle

The history of the Sturgeon River Plains Bison Herd of Prince Albert National Park (PANP) is full of cultural heritage, tourism, research opportunity, and human-wildlife conflict. A small group of bison established themselves in PANP in 1969, but the population did not surpass 100 animals until the late 1990's. The population then increased in size, reaching over 400 individuals in 2006. This peak was followed by a decline, likely affected by anthrax outbreaks and wolf predation inside the park, and harvest by First Nations outside the park. Little was documented however, about the behavior of free-ranging bison.

In collaboration with Parks Canada, Daniel Fortin (Université Laval) has

studied the population since the mid 1990's. Through a combination of GPS collars and habitat sampling, Université Laval researchers have gained an amazing understanding of what influences bison distribution in PANP's greater ecosystem. Their preferred forage species is *Carexatherodes*, and the presence and distribution of this sedge drives habitat selection, meadow departure, and fine scale search effort. We also have a pretty good grasp of how group size and predation risk affect these behavioral parameters.

Our more recent research aims to better understand and predict human-bison conflict around PANP, particularly because the herd's range has doubled over the past fifteen years. We are trying to decode the processes influencing

when bison venture into new areas, in order to predict future range expansion. We are also examining the efficacy of small scale diversionary fences to direct bison away from private land. Finally, we are studying factors influencing use of private land by bison, how bison react to human activity, and the consequences of these behaviors.

As the saga of this herd unfolds, what we learn will inform conservation decisions while providing important insights into the lives of these bison.

For more information, contact Jerod A. Merkle, Ph.D. student, Université Laval:
(jerod.merkle.1@ulaval.ca)



Male bison in a meadow in Prince Albert National Park

"Our more recent research aims to better understand and predict human-bison conflict around PANP"



Aerial view of the southwestern border of Prince Albert National Park.

TWS Annual General Meeting 2012, Portland, Oregon by Jennifer Sheppard

“Although management issues are important, we should not ignore conservation problems in other countries, but try to unite our efforts and protect ecosystems and species throughout the world.”

The 19th Annual Conference took place October 13-18th in Portland, Oregon. For me, the Conference began with a student field trip. We spent the entire day learning about management issues in, and around, the Columbia River. We began the day by hiking up the Multnomah Falls to view a panorama of the Columbia River Gorge. We visited the Bonneville Dam, and were educated about ongoing issues between the protected marine mammal, the sea lion, which travels up the river to the dam to feed, and sturgeon and salmon, which are endangered in the area but are becoming the main prey of the sea lions. In fact, we witnessed sea lions capturing and eating huge sturgeon. We were also permitted access to a USFWS protected site to learn about the reintroduction of the Western Pond turtle and the restoration of the

Oregon white oak savannas.

Amazing plenary sessions the following day by Jack Ward Thomas and Shane Mahoney taught us that conservation is a global issue, and although our management issues are important, we should not ignore conservation problems in other countries, but that we should try to unite our efforts and protect ecosystems and species throughout the world. Additionally, groups such as The Wildlife Society are essential in bringing together wildlife managers, conservationists, and scientists to provide opportunities for these individuals to meet and collaborate in the future.

Aside from the numerous presentations I attended, I was able to meet numerous members of the Canadian Section and TWS council. Throughout the week, people from the CSTWS and TWS

approached me, commending the Saskatchewan Chapter for our impressive membership, and how much we have managed to accomplish in just one year (i.e., newsletters, mixers, and an AGM)! Aside from another great TWS conference, Portland provided amazing food and drink. The Old Town Pizzeria and Ringside Steakhouse were amazing, not to mention the hours one could spend at Powell's books. A quick afternoon trip to Mount Hood and the Bagby Hot springs washed away the conference exhaustion, and I was back in Canada before I knew it!

TWS is looking forward to our Chapter continuing to grow, and hopefully we'll be able to soon bridge the gap between different organizations in our province, and follow Dr. Mahoney's advice to increase our collaborative efforts to conserve our wildlife.



2012 Financial Summary

Income	Expenses	Balance
\$ 432.83 Membership income	\$225.08 Hall rentals	
\$ 500.00 Corporate sponsorship	\$ 29.00 TWS Member sponsorship	
\$ 215.00 Mixer silent auction		
\$ 0.06 Interest income		
\$1147.89 Total income	\$254.08 Total expenses	\$893.81

For full details, please see financial report attached to this newsletter!

Please Renew Your Membership!

It's easy to renew your membership to the Saskatchewan Chapter of
The Wildlife Society!

Here's how:

Online

Through <http://store.wildlife.org> (only applicable for full members of TWS)

In person

In Saskatoon: Contact Jennifer Sheppard (phone 306-975-4791)

In Regina: Contact Yeen Ten Hwang (phone 306-787-5079)

Mail In

Fill out the form below and mail cheque (payable to: "Saskatchewan Chapter of TWS") to:

SCTWS, c/o Al Arsenault
423 Carr Cove
Saskatoon, SK
S7S 1M2

NAME: _____ YEARS TO RENEW (up to 4)?: _____

New member? Need to update address or add TWS membership #?

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

TWS MEMBERSHIP # (if applicable): _____

WANTED: Newsletter submissions

We are always looking for people to submit content for the following newsletter sections:

- Research
- Trivia
- Job postings
- Upcoming events or activities

In future newsletters we'd like to highlight publications with a Saskatchewan connection. Please let us know about any recent publications you've been involved with, or are aware of, that feature wildlife research conducted within the boundaries of our lovely province.

So go on, don't be shy! Send your ideas for future submissions, or heck, just go ahead and send your submissions to our newsletter editor, Suzanne Joyce, at:

s.joyce@sasktel.net

THANK YOU!

Members of The Wildlife Society manage, conserve, and study wildlife populations and habitats. They actively manage forests, restore wetlands, restore endangered species, conserve wildlife on private and public lands, resolve wildlife damage and disease problems, and enhance biological diversity.

Saskatchewan Chapter of TWS

2012 Income and Expenses - Annual Statement

DD	MM	YY	INCOME \$	DESCRIPTION	EXPENSES \$	DESCRIPTION	BALANCE \$
17	1	2012	\$0.00	Opening balance			\$0.00
17	1	2012	\$179.00	Deposit (2011 membership income)			\$179.00
17	1	2012	\$48.50	C3 Membership income from TWS (\$60 USF converted to CND)			\$224.50
12	3	2012	\$18.30	C4 Membership income from TWS (\$20 USF converted to CND)			\$243.80
12	3	2012	\$5.00	Membership Income			\$248.80
22	5	2012	\$40.00	Membership Income			\$288.80
23	5	2012	\$26.00	C1 Membership income from TWS (\$30.00 USF converted to CND=\$25.00)			\$315.80
13	7	2012	\$500.00	AMEC Corporate Sponsor Donation			\$815.80
31	7	2012	\$0.01	Interest Income			\$815.81
31	8	2012	\$0.01	Interest Income			\$815.82
24	8	2012	\$215.00	Mover silent auction revenue			\$1,030.82
24	9	2012	\$0.88	Q2 Membership income from TWS (\$10.00 USF converted to CND=\$9.12)			\$1,030.43
28	9	2012	\$0.01	Interest Income			\$1,030.44
29	10	2012			\$50.00	SWF Hall rental for annual meet (CHK #051)	\$980.44
31	10	2012	\$0.01	Interest income			\$980.45
30	11	2012	\$0.01	Interest Income			\$980.46
6	12	2012			\$29.00	2013 Sponsor TWS Membership for Van (CHK #002 - \$29.00 USF)	\$951.46
7	12	2012			\$175.08	AGM Hall rental & speaker meal (CHK #001 - Jenn Sheppard)	\$776.38
14	12	2012	\$14.42	Q3 Membership income from TWS (\$15.00 USF converted to CND=\$14.42)			\$790.80
14	12	2012	\$85.00	Deposit (membership income)			\$875.80
31	12	2012	\$0.01	Interest income			\$875.81
					\$21.81	AGM refreshments (CHK #003 14 Dec 2012 Year Ten Hwang) CARRIED FORWARD	\$897.62
SUMMARY			INCOME \$		EXPENSES \$		BALANCE
			\$432.83	Membership Income	\$225.08	Hall Rentals	
			\$500.00	Corporate Sponsorship	\$29.00	TWS Member Sponsorship	
			\$215.00	Mover Silent Auction			
			\$0.03	Interest Income			
			Total	\$1,147.89	\$264.08		\$883.81