



NATURE MANITOBA NEWS

Volume 3
Issue 4
July / Aug. 2011

A newsletter for people passionate about nature

The Importance of Non-anonymous Birds

Encounters with Banded Owls

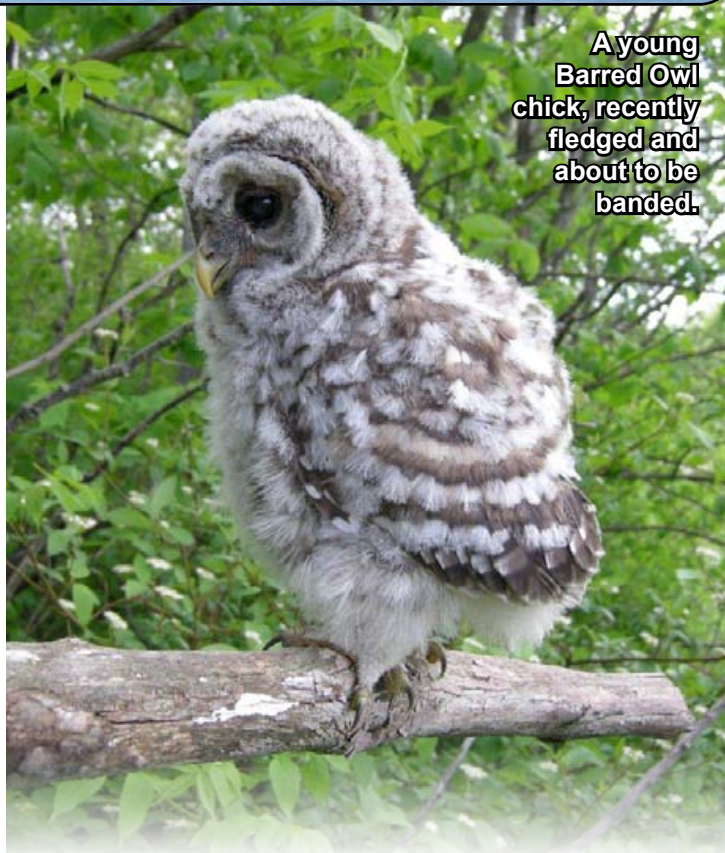
by Jim Duncan, Manager of the Biodiversity and
Endangered Species Section, Manitoba Conservation

Thousands of birds pass through our lives but sometimes a particular individual bird leaves its mark on us – like the Ruffed Grouse ‘George’ that stalked my wife and family in our yard for over 8 months. Many of us want to think (or are even convinced) that ‘our pair’ of robins has returned to our home garden. Occasionally a unique feature, such as a raspy atypical song or an injury (such as the one-legged female Red-winged Blackbird encountered over many years by Bob Nero in Charleswood), confirms our suspicion. In the world of scientific literature however, anecdotal speculation about the identification of individual birds and their associated biology are routinely and ruthlessly eliminated by editors with thick red pens. Thus to expound any facts or theories on individual birds in such venues requires more extreme methods – capturing birds and applying Canadian Wildlife Service bands.

My wife Patsy, a biologist, and I have been banding Great Gray Owls and other owl species in Manitoba for over 25 years, along with colleagues such as Herb Copland, Bob Nero and, most recently, graduate students Alex Froese and Todd Whiklo. This practice requires considerable effort, and is undertaken under permit and with strict animal care guidelines to ensure the practice has minimal impact on the well-being of the birds. The scientific justifications for this activity are important but rather dry to repeat here. I’d rather relate to the common feeling of excitement that many of you feel when encountering a familiar and well-known individual bird in your backyard.

(continued on page 5...)

“This practice requires considerable effort, and is undertaken under permit and with strict animal care guidelines...”



A young Barred Owl chick, recently fledged and about to be banded.

Jim Duncan

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President's Corner

by Roger Turenne

Little Limestone Lake Provincial Park worth celebrating

On June 24, I had the privilege of accompanying
Conservation Minister Bill Blaikie to Little Limestone
Lake for the official announcement of the creation of
Little Limestone Lake Provincial Park (see photo on page
16). This marks the culmination of a process which started
19 years ago when we first brought the unique characteris-
tics of this very special lake to the government's attention.

It has not always been an easy journey. For more than a decade we tried to include Little Limestone Lake within the boundaries of the proposed Manitoba Lowlands national park, in the face of strong opposition from the mining industry. When that park proposal became stalemated, an effort was begun to make Little Limestone Lake a stand-alone conservation objective and turn it into a provincial park. The creation of the Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve was an important step forward in 2007.

Unfortunately, the boundaries of this reserve included only a 100 m buffer around the lake and failed to provide adequate protection. Public consultations ensued and scientific studies were made with a view to determining the final makeup of the proposed park. With the exception of the mining sector, there was broad support for boundary expansion.

Last December Minister Blaikie decided to move forward towards park designation, with boundaries little changed from the Park Reserve. With regret, we explained why we could not support a park which failed to provide long-term protection for the lake. Mosakahiken Cree Nation, in whose traditional territory the park would be situated, also had a problem with the boundaries for the same reasons.

There followed a number of informal discussions between government officials, the local community, Nature Manitoba and CPAWS to try to resolve the issue, against the backdrop of a looming provincial election and a legally-mandated deadline of July 6 for any public announcements. We eventually came to a consensus which was then incorporated into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Manitoba Conservation and Mosakahiken. The MOU indicates agreement with the minister's park proposal while at the same time acknowledging that more work needs to be done on the boundaries, and sets up a mechanism to do so "no later than 60 days after the establishment of the park."

Mosakahiken wants the economic opportunities that park establishment would bring to their community. With the election coming, we all felt that it would be good to have a process in place now which would carry on whichever party emerges victorious in the fall.

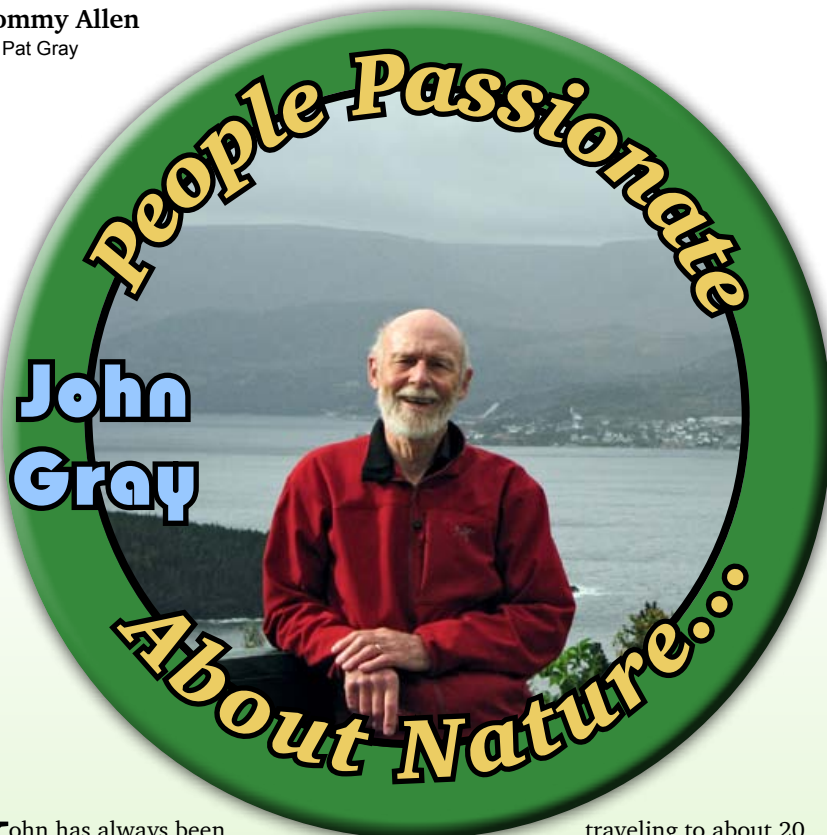
With the park a reality, it will become much more widely known and appreciated by Manitobans, making it easier to mount a campaign to stop any future threatening development in the immediate vicinity.

For these reasons, Nature Manitoba, CPAWS, and Mosakahiken Cree Nation endorsed the proposal. The new park establishes core protection for the lake and the MOU contains a government commitment to work on improving the boundaries. This means that there is still work to be done. But park designation constitutes a giant leap forward that is worth celebrating.

I would like to pay tribute to my colleague Ron Thiessen, executive director of the Manitoba Chapter of CPAWS, whose tireless work with Mosakahiken Cree Nation was instrumental in getting us over the final hurdle. I would like to commend Chief Phillip Buck for his vision for his community which encompasses not only economic development, but a strong belief that this development should be based on sustainable principles, respect for the land, and protection of Little Limestone Lake and the lands around it. Finally, I would also like to commend the Hon. Bill Blaikie who has demonstrated a strong commitment to protection of Little Limestone Lake and a willingness to listen. This gives us reason to hope that the coming discussions on boundary adjustments will lead to a happy conclusion.



***"The MOU contains
a government
commitment to
work on improving
the boundaries."***



Welcome New Members!

April 15th - June 14th, 2011:

Darlene Abreu
Simone Allard
Neil Baker
Celeste Brunel
Sue Genest
Barbara George
Ken Gilmour
Francis Hanlon & Family
David Lane
Glenda Mckim
Earl Palansky
Ian Robertson & Family
Jon Seguire
Brian & Vera Toker
Lois Verfaillie
Kevin Wolk

John has always been drawn towards nature; he even remembers using his first pair of wooden skis as a child in Winnipeg. His father was in the Canadian Forces, so although he was born in Victoria, he ended up living in several prairie cities. His family often went camping, hunting, and fishing. John developed an affinity for nature that remains strong today.

John completed his forestry degree at the University of British Columbia, spending summers doing forest surveying, including a summer in what is now the Great Bear Rainforest in B.C. After working in forestry for several years he moved to England to get a degree at the London School of Economics, where he met his wife, Pat Gray, on a youth hostel trip to Scandinavia. John came back to B.C. with Pat, and worked for the B.C. government for several years, until he decided to take on a Ph.D. of Economics and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Michigan.

After he completed his Ph.D. he was offered a job at the University of Manitoba teaching Economics, and Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, which brought him and Pat to Winnipeg. He has worked for a number of international organizations throughout his career at the University of Manitoba,

traveling to about 20 developing countries in West Africa, Latin America, South-East Asia, the Caribbean and even Russia. He has seen many challenges faced in these countries in regards to environmental management, and comments that in Canada "Wilderness and forestry can co-exist, with smaller, more intensively well-managed forestry areas rather than spreading logging

"Wilderness and forestry can co-exist, with smaller, more intensively well-managed forestry areas rather than spreading logging activities over vast amounts of wilderness"

activities over vast amounts of wilderness." John and Pat joined the MNS over 20 years ago, and have been active members of the Grey Hares for at least 15 years. John has helped out with the Grey Hares group and has also served for a number of years on the Mantario Committee, which he happened to join right before the cabin was destroyed by fire about 10 years ago, and ended up with the challenge of rebuilding the cabin. John also volunteers with the Charleswood Ski Club and with Creative Retirement Manitoba.

When he's not leading trips, some of his favorite things to be doing are canoeing in the Canadian Shield and backcountry skiing in the mountains of B.C. This year he completed three backcountry ski trips, including the classic Wapta Traverse across the glaciers of the continental divide in the Rocky Mountains.

Newsletter Label Volunteer Needed

Our office needs a new volunteer to help label Nature Manitoba News for mailing. This job only takes approx. 3 hours every second month.

Contact the office at 943-9029 or info@naturemanitoba.ca.



Tommy Allen

Garage Sale Notice

Our next garage sale will be held in the spring of 2012. No garage sale will be held this October.

We'd like to send our thanks to all of the volunteers who assisted in the garage sale on April 16, especially to Marilyn Hearn for co-ordinating.

Thank you also to those who contributed so many items to the garage sale, with a special thank you to Ray Ingalls who, once again, brought in over 70 plants, including his famous geraniums and trailing petunias.

BIG TREES, Little Trees

by Julia Schoen

The Grey Hares thoroughly enjoyed their end-of-May trip in the Sandilands, a trip that turned out to be quite a unique experience. June Thomson organized a tour through the Parkland Tree Nursery in Hadashville for fourteen interested people. Few of us knew that in the very area where the Grey Hares have hiked and skied many times before, there exists an impressive tree-growing operation.

The morning began with a one-kilometre hike through the woods led by two young women – both excellent tour guides for the trip through the different levels of the boreal forest. Conifers gave way to deciduous trees and boggy land showcasing gorgeous native Marsh Marigolds in bloom.

The guides had us referring to tree keys to identify various evergreens – a useful skill to develop for plant identification as



The guide giving us tips for identifying trees in the Sandilands.

well as for trees. We were also shown how to take a core sample from the centre of a tree without hurting it and asked to guess its age by counting its rings. One of our Grey Hares estimated

34 and the age turned out to be 32. Good work, Doris!

After lunch, we were taken on a tour of the extensive tree nursery. We were shown the seed extraction machinery and that which automatically filled the flats with soil and seed. These containers were transferred to huge nursery areas. We saw building after building containing table after table of little green trees growing exuberantly upward. We were all intrigued.

Our informative guide, Dave, explained how the operation had become more streamlined over the years. He showed us how the seedlings were packed for distribution. As we were leaving mid-afternoon, we saw a board noting some of those distribution figures and were impressed to see that over seven million trees were moved along in November 2010.

The Grey Hares discovered a “hidden” Manitoba gem on May 25. Thanks, June, for organizing this trip for us!

Jim Bromley



The Grey Hares enjoying a tour of The Parkland Tree Nursery in Hadashville, which grew and sold over 7 million trees last November.

Encounters of the *Natural* Kind

No story this issue...

Please send us your short stories (approximately 300-500 words) of interesting encounters with Manitoba nature, whether from your backyard or out in the field. Accompanying photos appreciated!

The Importance of Non-anonymous Birds

(...continued from page 1)

Imagine our delight this spring when Patsy and I recaptured two adult female and one adult male Great Gray Owls at three different nest sites that we monitor annually in our southeastern Manitoba study area. Some of these birds are now at least 14 years old, and we have had the privilege and pleasure of seeing them raise many owlets over this period. Likewise, Bob Nero was moved to express his feelings poetically when he and Herb Copland recaptured a Northern Hawk Owl one winter near Pine Falls more than 8 years after Patsy and I had banded it as a chick in a nest near South Junction, thus claiming the global longevity record for this species. More recently, Todd Whiklo's Master of Science research on the Barred Owl has documented year-round residency of Barred Owl pairs at nest sites. This spring we recaptured two banded females for the third time at their very productive nest sites – they each raised two to three chicks a year at these sites. Alex Froese is in the process of recapturing endangered Burrowing Owls to determine the extent to which birds she banded and released last summer have returned to Manitoba to nest – an extremely important piece of information regarding this endangered species.

Collectively, these anecdotes demonstrate that these and other species of birds display a remarkable tolerance for such human intervention in their lives. But they also show the value of these efforts in unraveling the mystery of otherwise anonymous creatures living in and sharing our habitats and



Patsy and two adult Great Grays Owls at a nest site

Jim Duncan

ecosystems. The recognition of individuals of a given species is important to science, but perhaps equally important is the development of a deeper relationship between individual humans and the species that increasingly depend on us for their survival.

Banding Winnipeg's Peregrine Falcon Chicks

For a video of the recent banding of Winnipeg's Peregrine Falcon chicks, visit www.youtube.com/theperegrinechick.

Nature Canada Affiliate Award given to Nature Manitoba

The Nature Canada Affiliate Award recognizes the conservation efforts of a partner organization whose accomplishments have benefitted nature in a significant way. This year's award was presented to Nature Manitoba by Richard Yank, Chair of Nature Canada, at a reception at Fort Whyte Alive on June 20. Part of his remarks follow:

"The volunteers, members and staff of Nature Manitoba are passionate about nature, and it shows. Connecting people to the natural world is one of the most important things a naturalist group can do, because when people lose a connection to nature, then nature loses a potential advocate, someone who can speak out on nature's behalf, and act in nature's best interest. Nature Manitoba helps make those connections..."

Beyond their efforts to connect people to nature, Nature Manitoba is also an advocate for nature; their staff and members are willing to act to protect and preserve some of the province's most vulnerable natural treasures.

For example, Little Limestone Lake is by far the biggest and best marl lake in the world and is arguably the most spectacularly beautiful lake in Manitoba. Nature Manitoba recognized we have a responsibility to protect it, not just for Manitobans but for all the world. For many years, the group has worked closely with provincial conservation partners, Manitoba Conservation, and Mosakahiken Cree Nation to protect the lake's fragile ecosystem by including it in a provincial park large enough to accomplish this objective...



Richard Yank (left), Chair of Nature Canada, and Roger Turenne (right), President of Nature Manitoba.

Before the arrival of European settlers, the Red River Valley in south-central Manitoba was a sea of tall-grass prairie, with a remarkable mix of grasses, flowers and wildlife. It was the most productive type of prairie in North America. Today, tall-grass prairie in Manitoba is less than 1% of its former 6,000 square kilometres.

Since the late 1980s Nature Manitoba has been part of a coalition of conservation organizations that have been securing lands in the Tolstoi-Gardenton area for a prairie preserve. Today, over 2,000 hectares of tall-grass prairie are protected within this Preserve.

That is tangible progress for which Nature Manitoba can be proud, and we can all be grateful."

Nature in the News...

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre Receives International Award

(excerpted from a NatureServe press release, May 13, 2011)

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (MBCDC) was named the outstanding natural heritage program in the Americas in May 2011 at NatureServe's annual Biodiversity Without Boundaries conference in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

MBCDC acting coordinator Nicole Firlotte received the NatureServe network's 2011 Conservation Impact Award from Mary Klein, president and CEO of NatureServe, a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to provide the scientific basis for effective conservation action. NatureServe and its international network of biological inventories (known as natural heritage

programs or conservation data centers) operate in all 50 U.S. states, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean and are the leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems.

The award recognizes MBCDC's success in maximizing the use of its information on species-at-risk to contribute to effective, proactive conservation activities that secure, protect, and manage habitat in partnership with conservation organizations, industry, and landowners. MBCDC's collaboration with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and Nature Conser-

vancy of Canada has helped preserve rare and unique habitat and lands supporting at-risk species, particularly in the mixed- and tall-grass prairies of southern Manitoba. The use of spatial biodiversity data from MBCDC has enabled both partners to identify not only priority landscapes within this fragmented, agriculture-dominated area but also specific properties that support rare species, increasing the effectiveness of their efforts to secure habitat and providing an exemplary model of collaboration.

For more info about the MBCDC, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cdc/

800,000 Hectares of Boreal Forest Protected

(excerpted from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition June 21, 2011 A6, by Bruce Owen)

It got little fanfare in the flurry of government announcements last week, but observers say it's no less important to the protection of the east side of Lake Winnipeg from development.

On Thursday, just as the legislative session was ending, the Selinger government said it had legally designated 807,650 hectares of boreal forest and wetlands on the east side of the province as protected traditional territory for the Poplar River First Nation.

It effectively bans logging, mining or

development of oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydro-electric power resources, but not the building of an all-weather road.

Poplar River, about 400 kilometres north of Winnipeg, is the first community to proceed with the land-use planning designation, something that allows it to have the final word on what happens on its land, and still continue to have access to the area for hunting, fishing and trapping.

The First Nation plans to develop the land for ecotourism and cultural education.

A provincial spokesperson said Monday the province did not hold a formal announcement at the request of Poplar River, which wants to hold a celebration in the community this summer.

The Pimachiowin Aki Corp., a partnership of the five First Nations, is leading the push to have a 40,000-square-kilometre area designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. The bid goes to Parks Canada this fall and then to UNESCO in 2012.

New Birding Trail Unveiled;

Nature Canada Signs Manitoba-Israel Agreement Protecting Birds, Promoting Ecotourism

(excerpted from a Manitoba government press release dated June 20, 2011)

Les McCann

Nature Canada is adding its signature to a birding and guiding memorandum signed by Premier Greg Selinger and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) last October. Water Stewardship Minister Christine Melnick made the announcement with Nature Canada at a June 20 event highlighting the importance of international co-operation for wildlife protection and promotion. The event also featured the unveiling of a new international birding trail shared by Manitoba and Minnesota.

Nature Canada is the lead organization on wildlife protection in Canada, as is the SPNI in Israel. For the past 15 years, there has been co-operation between Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians on the environment in general and migrating birds in particular in an effort to show that the lands of the Middle East can be shared and that positive interactions between the people of three nations

(continued on page 11...)



The International Pine to Prairie Birding Trail is unveiled at the Nature Canada reception on June 20. Left to right: Glen Suggett (MB Conservation), Jan Collins (MB Culture, Heritage and Tourism) and Carroll Henderson (Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources).



Mantario Hiking Trail Update

The Mantario Trail has been partially reopened. Work is progressing slowly due to the flood situation, as manpower is being redirected to more urgent areas.

The projected date for re-opening the entire trail is **July 1, 2011**.

Please see the following link with a map for the most current conditions:
www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/news



Thanks to all of those who came on the Mantario Flooring Work Party from May 30 to June 3. From left to right: Elaine Nystrom, Scott Nystrom, Dan Livingston, Peter Vandermaar, Leigh Cullen, Paul Buisson, Dale Brown, Colin McDougall, Rick Hisco. The work party replaced sections of the cabin's water-damaged wood subfloor, and replaced the sauna's wooden posts using local oak deadfall.

Mantario

The Wilderness Experience

Enjoy a 5 day guided canoe adventure through the designated Wilderness Zone of the Whiteshell Provincial Park. Guides, canoes, paddles, safety equipment, food and accommodations are provided. You will stay in the comfort of a fully equipped modern cabin and enjoy a lakeside sauna.

RATES

5 Day Trip (includes food)

Adult (non-members)	\$395*
Members of Nature Manitoba (also full-time students, seniors 65+, and youth aged 14-17 with parent)	\$360*
Under 18 (only for Family Week)	\$125
(* Deduct \$35 for early-bird registrations before June 1st)	

2011 SUMMER PROGRAM

July 11 - 15: Explore Mantario with Leigh Cullen & Lorne Klassen (**FULL**)

Explore the Mantario Lake wilderness with Leigh Cullen and Lorne Klassen. Hike to Olive Lake and paddle to Ironwood Falls via Skull Lake and Morning Glory River. Swim around Eagle Nest Island or across the channel near the cabin. See bats, identify dragonflies, flowers and more.

July 18 - 22: Mantario Living with Marc Leclair

Fishing, blueberry picking, exploring, swimming, sitting in the sauna, watching the sun set, or reading a book; you decide your week.

July 25 - 29: Astronomy & Photography with Jennifer West & Brian Hydesmith

Take photos by day and study stars by night! Jennifer will help you identify the stars and Brian will coach you to capture better scenic, close-up and other images regardless of skill, experience or camera equipment.

Aug. 8 - 12: Family Week with Gillian Brennan (& volunteer Charles Burchill)

What better way to introduce the kids to nature than by a full-on wilderness adventure? Gillian Brennan will keep them so busy with fun activities, they will forget Gameboy and Wii ever existed!

Aug. 15 - 19: Pixie Cups to Jack Pines with Charles Burchill

Take a closer look at the plants growing in the Mantario Wilderness Zone with Charles Burchill, canoeist and botanist. Learn a little about the variety of plants and ecology of the boreal forest in a relaxing, stress-free environment.

Aug. 22 - 26: Family Week & Swimming at Mantario with Lesly Andrews & Kim Monson

With Kim you will explore the plants, rocks and animals that live on and around the Mantario cabin. We will watch for bats, tell stories around the campfire, and go crazy with the ultimate scavenger hunt.

OUTDOOR activities

To receive email updates for outdoor activities, please send a message to triplist@naturemanitoba.ca.

Riding Mountain trip

July 1 to 3

Canada Day long weekend backpacking outing with Les McCann – an excursion into the Birdtail/Tilson loop of Riding Mountain Provincial Park. This is a moderately difficult outing (10 kms per day) with a choice of group or individual meals. This is a highly varied, wildlife rich, beautiful and less visited area of the Park.

Contact Les McCann at 895-8108 or lmccann2001@yahoo.com. [Rate 4]

Mantario portage work party

July 4 to 7

(a.k.a. “Mud spa in the woods.”)

Fix portage trails around Big Whiteshell, Crowduck, and Ritchie Lakes. Tent camping is involved, food is included.

Contact Al Louer at 235-1790 or alainlouer@hotmail.com. [Rate 4]

Woodland Caribou Park trip

Early July

Join Jerry Ameis for another canoeing adventure into Woodland Caribou Park. Enjoy 10 days of canoeing in the wilderness (includes 1-2 non-travel days).

This trip is full, email Jerry at raven981@mts.net with inquiries. [Rate 5]

Tracks ‘n Trails

Sunday, July 10

At 11:00 am meet at The Prairie Dog Central train depot for the Tracks ‘n Trails excursion. Fee is \$24.95 per person. Ride the rails to Grosse Isle and then hike 10km on the Prime Meridian trail. If you are into geocaching, bring your GPS.

Trip registration is already over, phone Bryon Burvill at 233-7904 or email jsoyburv@shaw.ca with any inquiries.

Walk for ALS

Saturday, July 16

Enjoy a 5 km fund-raising Walk for ALS along the Trans Canada Trail at Falcon Lake. Starts at 10:30am by the baseball diamonds. **Please join and/or donate to our Nature Manitoba team to support ALS research and care.** After the walk, enjoy the Annual Whiteshell Music Festival from 1 to 5pm.

Contact Don or Marlene Pontifex at 222-5561 or 1-204-349-2738, or go to www.walkforals.ca.

Hiking in Whiteshell

Provincial Park

Sunday, July 24

Cindy Chudley and Al Louer are planning to do some hiking in this beautiful area of the Canadian Shield.

Contact Cindy or Al at 235-1790 or email cin7cin7@hotmail.com.

Henteleff Park nature walk

Monday, July 25

Here's your chance to learn more about one of the newest parks in south Winnipeg. Join Marilyn Latta for a leisurely stroll through the park. Although primarily a plant walk, we will look at birds (lark sparrows and indigo buntings have nested here the last two years), butterflies, and anything else that runs, flies or crawls by! Meet at the parking lot of Henteleff Park at 7pm, located at 1964 St. Mary's Rd. It is on the west side of St. Mary's about halfway between Bishop Grandin and the Perimeter Hwy. Contact Marilyn at 253-9245 for more information or just show up. [Rate 2]

Canoe trip to Trapline Lake

August 1 to 6

Join Jerry Ameis for a 6-day canoe trip to Trapline Lake in Ontario, close to the Manitoba border and Nopiming Park. We start at Davidson Lake and canoe through Reynar, Bain and Wilson lakes, reaching Trapline in one day or at most two days of travel. Trapline is not in the forest fire zone. A fire burned the area west and south of Trapline a number of years ago. Once in Trapline, we will set up a base camp and explore the area. One of my exploration wishes is to try to make a route to the Bird River from Trapline. That involves exploring a series of small lakes north of Trapline and creating portage trails (of the basic variety consisting of blaze marks and rock piles). Those who are into GPS should enjoy being a trailblazer. E-mail Jerry at raven981@mts.net for more info and/or to book a spot. [Rate 5]

Carmen and St. Lupicin hiking

Saturday, August 13

Hike through the historic town of Carmen along its riverine Acting Living Pathway; then onto Snow Valley and hiking to St. Lupicin, about 15km in total.

Contact Rose at rkuzina@mts.net or phone 338-9369. [Rate 3]

Souris Bend Wildlife Management Area hike

Saturday, August 20

This is an 11km scenic hike through a significant riparian woodland tract interspersed with undisturbed mixed-grass prairie. Elevated views of the Souris River are a highlight.

Register with Les McCann at 895-8108 or lmccann2001@yahoo.com. [Rate 2]

Bois des Esprits evening hike

Tuesday, August 23

Hike along the Seine River on the Bois des Esprits and Louis Riel Sr. trails, and part of the Bishop Grandin Greenway for about 6km on a (hopefully) lovely summer evening.

Contact Rose at 338-9369 or rkuzina@mts.net. [Rate 1]



Les McCann

Classified Ads

For \$15 you get 3 lines/30 words to place a classified ad in Nature Manitoba News! E-mail the editor at editor@naturemanitoba.ca.

PERSONS WANTED: for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success... more details on page 14.

GREY HARES

(Wednesdays)

July 6

Cycle from Seven Sisters to Pinawa.
Charles Begley at 233-8395. [Rate 3]

OR

Hike Pinawa area, the Trans-Canada trail, swinging bridge.
John Gray at 269-1765. [Rate 1-2]
The two groups may meet in Pinawa for ice cream, coffee or snacks!

July 13

Cycle north Winnipeg from the Forks including Kildonan Park and the new Kildonan Golf Course trail.
Daniela Rempel at 633 0668. [Rate 3]

July 20

Hike the Bittersweet trails. An easier hike may also be possible.
Marilyn Hearn at 895-4659. [Rate 3]

July 27

Canoe Caddy Lake through the tunnel to South Cross Lake. [Rate 2]
Charles Begley at 233 8395.

August 3

Julia's annual Garden Cycle Tour; we'll visit a number of interesting gardens.
Julia Schoen at 269-8004. [Rate 2]

August 17

Cycle the new paved floodway trail along "Duff's Ditch" starting in East St Paul.
Call Brian Wagg at 663-8333 or Ted Harvey at 889-5725. [Rate 2-3]

August 31

Hike the Souris Bend Wildlife Management Area southwest of Wawanesa.
Les McCann at 895-8108. [Rate 3]

Sean Wordon



Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out on May 28 to clean up the Victoria Beach cabin, which will be put up for sale. Top: Michael Sykes, Rick Harrison, Rose Harrison. Bottom: Sean Wordon, Maureen Frolick, Helen Leeds, Don Himbeault, Lucille Cenerini, Lewis Cocks, Les McCann.

Trip Leader Forms

Nature Manitoba's Trip Leader forms are available on our website, on the "Outdoor Activities" page. Please fill them out for every trip, and return them to the Nature Manitoba office. Contact the office if you would prefer paper copies.

New Website Delayed

Apologies for stating in the last newsletter that the new website would be activated in the month of May. Some features have taken longer to implement than anticipated, and so it may be a few more weeks until it is up and running.

GENERAL RATING GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL ACTIVITIES

Rate 1 Novice: Typically 2 to 3 hours duration. Little or no experience required. Easy terrain. Limited physical fitness acceptable. Weather not likely to be severe and normally we can retreat to shelter.

Rate 2 Intermediate: Typically 4-6 hours long. Some previous experience and skill desirable. Some steep or difficult terrain. Moderate physical fitness required. Seasonal weather normally not severe.

Rate 3 Advanced: Typically full day trip. Previous experience, significant skill and good physical condition required. Steep or difficult terrain. Sustained strenuous activity required. Weather not normally severe.

Rate 4 Advanced: Trip of several days duration with heavy packs, specialized equipment and skills. Effects of inclement weather and injuries more severe. Seasonal weather not normally severe.

Rate 5 Advanced: Trip of several days duration with heavy packs, specialized equipment and skills. Possible severe weather conditions - wind, cold rain, sleet - may halt trip and demand use of skilled survival techniques or make accidents or physical injuries life threatening. Aid or rescue is difficult to obtain.

PLEASE NOTE:

All those planning to participate in a trip must register with the leader beforehand, unless otherwise indicated. Space is often limited, so call early. If the leader cannot be reached, call the office at 943-9029.

As a member of Nature Manitoba you have the right to participate in all of our activities and programs, but you must provide a valid membership card. Trips are led by unpaid, non-professional volunteers.

Trip leaders may exercise discretion and decline to include any person. When registering you must rely on your own assessment of your ability to participate, based on the requirements of the trip as described in the trip rating guidelines and at www.naturemanitoba.ca.

By showing up it is understood that you acknowledged and are prepared and able to participate at the level indicated. You will be required to sign an Informed Consent and Liability Release Agreement in order to participate.

Participants must be prepared for inclement weather. Participants must have adequate clothing, water, food, must carry their own gear, and are responsible for ensuring it is in good working condition. See the Outdoor Activity section of our website for more details on the Trip Rating Guidelines.

Leafy Spurge Costs Manitoba \$40 Million a year



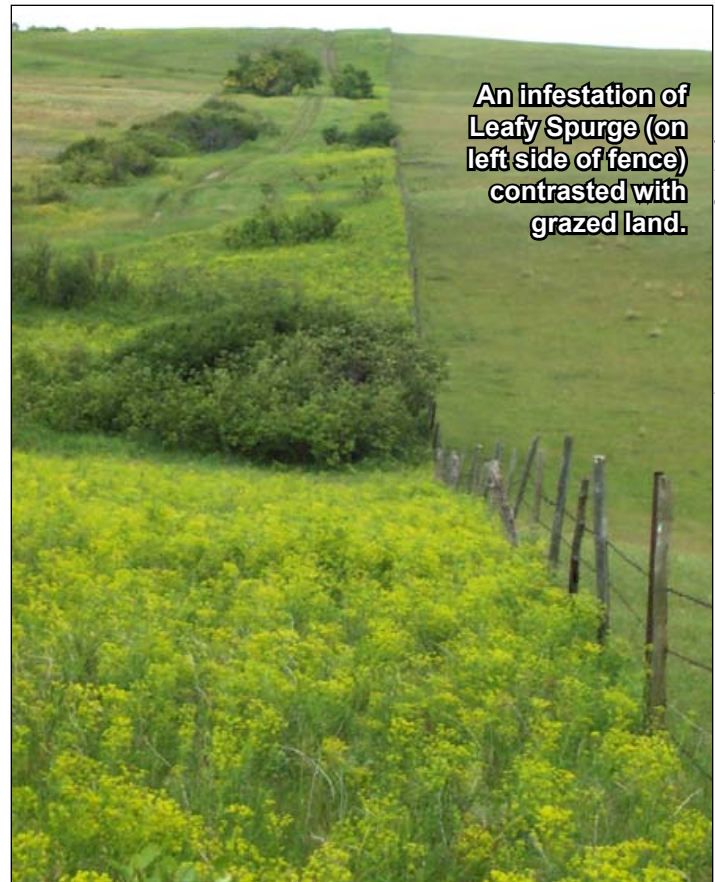
by Cheryl Heming, *Invasive Species Council of Manitoba (ISCM) Project Technician*

Leafy Spurge, a long-lived invasive weed found on uncultivated land, is choking an estimated \$40 million a year out of Manitoba's economy, according to the 2010 Economic Impact Assessment of Leafy Spurge in Manitoba. This study was produced by the Rural

Development Institute of the University of Brandon in cooperation with the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group and Invasive Species Council of Manitoba.

The province's cattle industry is hardest hit, but Leafy Spurge is also reducing land values, deteriorating natural areas and endangered habitat, and contributing to soil erosion and reduced water quality.

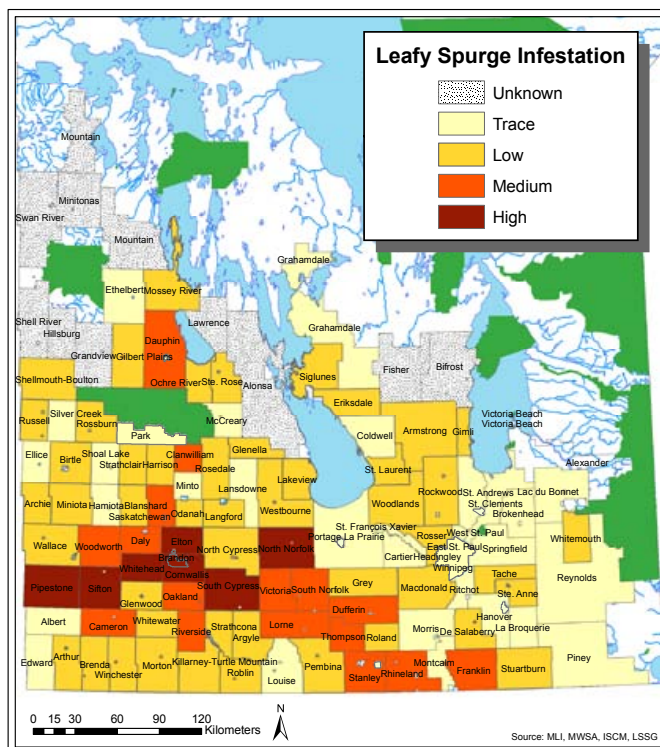
Based on surveys taken by weed supervisors and agriculture representatives, 1.2 million acres are infested with Leafy



An infestation of Leafy Spurge (on left side of fence) contrasted with grazed land.

Photos: Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) Infestation in Manitoba Municipalities in 2010



Spurge, up dramatically from the 130,000 acres estimated in the early 1990s and 340,000 in the first Economic Impact Study in 1999. A Leafy Spurge patch, ignored and left untreated, doubles in size every decade.

The most detailed surveys came from weed supervisors, which cover about half the province's farmland. Agriculture representatives were surveyed in the rest of the province.

To the left is a map showing the current spread of Leafy Spurge in Manitoba:

- The worst infected areas are in the southwest areas of the province with very high densities around Brandon. This destructive invasive is spreading east into roadsides in the central region and along the Pembina Valley.
- Lands of concern to the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group include the thousands of acres of pasture and natural lands running north from the Trans Canada highway up and around Riding Mountain National Park, especially the area known as the Riding Mountain Biosphere.

What can you do about spurge:

- Don't buy spurge look alikes at a nursery centre.
- Remove any of this plant from your land.
- Report sightings to www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com.

A copy of the study is available online on the ISCM website (above), or by calling the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba at (204) 232-6021.

BIRD NEWS

by Gordon Grief

This month's sightings table covers the spring migration period from April 1 to the end of May.

The hawk watch site in the Pembina River Valley southwest of Morden turned in a record performance this year. The site, manned daily by Al Schmitt from February 23 to April 18, is also known as Windygates, from the name of a nearby town which is now essentially non-existent. Over that time period there were 13,209 raptors counted with 12,093 of these being Red-tailed Hawks. Personally, I find it

amazing that Al can identify and count that many raptors when the peak daily counts were as high as 3,390 birds. And somehow he manages to find time to chat with the many visitors who come to view this raptor spectacle.

On May 28 a Cinnamon Teal was located at Fort Whyte Alive by a group of birders on an early morning bird walk. Subsequent examination of this bird by a number of birders using spotting scopes revealed that it was actually a Cinnamon Teal/Blue-winged Teal hybrid. Primarily it looked like a Cinnamon Teal except that it had the dark bluish crown of a Blue-winged Teal along with a few white markings where the Blue-winged would have its white crescent.

The consistently cool, wet weather throughout April and May, interspersed with a few warm days made for an off-again, on-again migration of passerines. However, by the end of May it appeared that nearly all species were back in southern Manitoba.

If you have some unusual summer bird sightings be sure to send them to me at 31 Kara Cove, Winnipeg, R2N 3C2 or to the Nature Manitoba office. If you are on the internet you can e-mail your sightings to me at ggrief@mts.net.

Bird Watching at Oak Hammock Marsh on April 23, 2011.

Earl Palansky



New Birding Trail Unveiled

(...continued from page 6)

is possible. As part of the memorandum, Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian nature officials will tour Canada in June 2012, to discuss their partnership and share their experiences on birding and protecting habitat as a path to peace in the Middle East.

Melnick also launched the Manitoba section of a new Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail established between Manitoba and Minnesota. Along with officials from the State of Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources and Watchable Wildlife International, the minister

unveiled the route map and highway signage for the Manitoba portion of the 800-kilometre trail that features 68 prime wildlife viewing sites between Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, and Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park in Manitoba.



"The protection of wildlife truly transcends all borders," said Melnick. "Our memorandum of understanding with SPNI and Nature Canada, and our partnership with the State of Minnesota, reflect Manitoba's commitment to working globally as well as locally to ensure the future of our natural resources."

Look for a feature article on both the Pine to Prairie Birding Trail and the new Manitoba Grasslands Birding Trail in the next issue.

Species	#'s	Date	Location	Observers
Snow Goose	100,000	May 16 11	Churchill	D. Britton
Trumpeter Swan	2	Apr 8 11	Lac du Bonnet	S. Kelly
Trumpeter Swan	2	Apr 14 11	Hadashville	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Trumpeter Swan	2	May 17 11	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
Trumpeter Swan	2	May 18 11	Riding Mountain N.P.	C. Artuso, et al
Tundra Swan	8836	May 8 11	Carrot River Valley	J. Kayer
Cinnamon Teal	1	May 9 11	Brandon	K. De Smet
Cinnamon Teal (hybrid)	1	May 25 11	Winnipeg	A. Mickey, m.obs.
Northern Pintail	1000	Apr 24 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	F. & M. Giesbrecht
Ring-necked Duck	2	Apr 7 11	Marquette	L. Jansson, A. Mickey
Greater Scaup	5	Apr 13 11	Stead	P. Taylor
Common Merganser	150	Apr 26 11	Twin Lakes Beach	R. & D. Staniforth
Red-breasted Merganser	500	Apr 26 11	Twin Lakes Beach	R. & D. Staniforth
Spruce Grouse	1	Apr 25 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	R. Nickel, J. Peters, A. Ens
American White Pelican	540	Apr 11 11	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles
Double-crested Cormorant	1	Apr 11 11	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles
Great Blue Heron	1	Apr 6 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	A. Mickey
Great Egret	1	Apr 9 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	R. Seguin, J. Whitelaw
Green Heron	2	May 20 11	Winnipeg	A. Courcelles
Green Heron	1	May 22 11	Winnipeg	R. Staniforth
Turkey Vulture	1	Apr 1 11	Windygates	A. Schritt
Bald Eagle	120	Apr 6 11	Windygates	A. Schritt, B. Shettler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	266	Apr 9 11	Windygates	A. Schritt, P. Goossen
Sharp-shinned Hawk	115	Apr 11 11	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles
Swainson's Hawk	1	Apr 11 11	Windygates	A. Schritt, B. Shettler
Red-tailed Hawk	3150	Apr 6 11	Windygates	A. Schritt, B. Shettler
Red-tailed Hawk	800+	Apr 7 11	Eden	R. DeMey
Red-tailed Hawk	2527	Apr 9 11	Windygates	A. Schritt, P. Goossen
Red-tailed Hawk	2118	Apr 11 11	Windygates	A. Schritt, B. Shettler
Red-tailed Hawk	400+	Apr 12 11	Brandon	C. Cuthbert
Rough-legged Hawk	1	May 19 11	Headingley	B. Shettler
Golden Eagle	1	Apr 28 11	Shoal Lakes	K. Gardner
Killdeer	1	Apr 9 11	Churchill	D. Britton
Willet	1	Apr 26 11	Harperville	R. & D. Staniforth
Franklin's Gull	1	Apr 9 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	R. Seguin, J. Whitelaw
California Gull	4	Apr 12 11	Brandon	C. Cuthbert
California Gull	5	Apr 15 11	Stonewall	K. Gardner
California Gull	3	May 14 11	PR. 227 Landfill	R. Koes, NM outing
California Gull	1	May 28 11	Winnipeg	S. & G. Grief
Glaucous Gull	1	Apr 23 11	PR. 227 Landfill	C. Braden
Glaucous Gull	1	Apr 26 11	Twin Lakes Beach	R. & D. Staniforth
Glaucous Gull	1	May 7 11	Churchill	D. Britton
Common Tern	1	Apr 30 11	Lake Minniwasta	R. Hiebert
Band-tailed Pigeon	1	May 12 11	Winnipeg	R. Koes
White-winged Dove	1	May 19 11	Dufresne	G. & D. Hays
Snowy Owl	1	Apr 8 11	Sandy Lake	I. Thorleifson
Short-eared Owl	12	Apr 20 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	G. & C. Machnee
Northern Saw-whet Owl	15	Apr 7 11	Monominto	R. Porteous, A. Mickey, L. Jansson, D. Stirling
Chimney Swift	2	May 9 11	Winnipeg	L. Jansson
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	May 8 11	Morden	R. Hiebert
Belted Kingfisher	1	Apr 11 11	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	May 11 11	Winnipeg	R. Wiebe
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Apr 14 11	Windygates	A. Schritt
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	May 9 11	Winnipeg	N. MacPherson
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	May 20 11	Windygates	C. McPherson
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	May 25 11	Gimli	B. Chartier
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Apr 8 11	Gimli	B. Chartier
Alder Flycatcher	1	May 4 11	Winnipeg	R. Clarke
Least Flycatcher	1	May 6 11	Headingley	B. Shettler
Eastern Phoebe	1	Apr 6 11	Winnipeg	S. Oikawa

Species	#'s	Date	Location	Observers
Northern Flicker	1	Feb 10 11	Winnipeg	R. Wiebe
Horned Lark	6	Feb 12 11	Carman	A. & G. Walley
Brown Creeper	1	Feb 5 11	Morden	R. Hiebert
Brown Creeper	1	Feb 21 11	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Eastern Bluebird	1	Mar 28 11	Windygates	A. Schmitt
Mountain Bluebird	3	Mar 15 11	Pierson	M. Wang
Mountain Bluebird	4	Mar 30 11	Routledge	C. & M. Sangster
Mountain Bluebird	5	Mar 30 11	Maskawata	C. & M. Sangster
Townsend's Solitaire	1	1/10 to 3/15/11	Brandon	C. Cuthbert, M. Yorke, M. Reid
Hermit Thrush	1	Feb 6 11	Winnipeg	D. Boettcher
American Robin	1	1/29 to 2/28/11	Winnipeg	J. & G. Grief
American Robin	1	Mar 19 11	St. Jean Baptiste	L. Blanchette
Varied Thrush	1	Feb 28 11	Cypress River	A. Walley
European Starling	3	Feb 6 11	Churchill	D. Britton
Bohemian Waxwing	150	Feb 28 11	Winnipeg	J. & G. Grief
Eastern Towhee	1	12/2/10 to 2/15/11	Benito	R. Schneider
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	May 7 11	Headingley	B. Shettler
Western Kingbird	1	May 8 11	Seven Sisters	P. Taylor
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1	May 11 11	Holland	L. & W. Rutherford
Blue-headed Vireo	1	Apr 17 11	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Loggerhead Shrike	1	May 7 11	Beaudry Park	R. Wiebe
Loggerhead Shrike	1	May 14 11	St. Ambrose Prov. Park	R. Koes, NM outing
Loggerhead Shrike	1	May 27 11	Sprague	R. Nickel
Common Raven	200	Apr 14 11	The Pas	J. Kayer
Tree Swallow	1	Apr 9 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	R. Seguin, J. Whitelaw
Winter Wren	1	Apr 11 11	Marchand	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Marsh Wren	1	May 5 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	R. Koes
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Apr 16 11	Steinbach	L. Giesbrecht
Hermit Thrush	1	Apr 9 11	Winnipeg	M. Waldron
Hermit Thrush	50+	May 1 11	Starbuck	C. Penner
Wood Thrush	1	May 29 11	Milner Ridge	P. Taylor
Sprague's Pipit	1	May 20 11	Birds Hill Park	R. Porteous, L. Jansson, R. Clarke
Bohemian Waxwing	2	Apr 15 11	Lac du Bonnet	P. Taylor
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	Apr 29 11	Winnipeg	N. Butchard
Yellow Warbler	1	May 5 11	Winnipeg	L. de March
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	Apr 8 11	Kleefeld	H. Lane, D. Fast
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	May 5 11	Winnipeg	N. Butchard
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	May 9 11	Winnipeg	P. Friesen
Black-and-white Warbler	1	May 4 11	Winnipeg	L. Veelma
Ovenbird	1	May 7 11	Winnipeg	D. Dodgson
Common Yellowthroat	1	Apr 28 11	Richer	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Summer Tanager	1	May 10 11	Starbuck	C. Penner
Summer Tanager	1	May 9 11	Beausejour	N. Schinkel
Western Tanager	1	May 7 11	Clear Lake	G. Hartlen
Western Tanager	1	May 11 11	Richer	K. Kilgour-Klann
Spotted Towhee	1	May 8 11	Winnipeg	G. Grief
Eastern Towhee	1	May 5 11	Headingley	B. Shettler
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	May 6 11	Headingley	B. Shettler
White-throated Sparrow	200+	May 4 11	Winnipeg	C. Meiklejohn
White-crowned Sparrow	1	May 28 11	Headingley	B. Shettler
Harris's Sparrow	1	May 29 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	L. Pearn
Dark-eyed Junco	200+	Apr 14 11	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
Northern Cardinal	1	Apr 23 11	Winnipeg	R. Porteous
Northern Cardinal	1	May 6 11	Winnipeg	E. Kells
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8	May 21 11	Argyle	J. Rodger
Yellow-headed Blackbird	2	Apr 12 11	Oak Hammock Marsh	R. Porteous, R. Clarke
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Apr 9 11	Blumenort	V. Reimer
Baltimore Oriole	13	May 21 11	Argyle	J. Rodger
Hoary Redpoll	300+	Apr 9 11	Churchill	D. Britton
Hoary Redpoll	1	Apr 20 11	Winnipeg	R. Nickel
American Goldfinch	50+	May 21 11	Argyle	J. Rodger

THE HUNT LAKE HIKE

by Les McCann

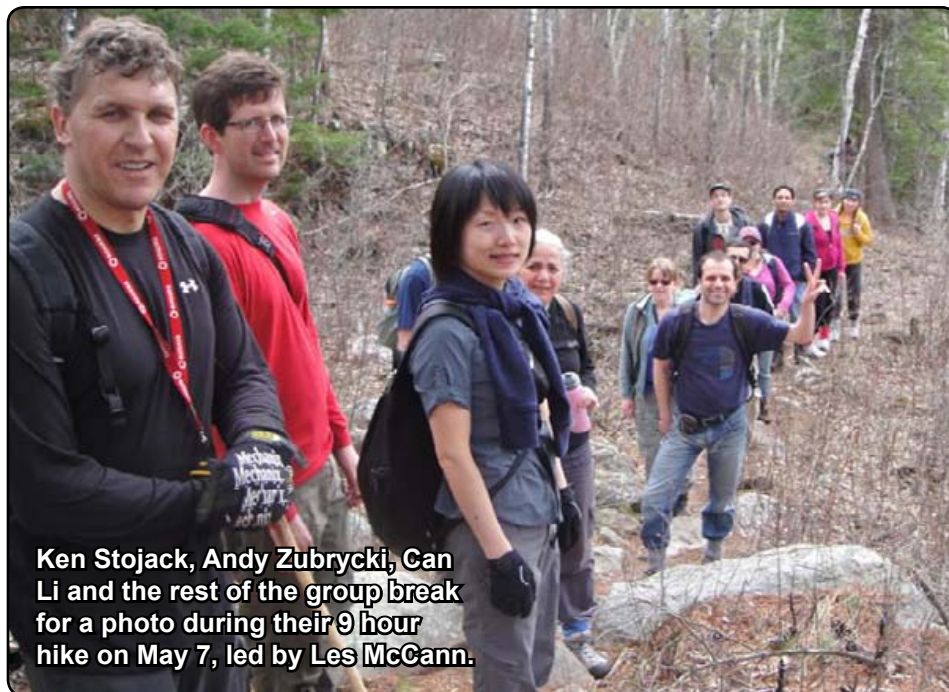
The Hunt Lake hike this year was expected to be a challenge, but was even more so than anticipated. The trail is listed as a 4 hour hike, although we planned to do the old and unmaintained loop that crosses into Ontario, so we expected more of a 6 hour walk. This Ontario loop allows you to do a circle loop rather than an in-and-out on the same trail. We have done the Ontario loop the past 3 years and found it a real workout, but this year the bushwhacking was more extreme and we even had to refurbish two bridges. So what we expected to be a strenuous 6 hours turned into 9 hours.

Ernest Shackleton memorably advertised for participants in his 1914 expedition on the Endurance with the following:

“MEN WANTED: for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success.”

Five thousand applied for the journey. I think I write the truth when I say that not one of our intrepid group of 15 regretted a moment of our “expedition”. It would be interesting to know how many of us could get out of bed before noon the next day, but I know everyone had a wonderful experience.

Next year we will likely offer two options – one group doing the in-and-out trail and the other doing the circle loop. A prerequisite for the group that wants to do the circle loop would be that it contains four strong people capable of bridge building, i.e., placing two large logs across a stream. Those doing the circle loop should do it counter-clockwise (entering Ontario first), so that they would run into the washouts earlier in the day. They would then have the option of turning around, which isn’t such a palatable option when it’s late in the day. Neither option is a cake walk, but both are beautiful.



Ken Stojack, Andy Zubrycki, Can Li and the rest of the group break for a photo during their 9 hour hike on May 7, led by Les McCann.

The last 6 hours of the hike were spent on the unmaintained Ontario side of the trail, totally away from any lake views, bushwhacking 50 percent of the time, often trying to relocate an unmarked and difficult-to-find trail, climbing over seemingly innumerable downfall trees, scampering along a number of beaver dams (some spectacular), crossing foot-soaking marshes and mud holes, and generally dealing with difficult terrain.



A bridge building crew will now be a prerequisite for doing this loop.



The group stops to meet a Garter Snake.

Les McCann

Can Li

Les McCann

PRAIRIE DAY

Saturday, August 13, 2011

Manitoba's Tall Grass Prairie Preserve will be hosting its annual Prairie Day event on Saturday, August 13, 2011 at the Prairie Shore Interpretive Trail, located 3 kilometres east of Tolstoi on Provincial Road 209.

Join us for a fun-filled day of critter dipping, prairie wildflower walks, bug hunting and bannock baking. Special presentations will feature the recently launched Manitoba Herp Atlas project and an update on the progress of the Manitoba Bird Atlas project. Animal ambassadors from the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre will make a special appearance along with their human assistants.

Admission for the day is \$5.00 per adult and no charge for children. An on-site canteen will be opened from 10am until 4pm. A barbecue lunch with hot dogs and hamburgers will be served from 11:30am to 2pm – please note only cash is accepted at this event.

Trail conditions may be wet so rubber boots or a change of footwear is suggested. Please bring a lawn chair, sunscreen and insect repellent. As in the past, these activities will take place rain or shine. Picnic tables and rustic washrooms are also available on-site.

For more information on this event, please contact the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve staff at (204) 425-3229 or tgpqh@mts.net.



Julia Schoen

Rock & Mineral Workshop

Kim Monson (right) showing her gorgeous rocks to Judith Campbell (left) and Chris Deduke (centre) on April 5. Kim and her rocks from the collection at the University of Winnipeg easily held the group's interest.

Stay tuned for our 2012 Workshop Series, we'll have the workshop listing out by the end of this year.

Julia Schoen



This well-designed yard was on the Garden Tour last year. Come out on July 23 to see what Tour 2011 has to offer!

OUR NATURAL GARDEN TOUR

A 2011 Nature Manitoba Fundraiser

Nine beautiful St. Vital gardens did "Our Natural Garden Tour" proud this past summer. Now everyone can look forward to a new group of gardens, equally beautiful, on our next tour on **Saturday July 23, 2011.**

Our new tour will take place in Fort Richmond and Fort Garry, with a swing a bit further west to McCreary Road. A number of smaller yards will be featured, all very different from each other, all very creatively put together. The largest property is huge, comprising three acres on McCreary, and quite spectacular. Ponds and water features are effectively utilized and container plantings add decorative touches.

Our community property for 2011 is the Carol Shields Memorial Labyrinth in King's Park, Fort Richmond – a project that began with community involvement in 2003. It is a unique and inviting garden.

Tickets are \$15. Last year, this \$5 price increase helped to bring in the largest amount of money to date for our organization. Nature Manitoba appreciates this great support. Tickets are available at the Nature Manitoba office (943-9029), or you can visit www.naturemanitoba.ca for additional locations.

COME OUT TO SUPPORT NATURE MANITOBA AND HAVE A GREAT TIME DOING IT!

Julia Schoen

401-63 Albert Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1G4
Phone: (204) 943-9029
info@naturemanitoba.ca



Become a Member of Nature Manitoba!

Individual \$40, Family \$55, Student \$20, Senior \$35

Receipts for income tax purposes are issued
for amounts in excess of membership.

About Nature Manitoba

The Objectives of Nature Manitoba are to:

- Foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural environment and an understanding of humanity's place therein;
- Provide an association and voice for those interested in natural history and the outdoors, and cooperate with individuals and organizations with similar goals;
- Arrange educational and recreational programs and field trips to promote an understanding of the natural environment;
- Stimulate research and record and preserve data and material in natural history and allied subjects;
- Work for the preservation of our natural environment.



Chanda Hunnie

Little Limestone Lake Provincial Park proclaimed June 24, 2011.

Four who made it happen

Nature Manitoba President Roger Turenne, whose 19 years of publicizing Little Limestone Lake and lobbying seven successive ministers of natural resources and conservation put the lake on the public's and the politicians' radar;

Minister of Conservation Bill Blaikie, whose pragmatic approach and willingness to listen led to a decision everyone could accept;

CPAWS Manitoba Executive Director Ron Thiessen, whose openness and generosity forged a trusting partnership with Mosakahiken Cree Nation;

and Chief Phillip Buck of Mosakahiken, whose vision includes respect for the land, full protection for Little Limestone Lake and sharing it with the world, as well as economic development for his people.

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