



## ALVARS in the Interlake

A rare plant community in Manitoba

by Rebekah Neufeld & Cary Hamel

In 2012 The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre and The Manitoba Association of Plant Biologists formed an initiative to identify and map the locations of a rare vegetation community called alvar. While its presence has been suspected for some time, this was the first time that alvar has been positively identified and documented in Manitoba.

Through a systematic survey of known and suspected alvar sites in Manitoba's Interlake, approximately 9700 acres (3925 hectares) of this community were documented. Alvares occur on 10 cm or less of soil over unbroken limestone or dolomite bedrock. In the Interlake region, the effects of glaciation and Glacial Lake Agassiz have resulted in an undulating topography, with exposed limestone bedrock in some areas. Over time, the bare rock was colonized by lichens, then mosses, and eventually plants as soil slowly built up.



Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)

The conditions created by this topography result in environmental seasonal extremes ranging from flooding to drought. For example, alvars are often flooded in spring when water from rain and snowmelt is trapped on the limestone "pavement", then suffer drought conditions in the heat of late summer.

Alvars are rare all across the world, found in only a few countries in Europe and only a few provinces and states in North America. In Canada, the distribution of alvar is fragmented and loosely follows the edge of the Canadian Shield.

*(continued on page 4...)*

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## President's Corner

by Donald Himbeault



### *It's all about choices*

I recently attended a panel discussion where the topic was about the conflict between wildlife and human development activities in Manitoba. This event, held in partnership with Nature Manitoba, was fittingly held on the 20th anniversary of the Day for Biological Diversity. The audience heard excellent presentations from representatives of the Wilderness Committee, the Important Bird Area (IBA) program, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, and Manitoba Conservation. A common theme of the presentations was how growing economic activity, such as mining and oil drilling, road building, and even cottage development, is having a negative impact on wildlife.

**“ . . . the big  
difference  
between us and  
these other  
“natural” factors  
is that we have  
a choice in the  
actions we take.”**

One particular comment raised during the discussion stuck in my mind: If we consider humans to be an integral part of the natural world, then what we do and the consequences of what we do are all “natural events”. That is, the changes to the environment we are bringing about are just a normal and expected outcome of our existence, much like how volcano plumes, meteorite strikes, and ice ages can bring about change. However, the big difference between us and these other “natural” factors is that we have a choice in the actions we take, and hence, on the level of impact we have. And that, I find, is an important distinction.

As individuals, we face environment-altering choices every day. This made me think of two car advertisements I saw recently that presented different lifestyle choices. One showed a family enjoying a backcountry mountain road by zooming along it rally style, with the participants seemingly more impressed by the soil-erosive action of splashing through water than with the beauty of the surrounding mountains. This was in stark contrast to another advertisement where we see a hybrid vehicle quietly creeping through the forest as the occupants observe a lush population of flora and fauna that seem in harmony with the vehicle. While the latter ad is a bit fantastical, the best lifestyle choice, in my opinion, is the one where you leave the car behind, and use some non-motorized means to travel through nature.

It is easy to rank the above choices as bad, better, and best, but more often, it is difficult to know what the best choice is for a particular situation. It is my hope that Nature Manitoba, through its educational activities and the way it is able to connect experts with inquisitive individuals to discuss these issues, can help people arrive at better, or even best, choices. I am sure there will be different views about what constitutes the best choice of action, even among our members, but at least there is value in raising awareness of the issues and eliminating truly bad choices from our lives. We have the power of choice, let's use it wisely.





Having been raised by two MNS members on a honey farm near Morden, it was perhaps only 'natural' for her to study entomology, acquire a job at FortWhyte Alive, and eventually become a member of Nature Manitoba herself.

Katrina's dad, Phil Froese, takes care of over 700 hives at Burwalde Woods Honey Farm, which he has done for over 30 years, and her mom, Vera Froese, works as a public health nurse. Not only were both of Katrina's parents MNS members, they actually met on an MNS ski trip on the Epinette Creek Trail to Jackfish Lake in Spruce Woods. Their wedding invitations even featured a photo of them skiing to the Mantario Cabin. It's possible you've skied on their property north of Morden, along with the nearby Shannondale ski area – they host the Boundary Trails Nordic Club. (Check out [btncski.wordpress.com](http://btncski.wordpress.com))

After high school, Katrina moved to Winnipeg and completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology, with a focus on insects and plants. She then volunteered in New Zealand for a few months, collecting caterpillars in the mountains for a scientific study. Upon her return to Winnipeg over four years ago, she got a job at FortWhyte Alive as a Science Interpreter, and was soon

promoted to Education Programs Coordinator, which she continues to do.

She delivers and creates educational programs for K-8 students, but hopes to include more high school students as it's such an influential time in their lives.

She also hosts workshops and guided walks, and has been learning a lot about birding, although bees and dragonflies still peak her interest the most.

Over two years ago, Katrina went on her first Nature Manitoba trip, a ski trip to the Mantario Cabin led by Christine Mazur. She loved it of course, and became a member – "I've been skiing since I could walk." Her ski trips to the cabin have become almost a monthly habit now, when weather allows – she managed to ski out there four times last season! As her whole family is outdoorsy, she's also been on quite a few family trips exploring Canada: to the Yukon, Newfoundland, and canoeing in Northwestern Ontario.

If you're a skier, Katrina's sure to lead more trips to Mantario next winter, plus the Boundary Trails Nordic Club is planning to build a new clubhouse. But winter is far off – until then look out for any workshops she's hosting at FortWhyte Alive (perhaps check out their programs while you're there during our Garden Tour on July 6.)

***"I've been skiing since I could walk."***

## Welcome New Members!

Apr. 15th, 2013 – June. 14th, 2013

Jon Benson  
Ron Bernaerdt  
Nicholas Cherlet  
Gerry Duynisveld  
Miriam Greene  
Carmelle Kozak  
Stella Labossiere  
Zoe Leslie  
Kevin Millar  
Richard, Penny,  
Michelle & Leah Pereira  
Sandi Phillips, James,  
Matthew & Laura Neirinck  
Pierre Richard  
Cody Roy  
Brian Rychlicki

## Oops...

We forgot to include the author of the article on the Peg City Car Co-op in the May/June 2013 issue; it was written by Julia Schoen.

## Thank You Volunteers!

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the latest garage sale, and those who contributed items. The new venue worked well and the sale was a success.



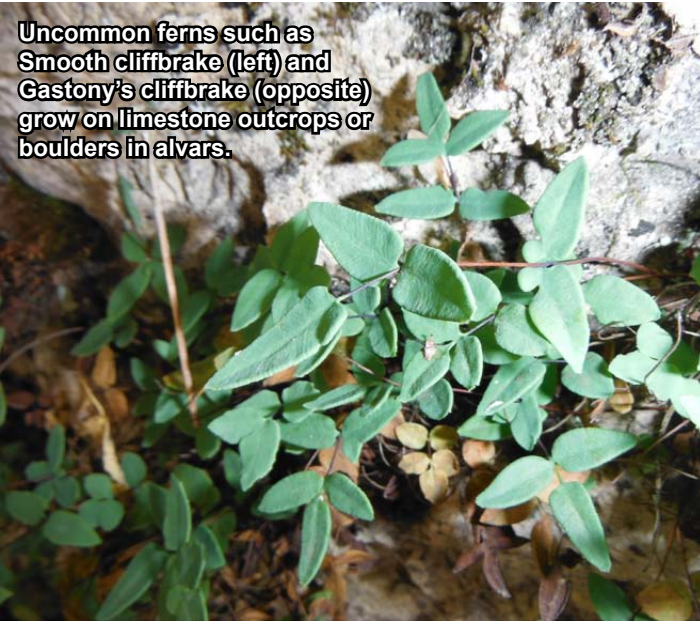
MB Government

## Tick Season

The MB Government has an informative factsheet online about blacklegged ticks and lyme disease: [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/lymedisease.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/lymedisease.pdf)

Above image: Life stages of the blacklegged tick (1-larva, 2-nymph, 3-adult male, 4-adult female). Sizes presented in relation to underlying 10-cent coin.





## ALVARS in the Interlake

# A rare plant community in Manitoba

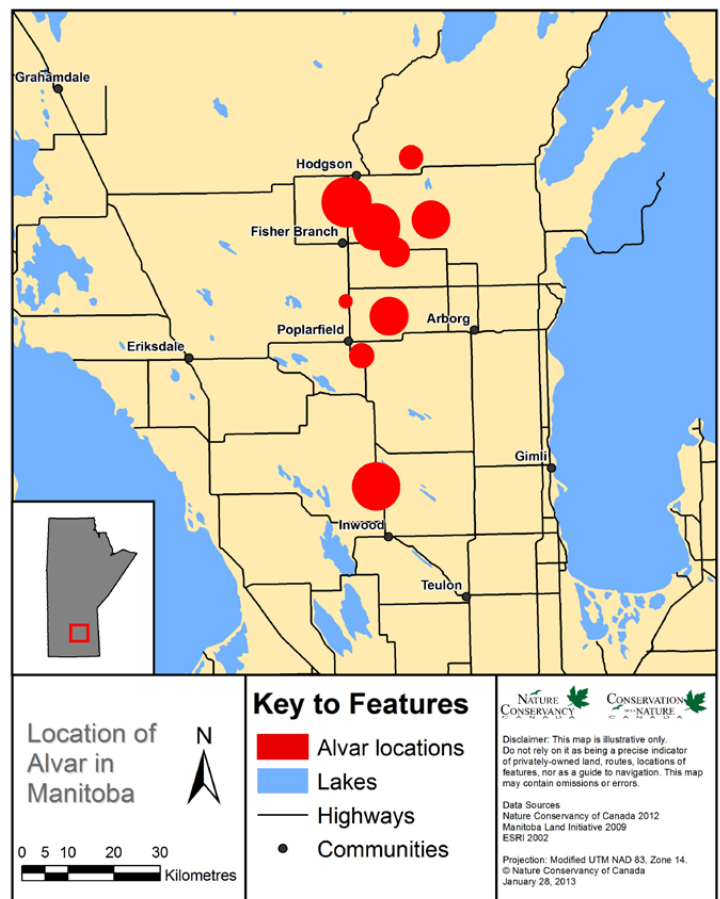
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## Unusual combinations of species

What makes alvars so unique and rare is the unusual combination of species found in them. For example, they may contain a mix of boreal and prairie species that are not usually closely associated with each other. Mosses and lichens are an important component of the species composition, and in some cases dominate the flora. These organisms are capable of growing without soil in the harsh conditions of a typical alvar.

As with most vegetation communities, there are more than one type of alvar and the species composition is linked to abiotic factors such as soil depth, topography, and land use. Alvars may resemble prairie grasslands when the soil depth is sufficient, but typically they are dominated by shrubs such as Creeping juniper and Bearberry, with patches of bare limestone at the surface and an extensive cover of mosses and lichens. In Manitoba, there are also occurrences of savannah alvar, which have scattered trees such as Jack pine, White spruce and Bur oak, and wetland alvar, where sedges are dominant.

Alvars are an important component in the matrix of biological communities that make up the Interlake region. They provide a variety of habitats, from open grass-dominated landscapes to multi-layered canopy communities that can support a wide range of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. They also provide pasture, with approximately three-quarters of known sites currently managed by grazing – an activity that may be important to the maintenance of the open habitat of certain types of alvars, preventing the encroachment of trees and shrubs.







**“Alvars are rare all across the world, found in only a few countries in Europe and only a few provinces and states in North America.”**

In 2011, several mosses and liverworts were documented for the first time in Manitoba at an alvar site by Dr. Richard Caners, *G. teretinervis* among them. During the 2012 surveys, many new locations of rare mosses and ferns were documented, revealing the importance of these alvar habitats in the distribution of these species, and the value of conserving these important ecosystems.

In order to best learn how to conserve these communities, The Nature Conservancy of Canada is supporting a continued study of alvars in order to classify different types and subtypes, and learn about the land-use, health and management of these systems. While actively working towards the conservation of these dynamic ecosystems, NCC also promotes the stewardship of the land by private land-owners and applauds the private and public land managers who have managed these lands in a way that has ensured their persistence.

For more information and to view the full report of the 2012 Manitoba Alvar Initiative study visit the Nature Conservancy of Canada website at:

[www.natureconservancy.ca/mb-alvar](http://www.natureconservancy.ca/mb-alvar)

*Rebekah Neufeld and Cary Hamel are biologists with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Region.*

## Rare plants discovered

Some alvars have limestone cliffs, outcrops and boulders associated with them, ranging from 1 to 4.5 metres of exposed limestone cliff-face. These features support a variety of specialized flora that grow on calcium-rich substrates, including two uncommon ferns: Smooth cliff-brake (*Pellaea glabellae* ssp. *occidentalis*) and Gastony's cliffbrake (*Pellaea gastonyi*) as well as a variety of mosses and liverworts, including the globally rare *Grimmia teretinervis*, or dry rock moss.



Early spring flooding at a “boreal subtype” shrubland alvar, just east of Fisher Branch.

Photos by Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)



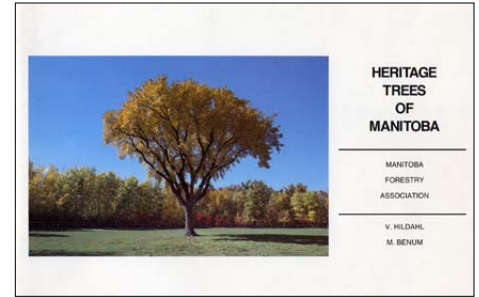
# Heritage Trees of Manitoba

by Dianne Beaven

*“Trees, our friends... By choice we trust them and we care about them. In fact, it seems as if trees always have been and always will be part of our lives.”*

These are the opening words in the book, *Heritage Trees of Manitoba*, published in 1987 by the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA). MFA introduced the Heritage Trees program in the early 1980s to expand their mandate of teaching people about the importance of trees

and forests. This was not the first program in Canada to give the public an opportunity to nominate trees of environmental, cultural and historical significance, but the Manitoba program was unique in that it resulted in the publication of a book showcasing the nominated trees.



Two longtime MFA members, Martin Benum and Vern Hildahl, volunteered to undertake the task of checking trees that were nominated and over a period of a year travelled to all parts of Manitoba. They compiled a great deal of information, and it was difficult to decide which trees would be included in the publication. The hope at the time was that a second edition of the book would be published within a couple of years, but funding restraints made this impossible – sound familiar?

The one thing that was missing from the MFA Heritage Trees Program was the ability to protect the trees once they were nominated. MFA had no jurisdiction to do anything if a tree was threatened with removal. But there was at least one instance when concerned citizens, intent upon saving a tree in their neighbourhood, used the fact the tree was in the Heritage Trees book to argue their case.

Because of the popularity of the program, which has involved the public over the years in noticing and nominating trees, therefore increasing their knowledge and appreciation, the announcement at the end of April by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Gord Mackintosh to introduce legislation to protect and recognize Manitoba's heritage trees has been welcomed with a great deal of enthusiasm.

The legislation, the first of its kind in Canada, will create a provincial heritage tree program in partnership with the MFA. MFA Executive Director Patricia Pohrebniuk was quoted in the Winnipeg Free Press as saying:



**Martin Zeilig dwarfed by a giant cottonwood tree on the 12th hole at Kildonan Park Golf Course, in October 2010.**

Ken Fosty



“Whether natural or planted, there are many exceptional trees in the province that stand out in the landscape. We are pleased to work with the province to build on our ongoing heritage trees program.”

The program would be created by amendments to the Forest Health Protection Act including additional protection measures for designated heritage trees located on Crown land to prevent their removal for reasons other than health of the tree or public safety. The Minister noted the program would also provide protection of trees on municipal or private land through local bylaws or caveats the landowners may choose to put in place.

In making the announcement Mackintosh was quoted in the Winnipeg Free Press as saying: “this new initiative would allow Manitobans to nominate a tree or a group of trees so future generations can also enjoy their beauty and importance.” A committee would be established to develop criteria, review applications and make recommendations on trees that could be designated as heritage trees.

All potentially significant trees could be considered for nomination. The designation process would consider any landowner concerns before a tree received heritage tree status. In addition to the new proposed protection, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will develop a plaque program (both online and physical) and seek private sponsor funding opportunities for designated trees.

The introduction of this legislation meets a commitment to create a heritage tree program that was made in *TomorrowNow – Manitoba’s Green Plan*, the province’s eight-year strategic plan for protecting the environment while ensuring a prosperous economy.

“Whether in urban or rural areas, we must all work together to protect our forests and trees for the future,” said Mackintosh. “This program will continue to engage Manitobans and encourage them to look at forests in new ways.”

Between the time that *Heritage Trees of Manitoba* was published and the new



Ken Fosty, longtime member of Nature Manitoba and retired MFA staff person, standing next to the Rempel cottonwood near Morden.

Linda Rempel

initiative was introduced, the MFA has continued to accept and file tree nominations. A couple years ago they decided to reactivate the program and assigned staff members Ken Fosty and Andrea Kraayeveld to undertake the task. Prior to his retirement from MFA, Ken, along with Andrea, located and re-measured trees that still remained from the 1987 Heritage Trees publication, which was made possible through funding the MFA received from Manitoba Hydro’s Forest Enhancement Program. Unfortunately some of the trees had died and been removed.

As well, Ken recorded many other heritage trees that had been nominated in the interim, and particularly remembers the Rempel Cottonwood southeast of Morden, a beautiful specimen that he and the proud owners measured. Over 8 feet in diameter, this is definitely one of Manitoba’s largest trees.

Ken enlisted others in his quest for trees. It was not always an easy task. One day he took his mom with him on a “search & measure” mission to a rural Portage location along the Assiniboine River. After an hour tramping through the woods while encountering barking dogs, deer, squirrels, rabbits and numerous birds they found the trees they were seeking. Ken comments “visiting with tree owners and recording heritage trees is a wonderful and worthwhile experience.” Another time Nature Manitoba member Martin Zeilig assisted Ken as they measured several beautiful specimens in Kildonan Park. Ken’s comment: “We saw truly magnificent trees that I will remember forever. The legislation is a good thing.”

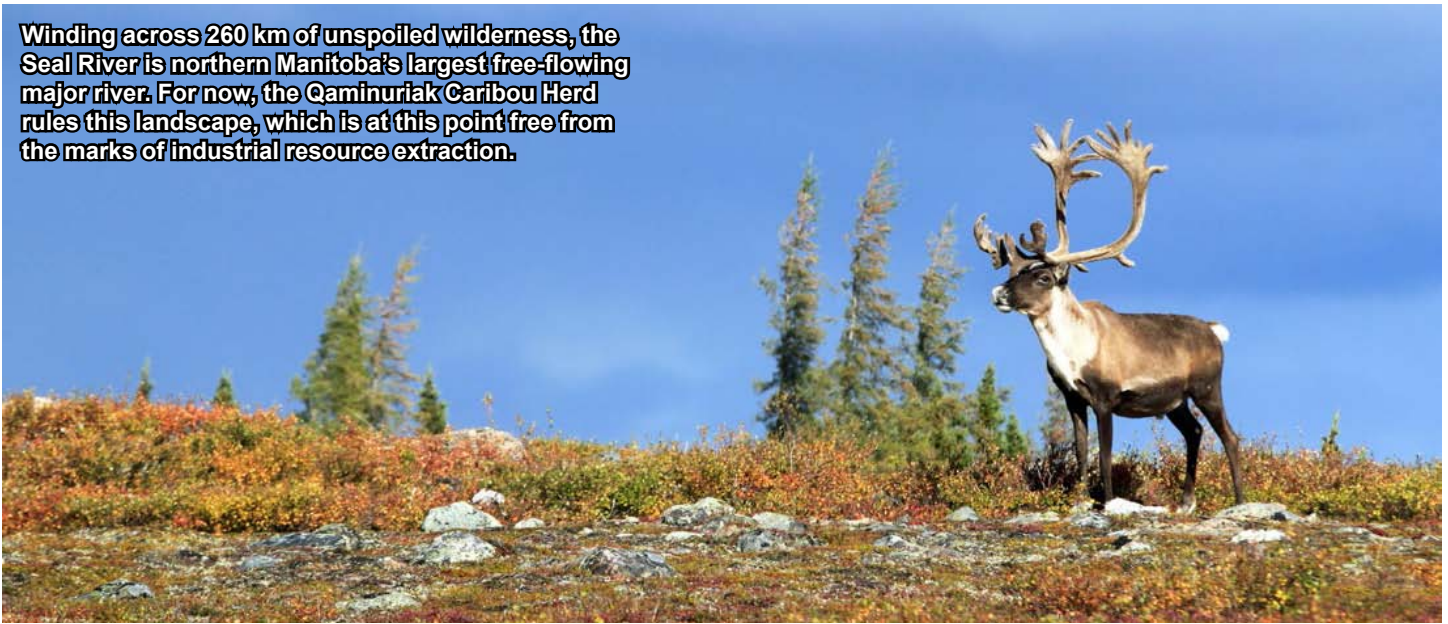
Copies of *Heritage Trees of Manitoba* are no longer available, but if the provincial program gains momentum, perhaps the time will come for a second edition. It is easy to become part of this exciting initiative by visiting [thinktrees.org](http://thinktrees.org), clicking on ‘Heritage Trees’ and completing a nomination form.

Dianne Beaven was Executive Director of the MFA at the time the *Heritage Trees of Manitoba* program was established, and always believed it was one of the most effective ways to engage the public in a tree/forest activity with a practical application.

**“We saw truly magnificent trees that I will remember forever.”**

– Ken Fosty

**Winding across 260 km of unspoiled wilderness, the Seal River is northern Manitoba's largest free-flowing major river. For now, the Qaminuriak Caribou Herd rules this landscape, which is at this point free from the marks of industrial resource extraction.**



## Safeguarding the Seal River

by Josh Pearlman, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
(reprinted from the Winter 2013 issue of the Eco-Journal)

**T**he largest remaining undammed river in northern Manitoba, the wild, unspoiled essence of the Seal and the lands that feed it hold a mythic quality in the hearts and minds of those aware of its natural richness.

Despite occupying roughly 12 percent of our province's land-mass, distance and inaccessibility (the watershed lies 1,000 km north of Winnipeg) has kept it off most radars and left it undamaged by human hands over the span of recorded history. With unmatched diversity of natural features and relatively little imminent pressure of industrial development, the watershed holds a very real and rare opportunity for First Nations and the provincial government to work toward land use planning and protection of this remarkable intact natural region.

The Seal's path spans 260 km from its source at Shethanei Lake to Hudson Bay, yet it is over 150 km from the coast that the waters are first populated by eager and somewhat unexpected ambassadors of the ocean: harbour seals. Here, the river's namesake animal may stray further from its marine environment than anywhere else on earth.

Carving a path east through untainted subarctic forest, the river's surrounding landscape plays host to black bear, wolf, fox and wolverine, as well as moose, beaver, otter, eagle, osprey and boreal songbirds. Swooping from rocky heights along the river's edge, cliff swallows nest here at the northern limit of their range.

The scents of spruce and lichen mingle as the landscape transitions to tundra (where the long extirpated grizzly bear is making a provincial return) and to the peat rich soils of the Hudson Bay Lowlands (North America's largest wetland) where provincially rare plant species abound.

The 400,000 animals of the Qaminuriak Caribou Herd are a crucial presence on the physical and cultural landscape. These

majestic creatures travel south from Nunavut to winter near the Seal River. Traditionally hunted by Inuit and Dene communities of Nunavut and northern Manitoba, these animals are an irreplaceable resource and a spectacular representation of Canada's wild landscape that we cannot afford to compromise.

Where the river meets the coast, a designated Important Bird Area (IBA) sees significant numbers of Black Scoter in the summertime. Additionally, 3,000 beluga whales, part of the planet's highest concentration, gather to give birth in the estuary. A few short months later polar bears congregate in anticipation of sea ice formation.

It is the pristine quality of the Seal River's natural characteristics and tremendous recreational value that earned its designation as a Canadian Heritage River in 1992. This honour acknowledges the Seal's significance and unique assets, but does not offer any legislated or other protection.

**“3,000 beluga whales, part of the planet's highest concentration, gather to give birth in the estuary.”**

For now, human presence, both industrial and otherwise, is relatively minimal in this roadless wilderness. The river itself sees use by small numbers of traditional hunters and trappers, as well as a handful of

adventure-seeking paddlers. Mineral exploration occurs, but has thus far not translated into active mining claims. Like water from a duck's back, the Seal region has thwarted periodic development interests in part by virtue of its remote location and the extremity of its climate. That said, the untapped power of the river itself, the mineral potential of a prominent greenstone belt, and a proposed highway linking Manitoba to mainland Nunavut are looming pressures that may well touch down in the Seal region in the future.

In an effort to preserve the wildness and integrity of Manitoba's greatest undammed northern river, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) would gladly welcome the provincial government making the region encompassing the Seal River a priority area for the Manitoba Protected Areas Initiative. Through a process in full consultation with local First Nations, we can ensure for future generations the persistence of a natural realm whose wild and incomparable character cannot be replicated or replaced.



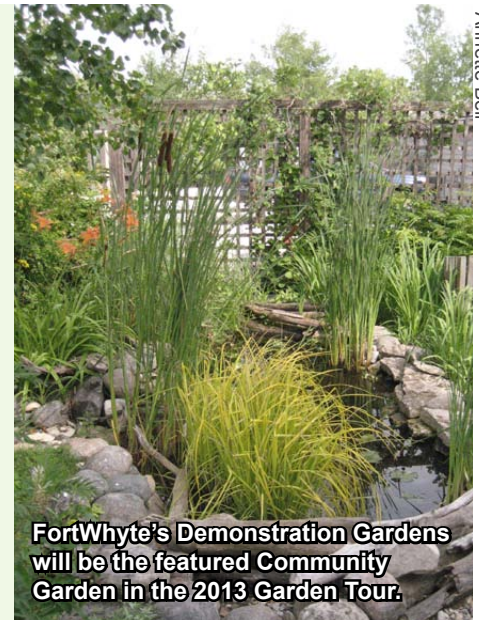
## Our Natural Garden Tour: July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Last chance for tickets! The 2013 Garden Tour is only a week or two away – don't miss this opportunity to visit 8 beautiful gardens in southwest Winnipeg.

### Getting Your Ticket

Our Natural Garden Tour 2013 tickets (\$15) are available from the Nature Manitoba office by calling 204-943-9029, or from the following vendors:

- » FortWhyte Alive
- » Lacoste Garden Centre
- » St. Mary's Garden Centre
- » Shelmerdine Garden Centre
- » Schriemer's Garden Centre
- » The Garden Room on Academy
- » The Green Scene on Lilac
- » Feasey Chiropractic & Wellness Centre



**FortWhyte's Demonstration Gardens will be the featured Community Garden in the 2013 Garden Tour.**



The Mantario Committee is looking forward to another exciting Summer Program. If you haven't yet decided how to spend your summer vacation, take advantage of the special discount offered to members for a fully guided and programmed week at the beautiful Mantario Cabin.

Members who would like to experience the Mantario Cabin for the first time outside of the Summer Program are welcome to inquire at the office about private or member-led trips as they arise.

[www.naturemanitoba.ca](http://www.naturemanitoba.ca)

### MANTARIO 2013 RATES

5 Day Trip (includes food & t-shirt)

**Adult** (non-members)..... \$415\*

**Members of Nature Manitoba** (also full-time students, seniors 65+, and youth aged 14-17 with parent) ..... \$380\*

**Under 18** (only for Family Weeks) ..... \$140

(\* Deduct \$35 for early-bird registrations before June 1st)

## MANTARIO SUMMER PROGRAM 2013

**Family Week 1** (*trip full: call 204-943-9029 to confirm*)  
with Brian & Liz Hydesmith  
**July 1 - 5, 2013**

Kick-start the summer in the wilderness and fend off the temptations of electronic gadgets. Get your kids hooked on nature and take them out to the Mantario cabin before other scheduled activities get going. A great way to connect families with nature.

### The Garden of Boreas

with Charles Burchill  
**July 8 - 12, 2013**

The Boreal, meaning "of the North", is a place of awe and wonder. Mantario is right on the edge of the boreal forest and is wild in every sense of the word and represents the best of canoe country. Come and explore by canoe and foot the garden of Boreas with Charles Burchill.

### Fish, Swim and Sauna

with Marc Leclair  
**July 15 - 19, 2013**

Fishing, blueberry picking, exploring, swimming, sitting in the sauna, watching the sun set or reading a book – you decide your week. Whatever it may be, it's a great way to get away from the city and the stresses of city life. The peaceful life spent at a rustic cabin on Mantario Lake will help relax, restore and rejuvenate your spirit, and it is an excellent way to spend a week of our oh-too-short Manitoba summers.

### Astronomy

with Jennifer West  
**August 5 - 9, 2013**

Far from the city lights, learn to find your way among the stars under some of the darkest skies in North America. You will have the opportunity to become acquainted with constellations, enjoy meteors and experience the immensity of the Milky Way. We might even get to see some Northern Lights!

### Family Week 2

(*trip full: call 204-943-9029 to confirm*)  
with Lesly Andrews & Ron McDougall  
**August 12 - 16, 2013**

Join Nature Manitoba for a week long outdoor experience. Families can enjoy the adventure of canoeing into the Mantario wilderness cabin. At the cabin children make new friends and have the freedom to explore and discover the natural world. The activities of swimming in Mantario Lake and canoe exploration or savouring the sauna make this week a family vacation treasure.

### Photography

with Maya deForest & Brian Hydesmith  
**August 19 - 23, 2013**

Explore and enhance your photographic skills in this beautiful setting. Regardless of your experience or camera, learn to capture better images and experiment to broaden your creativity.



# OUTDOOR activities

To receive weekly updates of outdoor activities, send an email to [triplist@naturemanitoba.ca](mailto:triplist@naturemanitoba.ca).

## Spurge Purge and Plant Walk. Tall Grass Prairie Preserve

**Mon. July 1st**

Help the Habitat Committee count and pull out leafy spurge in study plots on one of our prairies. We'll meet at 9 am at the Loewen Prairie (4 km east of Tolstoi on PR209), work for 2-3 hours, then eat lunch at the interpretive trail and go for a plant walk. It's a great way to help preserve the tall grass prairie and learn more about prairie plants at the same time. If the timing is right, the endangered Western Prairie Fringed Orchids will be in bloom. Please register with Marilyn Latta at 204-253-9245. Car pooling will be arranged as needed. [Rate 2]

## Beginner Canoe trip to Reynar Lake

**Sat. July 6th - Sun. July 7th**

Join Jerry and Les for a relaxing weekend at Reynar Lake. Explore and fish as desired. The trip takes about 2 hours in a small lake system with one 150-metre portage. Experts and beginners welcome. The trip begins at Davidson Lake. Extra canoe and some equipment available. Contact Jerry Ameis at 204-284-1902 or raven981@mts.net, or Les McCann at 204-895-8108 or lmccann2001@yahoo.com [Rate 1]

## Henteleff Park Botany Walk

**Tue. July 9th**

Interpretive walk with a focus on botany. Meet in the parking lot of the park at 7pm, 1964 St. Mary's Road. No registration required. For more information contact Marilyn Latta at [mjlatta@mymts.net](mailto:mjlatta@mymts.net) or 204-253-9245. [Rate 1]

## Falcon Lake Canoe and Snorkel

**Sat. July 13th**

Join Roger Sutherland for a canoe and snorkel on Falcon Lake in Whiteshell Provincial Park. Contact Roger Sutherland at 204-451-1219. [Rate 2-3]

## Canoe Garner River and Lake

**Thu. July 11th - Sun. July 14th**

Join Jerry for an easy 4-day paddle (with no portages) to beautiful Garner Lake. The trip begins at Beresford Lake in Nopiming Park. Most of the paddling occurs on Beresford Creek and the Garner River. Enjoy two days of exploring and fishing (if desired) on the lake and upstream part of the Garner River. Contact Jerry Ameis at 204-284-1902 or raven981@mymts.net. [Rate 2]

## Cycle TransCanada Trail along Winnipeg River

**Sat. July 20th**

Join Kathy Picard cycling on the dyke along the Winnipeg River. Some of the trail follows an old rail bed. The surface is hard packed gravel with a bit along municipal roads with very little traffic. It's quite scenic, especially beside the water. Terrain is pretty flat, rough in some spots and at Blueberry Rock there are some rock ridges, over which people can push their bikes. At the end we will refresh with a swim. Contact Kathy Picard at 1-204-340-6694, or kdpicard@mymts.net. [Rate 3]

## Cycle Miami to Altamont

**Sat. July 27th**

We will cycle a railbed as described by Bartley Kives in Winnipeg Free Press in 2011. Contact Al Louer at 204-235-1790 or alainlouer@hotmail.com. [Rate 3]

## Pine Point Rapids Hike

**Sun. July 28th**

Join Roger Sutherland for a scenic hike along the Pine Point Rapids trail in Whiteshell Provincial Park, followed by a picnic. Phone Roger at 204-451-1219. [Rate 2]

## Birds Hill Hike

**Sat. August 3rd**

Join Al for a hike with lots of wildflowers, birds and perhaps the elusive Birds Hill pine martin. The hike will finish with an opportunity to swim with the group at Kingfisher Lake. Contact Al Louer at 204-235-1790 or alainlouer@hotmail.com. [Rate 1-2]

## Elk Island Canoe and Hike

**Sat. August 10th**

Join Roger Sutherland for a canoe trip around Elk Island (situated on Lake Winnipeg close to Victoria Beach), followed by a short hike on the island. Contact Roger at 204-451-1219. [Rate 2-3]

## Hike in the Sandilands

**Sat. August 17th**

We will see what this area has to offer. Contact Al Louer at 204-235-1790 or alainlouer@hotmail.com. [Rate 3]

## Cycle St. Boniface to New Stadium

**Sat. August 24th**

Bike through St. Boniface to the new Investors Group Field, with a possible tour of the structure. Meet at Robin's Donuts at the corner of Provencher and Desmeurons just prior to 10am. Contact Bryon Burvill at 204-233-7904 or bpb1@mymts.net. [Rate 2-3]

## Canoe Woodland Caribou Park Sun. August 11th - Sat. August 24th

Join Jerry (3 additional people max.) on a canoe trip into Woodland Caribou Park. The trip begins and ends at Wallace Lake. Woodland Caribou is a place to let your spirits soar and revel in the sights and sounds of a wilderness park. Contact Jerry Ameis at 204-284-1902 or raven981@mts.net [Rate 2-3]

## Trip Leader Forms

Trip Leader forms are available on our website, in the "Outdoor Activities" section under "Trip Leader Forms". Please fill them out and return them to the Nature Manitoba office.

## Wilderness Skills Intensive

Enhance your wilderness experience with hands-on learning in over 10 wilderness survival skills! Friction fire, shelter, stone tools, natural cordage, nature awareness and more!

**Next course: July 26-28, 2013.**  
[www.psbotanicals.com/courses](http://www.psbotanicals.com/courses)



# GREY HARES

*Free on Wednesdays?*

*Join the Grey Hares for interesting trips and activities and good company.*

## Canoe/Kayak Pinawa Channel

**Wed. July 3rd**

Canoe or kayak depending on water levels. Alternatively, hike/bike from Pinawa Suspension Bridge to Old Pinawa, with a chance to explore the ruins at Old Pinawa Dam.

*Kathy Picard at 204-345-8422. [Rate 2]*

## Tour of Neuberghthal Site & Altona Gallery

**Wed. July 10th**

Tour of the Neuberghthal Mennonite Barn Houses Historic Site and Altona Gallery in the Park. **Book by July 3rd.**  
*John or Pat Gray at 204-269-1765. [Rate 1]*

## Canoe Outing: Circumnavigate Carter and Hind Islands

**Wed. July 17th**

Canoe the Winnipeg River from Otter Falls to Carter and Hind Islands near Pinawa. Full-day trip requiring a 7am start. Trip will include a swim stop at Pinawa townsite.  
*Les McCann at 204-895-8108. [Rate 3]*

## Garden/Cycle Tour

**Wed. July 24th**

Route TBA – Julia will take us to some great gardens!

*Julia Schoen at 204-269-8004. [Rate 1-2]*



## **Spend Your Winter on Vancouver Island**

**FOR RENT:** House in Parksville, Vancouver Island. A 2-bedroom cozy patio home, \$750/month, fully furnished and equipped. Close to all amenities and beach. Internet. 55+, NP, NS, utilities included.  
**Available Oct. 2013 to Mar. 2014 (min. 2 & max. 4 months stay).**

**For more info, please email  
mariahmann@shaw.ca.**

## Thresherman's Reunion & Stampede

**Fri. July 26th**

A visit to this annual event in Austin, Manitoba.

*Marilyn Hearn at  
204-895-4659. [Rate 1]*

## Canoe/Camping trip to Beaubien or Ena Lake

**Tue. July 30th - Thu. August 1st**

This trip, near Kenora, has minimal portages. **Book by July 12th!**  
*Sharron and Brian Bettess at  
204-256-2248. [Rate 3]*

## Canoe Willow Creek

**Wed. August 7th**

Willow Creek is located south of Gimli.

*Contact Doug Belcher at  
204-334-2108. [Rate 1-3]*

## Cycle River Road

**Wed. August 21st**

From Larter's to Selkirk and back.  
*Contact Marilyn Hurrell at  
204-832-8908. [Rate 2-3]*



## **Canoe for Sale**

We-no-nah Spirit II, 17', 2-person tandem, Kevlar canoe. Very well cared for; always stored in a closed garage. Kevlar Ultralight: 42-lb with standard equipment. Natural (skin-coat) finish. Adjustable stern foot brace. Ash yoke. Bucket seats, sliding bow seat.  
Length: 17'. Gunwale width: 35". Max. width: 36". Bow depth: 22". Additional equipment included: 2 PFDs; 3 wooden paddles (2 w/ bent shafts); Foam car rooftop protectors with ropes for car roof transporting.

**Call Lea at 204-233-0708  
or email leadale@mymts.net.**

## **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 204-943-9029.

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](http://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.



# BIRD NEWS

by Gordon Grief

**T**his month's sightings table covers birds seen in April and May. Normally this would be the prime spring migration period but this year the weather during April and the first part of May was anything but spring-like. Even during the latter part of May, when temperatures approached normal readings, there were many days with high winds and occasional rain which definitely slowed down the migration of passerines.

This year the hawk watch in the Pembina River Valley southwest of Morden took place from February 19 to May 6. Normally the hawk migration is over by mid-April, however, the extremely late spring this year meant hawks were migrating into early May. Peregrine Falcons are usually recorded in very low numbers but this year there were 150 counted between from April 25 to April 29. The total Peregrine count this year

was 210 birds as compared to 7 birds seen last year. Similarly, there were 133 Swainson's Hawks (another late migrant) seen this year as compared to none last year.

A new species for Manitoba was a Great-tailed Grackle seen at Quesnel Lake Lodge by Christian Artuso, Amanda Guerico, Mark Dorriesfield, Janine McManus and Amelia Thornhill on May 18. Amelia was the first to discover the bird but did not know what it was so she showed it to Mark. Suspecting something unusual they got Christian who immediately identified it and took a number of diagnostic photos.

There were numerous reports across southern Manitoba of Great Egrets, including one in a backyard in Portage la Prairie. This must have made the resident do a double-take!

There were a number of White-faced Ibis seen during April, well before the snow had melted. Many of these sightings were in places such as Morden, Powerview (max. of 22), Rapid City and Minnedosa; areas that are well away from Whitewater Lake where they are traditionally seen.

With the very late arrival of spring, Bohemian Waxwings remained in southern Manitoba in flocks of 100 to 600 during the last week of April.

*If you have any unusual bird sightings be sure to email them to me at [ggrief@mts.net](mailto:ggrief@mts.net), or you can mail them to 31 Kara Cove, Winnipeg, R2N 3C2.*

<b>Species</b>	<b>#'s</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observers</b>
Greater White-fronted Goose	3	Apr 21 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, B. Shettler
Greater White-fronted Goose	30	May 22 13	Oak Hammock Marsh	P. Friesen, R. Boese, D. Epp-Thiesen
Snow Goose	1	Apr 11 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, B. Shettler
Ross's Goose	1	Apr 24 13	Powerview	P. Taylor
Ross's Goose	3	May 9 13	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
Ross's Goose	1	May 24 13	Whitewater Lake	G. Budyk, J. Weier
Cackling Goose	3	Apr 21 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, B. Shettler
Cackling Goose	1,100	May 12 13	West Shoal Lake	K. Gardner
Canada Goose	5,000	Apr 21 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, B. Shettler
Trumpeter Swan	2	Apr 29 13	Fraserwood	J. Martin
Trumpeter Swan	2	May 6 13	Hay Lake	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Trumpeter Swan	2	May 9 13	Hecla Island	B. Shettler
Trumpeter Swan	5	May 10 13	Ste. Anne	V. Reimer
Wood Duck	1	Apr 7 13	Winnipeg	J. Weier
White-winged Scoter	2	May 5 13	Natalie Lake	P. Taylor
White-winged Scoter	8	May 9 13	Hecla Island	B. Shettler
White-winged Scoter	2	May 15 13	Winnipeg Beach	C. McPherson
White-winged Scoter	4	May 16 13	Hecla Island	V. L. & J. Reimer
White-winged Scoter	8	May 22 13	Gimli	B. Charier
Red-throated Loon	200+	May 15 13	Hecla Island	B. Shettler
Common Loon	430	May 6 13	Natalie Lake	P. Taylor, R. Koes
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Mar 30 13	Starbuck	J. Shale
Red-necked Grebe	250+	Apr 27 13	Lockport area	R. Porteous, A. Mickey, L. Jansson, P. Douglas
Western Grebe	400	May 16 13	Lynch Point	C. Cuthbert
Clark's Grebe	1	May 6 13	Whitewater Lake	P. Douglas, G. Franzman, A. Mickey
Clark's Grebe	1	May 7 13	Starbuck	C. Penner
Clark's Grebe	1	May 9 13	Hecla Island	B. Shettler
Clark's Grebe	1	May 16 13	Lynch Point	C. Cuthbert
Clark's Grebe	1	May 24 13	Whitewater Lake	G. Budyk, J. Weier
American White Pelican	1,255	Apr 21 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, B. Shettler, C. Boumford
American White Pelican	2,500	Apr 23 13	Lockport	D. Martin
Double-crested Cormorant	1	Apr 4 13	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Great Egret	5	Apr 27 13	Sundown - Middlebro area	V. Reimer



<b>Species</b>	<b>#'s</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observers</b>
Great Egret	12	May 24 13	Whitewater Lake	G. Budyk, J. Weier
Snowy Egret	1	Apr 27 13	West Shoal Lake	N. Butchard, A. Mickey
Great Blue Heron	1	Apr 3 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, A. Mickey
Great Blue Heron	5	Apr 6 13	La Rivière	P. Gossen, H. Nikkel
White-faced Ibis	1	Apr 18 13	Rivers	N. Short
White-faced Ibis	1	Apr 23 13	Rapid City	L. Boys
White-faced Ibis	1	Apr 23 13	Pine Falls	L. Deveraux
White-faced Ibis	1	May 6 13	Whitewater Lake	P. Douglas, G. Franzman, A. Mickey
White-faced Ibis	8	May 24 13	Whitewater Lake	G. Budyk, J. Weier
Turkey Vulture	2	Apr 6 13	Whiteshell Prov. Park	J. Dewitt
Turkey Vulture	52	Apr 25 13	Pembina River Valley	A. Schritt, K. Bardon
Osprey	1	Apr 4 13	Winnipeg	R. Clarke
Osprey	62	Apr 27 13	Pembina River Valley	A. Schritt
Bald Eagle	220	Apr 3 13	Pembina River Valley	A. Schritt
Bald Eagle	76	Apr 3 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, A. Mickey
Sharp-shinned Hawk	560	Apr 27 13	Pembina River Valley	A. Schritt
Sharp-shinned Hawk	167	Apr 29 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, B. Shettler
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Apr 2 13	St. Adolphe	R. Parsons, A. Courcelles, B. Buhler, C. Boumford
Broad-winged Hawk	288	Apr 29 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, B. Shettler
Broad-winged Hawk	393	May 3 13	Pembina River Valley	A. Schritt
Swainson's Hawk	106	Apr 29 13	Pembina River Valley	A. Schritt
Red-tailed Hawk	856	Apr 3 13	Pembina River Valley	A. Schritt
Red-tailed Hawk	193	Apr 10 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, N. Schmidt, C. Boumford
Red-tailed Hawk	1,376	Apr 25 13	Pembina River Valley	A. Schritt, B. Shettler
Ferruginous Hawk	1	Mar 30 13	Pierson	R. Wang
Ferruginous Hawk	1	Apr 10 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, N. Schmidt, C. Boumford
Golden Eagle	13	Mar 26 13	Pembina River Valley	A. Schritt
Peregrine Falcon	46	Apr 26 13	Pembina River Valley	P. Gossen
American Coot	1	Apr 6 13	Rennie	J. Dewitt
Sandhill Crane	4	Apr 3 13	St. Adolphe	A. Courcelles, A. Mickey
American Avocet	1	Apr 26 13	Eden	R. Demay
Whimbrel	1	May 18 13	Oakland area	D. Martin, B. Chartier
Red Knot	1	May 12 13	West Shoal Lake	K. Gardner
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	Apr 29 13	West Shoal Lake	J. Weier, G. Budyk
Wilson's Phalarope	2	Apr 24 13	Landmark	F. Giesbrecht
Franklin's Gull	2	Apr 6 13	Winnipeg	A. Courcelles
California Gull	1	Apr 20 13	Winnipeg	C. Artuso
California Gull	5	Apr 20 13	Meadows	K. Gardner
California Gull	1	May 18 13	PR. 227 Landfill	D. Martin, B. Chartier
California Gull	2	May 24 13	Whitewater Lake	G. Budyk, J. Weier
California Gull	5	May 25 13	PR. 227 Landfill	M. Waldron, W. Christianson, N.M. group
Thayer's Gull	1	May 6 13	Winnipeg	C. Artuso
Glaucous Gull	2	May 18 13	Delta	C. Cuthbert, et al
Arctic Tern	1	May 11 13	Winnipeg	B. Maybank
Arctic Tern	1	May 15 13	Hecla Island	V, L. & J. Reimer
Forster's Tern	1	Apr 28 13	Grant's Lake WMA	K. Gardner
Eurasian Collared-Dove	4	Apr 7 13	Schantzenfeld	C. Wall
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	May 22 13	St. Ambroise	P. Friesen, R. Boese, D. Epp-Thiesen
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	May 29 13	La Barriere Park	W. Christian, N.M. group
Mourning Dove	1	Mar 31 13	Camp Morton	B. Maciejko
Boreal Owl	1	Apr 5 13	Winnipeg	M. Cobus
Boreal Owl	1	May 23 13	Norris Lake	R. Koes
Common Nighthawk	1	May 24 13	Winnipeg	R. Clarke, R. Porteous
Chimney Swift	2	May 12 13	St. Adolphe	B. Stewart
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	May 21 13	Steinbach	D. Fast
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	May 25 13	Gimli	B. Charier
Northern Flicker	214	Apr 28 13	Sans Souci	C. McPherson
Northern Shrike	1	May 15 13	Hecla Island	B. Shettler
Blue-headed Vireo	1	May 9 13	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Horned Lark	1,000's	Apr 16 13	Brandon to Cartwright	C. Cuthbert
Horned Lark	2,000	Apr 17 13	Portage la Prairie to Morden	C. Roy
Tree Swallow	90	Apr 28 13	Sans Souci	C. McPherson
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	May 26 13	Winnipeg	A. Mickey



<b>Species</b>	<b>#'s</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observers</b>
Eastern Bluebird	6	Apr 6 13	Pembina River Valley	C. Wall
Eastern Bluebird	7	Apr 9 13	Holmfild	C. Cuthbert
Mountain Bluebird	1	Apr 4 13	Oak Lake Beach	M. Yorke, M. Reid
Varied Thrush	1	Apr 29 13	Lockport	C. Machnee
Northern Mockingbird	1	May 22 13	Rapid City	L. Boys
Northern Mockingbird	1	May 28 13	Lockport	E. Ball
Brown Thrasher	1	May 1 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson
Tennessee Warbler	1	May 3 13	Winnipeg	J. Weier
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	Apr 27 13	Ste. Anne	V. Reimer
Cape May Warbler	1	Apr 30 13	Oakbank	J. Dewitt
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	May 29 13	La Barriere Park	W. Christianson, Nature Manitoba group
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	Apr 8 13	Winnipeg	B. Barnett
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	Apr 27 13	Winnipeg	L. Morash
Yellow-rumped Warbler	68	May 3 13	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Ovenbird	1	May 9 13	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Summer Tanager	1	May 13 13	Winnipeg	R. Austin
Summer Tanager	1	May 22 13	Winnipeg	C. Lesage, J. Park
Summer Tanager	1	May 29 13	Winnipeg	Birding & Breakfast group at FortWhyte Alive
American Tree Sparrow	46	May 4 13	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
Savannah Sparrow	1	Apr 26 13	Winnipeg	R. Clarke
Fox Sparrow	1	Apr 9 13	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	Apr 30 13	Gimli	D. Martin
White-crowned Sparrow	1	Apr 29 13	Dufresne	B. Krosney
Dark-eyed Junco	400	May 1 13	Camp Morton	B. Maciejko
Snow Bunting	1,500	Apr 21 13	The Pas	J. Kayer
Northern Cardinal	1	Apr 16 13	Winnipeg	G. & J. Grief
Northern Cardinal	1	May 21 13	Winnipeg	R. Staniforth
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	May 10 13	Morden	R. Hiebert
Lazuli Bunting	1	May 20 13	Holland	C. Steinke
Indigo Bunting	1	Apr 30 13	Gimli	D. Martin
Indigo Bunting	1	May 15 13	Winnipeg	B. Maybank
Great-tailed Grackle	1	May 18 13	Quesnel Lake Lodge	C. Artuso, A. Thornhill, et al
Common Redpoll	4	May 3 13	Winnipeg	G. Grief
Hoary Redpoll	1	May 1 13	Winnipeg	G. Grief

**Western Grebes**



## Calling All Vehicle Owners!

Would you like your gasoline purchase go towards a good cause? Shell Canada Fuelling Change promotion has sponsored Manitoba's Important Bird Area program. Shell gasoline receipts can be used to "vote" for a favourite conservation program. Nature Manitoba's Important Bird Area program can earn as much as \$50,000 for having the most votes. Save your receipts and vote for Manitoba's Important Bird Area to support conservation efforts in Manitoba.

Click the '\$50,000' tab on the website [fuellingchange.com](http://fuellingchange.com). Scroll down the page to the Important Bird Areas Caretaker Program – or look for this photo of Western Grebes.



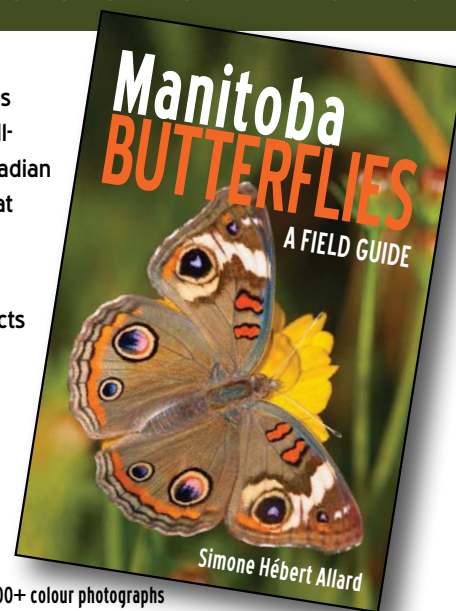
# Manitoba BUTTERFLIES

## A FIELD GUIDE | Simone Hébert Allard

*Manitoba Butterflies* by Simone Allard is a remarkable achievement. With over 1100 photographs and illustrations, 101 of Manitoba's most common butterfly species are presented in glorious full-colour. Each species is photographed in its natural environment and for the first time in a Canadian field guide, each stage of the butterfly life cycle is presented in a photographic progression that culminates in a lifesize image of the mature adult butterfly.

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- Each butterfly is associated with a legend or myth from around the world.

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- All 101 species contained in *Manitoba Butterflies* include photographs of each stage of the butterfly's life cycle from egg to larva, to pupa, and finally, full-size adult specimen. This is unheard of in any other fieldguide available today.

- Discover unique facts and trivia about each butterfly featured in *Manitoba Butterflies*.

- Each species features a range map with hot spots for easy site identification.



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## The 101 butterfly species in *Manitoba Butterflies*

- ☐ Acadian Hairstreak (*Satyrrium acadica*)
- ☐ Alberta Arctic (*Oeneis alberta*)
- ☐ American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*)
- ☐ Aphrodite Fritillary (*Speyeria aphrodite*)
- ☐ Arctic Blue (*Plebejus glandon*)
- ☐ Arctic Fritillary (*Boloria chariclea*)
- ☐ Arctic Skipper (*Carterocephalus palaemon*)
- ☐ Atlantis Fritillary (*Speyeria atlantis*)
- ☐ Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*)
- ☐ Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrrium calanus*)
- ☐ Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)
- ☐ Bog Fritillary (*Boloria eunomia*)
- ☐ Bronze Copper (*Lycaena hyllus*)
- ☐ Brown Elfin (*Callophrys augustinus*)
- ☐ Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)
- ☐ Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)
- ☐ Canadian Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio canadensis*)
- ☐ Checkered White (*Pontia protodice*)
- ☐ Christina Sulphur (*Colias christina*)
- ☐ Chryxus Arctic (*Oeneis chryxus*)
- ☐ Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*)
- ☐ Common Alpine (*Erebia epipsodea*)
- ☐ Common Branded Skipper (*Hesperia comma*)
- ☐ Common Checkered Skipper (*Pyrgus communis*)
- ☐ Common Ringlet (*Coenonympha tullia*)
- ☐ Common Roadside Skipper (*Amblyscirtes vialis*)
- ☐ Common Wood-nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*)
- ☐ Compton Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis l-album*)
- ☐ Coral Hairstreak (*Satyrrium titus*)
- ☐ Cranberry Blue (*Plebejus optilete*)
- ☐ Dreamy Duskywing (*Erynnis icelus*)
- ☐ Dun Skipper (*Euphyes vestris*)
- ☐ Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*)
- ☐ Eastern Pine Elfin (*Callophrys niphon*)
- ☐ Eastern Tailed Blue (*Cupido comyntas*)
- ☐ Edwards' Hairstreak (*Satyrrium edwardsii*)
- ☐ European Skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*)
- ☐ Eyed Brown (*Lethe eurydice*)
- ☐ Freija Fritillary (*Boloria freija*)
- ☐ Frigga Fritillary (*Boloria frigga*)
- ☐ Garita Skipperling (*Oarisma garita*)
- ☐ Giant Sulphur (*Colias gigantea*)
- ☐ Gorgone Checkerspot (*Chlosyne gorgone*)
- ☐ Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*)
- ☐ Green Comma (*Polygonia faunus*)
- ☐ Greenish Blue (*Plebejus saepiolus*)
- ☐ Grey Comma (*Polygonia progne*)
- ☐ Grey Copper (*Lycaena dione*)
- ☐ Grey Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*)
- ☐ Grizzled Skipper (*Pyrgus centaureae*)
- ☐ Harris' Checkerspot (*Chlosyne harrisii*)
- ☐ Harvester (*Feniseca tarquinius*)
- ☐ Hoary Comma (*Polygonia gracilis*)
- ☐ Hoary Elfin (*Callophrys polios*)
- ☐ Hobomok Skipper (*Poanes hobomok*)
- ☐ Jutta Arctic (*Oeneis jutta*)
- ☐ Juvenal's Duskywing (*Erynnis juvenalis*)
- ☐ Labrador Sulphur (*Colias nastes*)
- ☐ Large Marble (*Euchloe ausonides*)
- ☐ Least Skipper (*Ancyloxypha numitor*)
- ☐ Little Wood-Satyr (*Megisto cymela*)
- ☐ Long Dash Skipper (*Polites mystic*)
- ☐ Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria bellona*)
- ☐ Melissa Blue (*Plebejus melissa*)
- ☐ Milbert's Tortoiseshell (*Aglais milberti*)
- ☐ Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
- ☐ Mottled Duskywing (*Erynnis martialis*)
- ☐ Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)
- ☐ Mustard White (*Pieris oleracea*)
- ☐ Northern Blue (*Plebejus idas*)
- ☐ Northern Cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*)
- ☐ Northern Crescent (*Phyciodes cocyta*)
- ☐ Northern Pearly Eye (*Lethe anthedon*)
- ☐ Northwestern Fritillary (*Speyeria hesperis*)
- ☐ Old World Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*)
- ☐ Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*)
- ☐ Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
- ☐ Palaeno Sulphur (*Colias palaeno*)
- ☐ Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*)
- ☐ Peck's Skipper (*Polites peckius*)
- ☐ Persius Duskywing (*Erynnis persius*)
- ☐ Pink-edged Sulphur (*Colias interior*)
- ☐ Polaris Fritillary (*Boloria polaris*)
- ☐ Purplish Copper (*Lycaena helloides*)
- ☐ Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*)
- ☐ Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
- ☐ Satyr Comma (*Polygonia satyrus*)
- ☐ Silver-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*)
- ☐ Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*)
- ☐ Silvery Blue (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*)
- ☐ Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*)
- ☐ Sleepy Duskywing (*Erynnis brizo*)
- ☐ Spring Azure (*Celastrina echo*)
- ☐ Striped Hairstreak (*Satyrrium liparops*)
- ☐ Summer Azure (*Celastrina neglecta*)
- ☐ Tawny-edged Skipper (*Polites themistocles*)
- ☐ Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*)
- ☐ Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)
- ☐ Western White (*Pontia occidentalis*)
- ☐ Western Tailed Blue (*Cupido amyntula*)
- ☐ White Admiral (*Limenitis arthemis*)

Discover them all with *Manitoba Butterflies: A Field Guide* by Simone Hébert Allard

# Permit to Paddle

by Christine Mazur

(reprinted from the Winter 2013 issue of The Ripple, the newsletter of Paddle Manitoba)

When Manitoba Conservation restricted the backcountry in the dry summer of 2011, there were many disappointed paddlers in Manitoba, least of which were those registered for Nature Manitoba's Mantario Summer Program. Volunteers guide groups to the cabin on Mantario Lake in the heart of the Whiteshell wilderness zone. When Conservation made the call to restrict backcountry travel this past May, I was ready for disappointment again. That is why I was pinching myself on the 2012 May Long weekend as I paddled through the Whiteshell to the Mantario Cabin with three good friends, backcountry travel permit secure in a ziplock baggie, ready to show anyone who might stop us.

My friends and I had booked the Cabin weeks before the May Long and were really looking forward to our little escape from civilization. We were crushed when the travel ban was announced mere days before our departure.

Curious, I read and re-read the Conservation media release for May 14, 2012, and my eye caught the phrase:

***Backcountry travel is allowed by permit only.***  
(Fire Update Report, May 14, 2012)

Permit, eh? Aha, but:

***Lodges – access permitted to main lodge. Travel permits will be required to use out camps.***

Does the Mantario Cabin qualify as a lodge, I wondered? And furthermore:

***Outfitters – Travel permits may be issued at the discretion of the local Natural Resource Officer.***

And the catch-all:

***Any travel permits required will be at the discretion of the local Natural Resource Officer.***

I phoned and spoke to someone at the main office in the city. No, I was told, absolutely no one may go into the backcountry without a permit. How did someone get a permit? No one. Except maybe for fishing lodges taking guests out.

Well, I thought, we are paying guests of Nature Manitoba's Mantario Cabin. The not-for-profit organization loses sorely-needed revenues every time such travel restrictions prevent users from accessing the facility. Granted, it's not wise to be out in tinder dry forest but the nature of our travel was such that we were NOT planning to drive spark-causing ATVs or other motorized vehicles through dry grasses, nor were we planning to light campfires in the woods.

Not willing to give up, I phoned the Conservation office closest to the Whiteshell and left a message asking how one gets a backcountry permit, explaining our destination as being the not-for-profit Mantario Cabin.



Christine Mazur

**Approaching  
the Mantario  
Island sauna.**

We'd almost given up when a few days later the Conservation office contacted a Nature Manitoba representative offering to grant us a permit to access the cabin. All I had to do was call and give our travel plan including put-in, destination and route. Then sign and return a faxed form and keep a copy on me during the whole trip in case we got stopped.

Rain loomed large as we put in at Big Whiteshell Lake. Barely half way across, the heavens opened and the wind blasted us. Sterning, I fought against my overpowering paddling partner who had the size and strength of three voyageurs. We pulled to shore to wait out the rain, realized this was wishful thinking, and continued. At the end of each portage we hid under tented canoes to rest and drink hot tea in thermoses. The dark cloud mass was firmly parked above us all day and we wondered if we would ever see the sun again. It didn't help that my cedar-strip and canvass Tremblay absorbed water like a sponge. I felt a tiny pang of guilt when my voyageur-like friend carried my little red tank on every portage but he insisted he didn't mind.

An immediate sauna session was the only way to dry off and warm up upon arrival, all of us soaked and shivering in jackets, toques and mitts.

The next two days were gloriously sunny, albeit incredibly windy, but due to our permit's restrictions, we couldn't go exploring on land or beyond the shores of Mantario Lake. Not a problem, really, since we had busy agendas of resting, fishing, and exploring the islands and shores within.

On the trip home we saw how thirsty the forest was, absorbing all that rain so quickly: the portages were barely damp. When we got home we learned the travel ban had been called off the very day we returned:

***Good general rainfall in eastern Manitoba has made it possible to remove the travel and fire restrictions in provincial parks and crown land.***

(Fire Update Report May 21, 2012)

Perfect timing!



# ROGER'S RANT



## ... on making SARA "efficient"

by Roger Turenne

**I**t has been 10 years since the adoption of Canada's Species At Risk Act (SARA). It was very late in coming – decades after

similar legislation in the US. It was also considerably weaker than the US counterpart.

There are four basic components to this kind of legislation: 1) identify the species at risk, 2) prohibit their killing or destruction, 3) protect the habitat they need to survive and, 4) launch recovery programs for those species on the edge of destruction.

How are we doing so far? Do we have cause to celebrate? Not so much. We have an excellent mechanism for identifying species at risk. It's called the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). It has listed 668 wildlife species, including 297 endangered, 159 threatened, 190 of special concern, and 22 extirpated (meaning they are no longer found in the wild in Canada). But here's the problem: COSEWIC can only recommend listing of species under the Act. The federal government does the actual listing and has so far done a very poor job of it – as of August 2012 only 513 of the 668 species are actually listed, leaving 155 without the recommended protection. This includes the polar bear, some populations of barren ground caribou, populations of sockeye, coho, and Chinook salmon, and many others. The government has either dragged its feet or, in 30 cases, refused outright to list them.

84% of all species at risk in Canada are at risk because of habitat destruction. But here's the rub: SARA applies only to lands under federal jurisdiction which account for only a tiny proportion of lands within the 10 provinces, mostly national parks. There are provisions within the law to intervene on provincial lands where the species is at risk and other jurisdictions have failed to take the necessary measures to protect it. This provision has never been invoked.

There are two major problems with SARA. The act itself is deficient because of its geographically limited scope, and implementation of the Act by the federal government has been negligent at best, illegal at worse. Wouldn't it be great if the federal government recognized that SARA should be made more effective and efficient? Wait! Environment Minister Peter Kent did just that last September. That should be good news, right? So why are conservation groups across the country in a panic?

Maybe it's because they've heard this song before. The Harper government has accumulated an impressive track record in defining what is "effective" and "efficient" in environmental legislation and programs. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act was deemed inefficient so they repealed it. The Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act was deemed inefficient so they repealed it. The environmental protection components of the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Act were deemed inefficient and were eviscerated. The National Roundtable on Environment and Economy was declared ineffective so it was abolished. Many of these acts of legislative vandalism were hidden inside massive omnibus bills which allowed for little or no debate and no prior consultations. For the Harper government, "inefficient" environmental legislation is one that impedes business.

**"... hearing Peter Kent propose that SARA be made more effective is very, very scary."**

In this context, hearing Peter Kent propose that SARA be made more effective is very, very scary. His credibility as a defender of the environment among scientists and conserva-

tion groups is somewhere near zero. So in spite of the fact that he has yet to unveil any specifics about how to make the Act more "effective", groups such as Ecojustice, Nature Canada, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and others have launched national campaigns to protect SARA.

Instead of lobbying the federal government to improve this flawed legislation, we are reduced to lobbying them to leave it alone on the grounds that any changes they are likely to make will make SARA even worse. One can only shake one's head.

*As a Canadian diplomat abroad, as a senior advisor to two Manitoba premiers, as a political analyst, and as an environmental lobbyist, Roger Turenne has observed the political scene from all angles over more than 40 years.*

Julia Schoen



**Cook's Creek Immaculate Conception Church**

### Visiting Cook's Creek

The Grey Hares spent May 29 visiting Cook's Creek. Organized by June Thomson, the visit included stops at its church, grotto and museum.

The church is a magnificent structure built by Father Philip Ruh, an influential architect of Ukrainian Catholic churches in western Canada. The church, begun in 1930, took 22 years to complete – it was built through parishioners'

donations and volunteer labour, using only hand tools. The grotto, a huge medieval-looking structure next door to the church, was patterned after the famous grotto in Lourdes, France. Its construction begun in 1954 by Father Ruh.



**Grey Hares at The Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes**

Barbara Keith





## Spring in the Air

by Les McCann

Participants of the Sat. May 25, 2013 Hunt Lake Hike. **Top row:** Les McCann, Mayssom Amiri, Zahra Baseri. **2nd top row:** Tomas Yebra, Richard Balog, Noeny Molod. **2nd row bottom:** Denis St. Hilaire, Bruce Emberley, Zoe Leslie, Can Li, Al Louer, Lorraine Sourisseau, Martin Zeilig, Ruth Clare, Fran Gropp, Elsie Friesen, Rommel Molod, Pauline Bazin, Kathy Picard, Beata Gorczyca. **Front Row:** Bruce Alley, Prya Mani, Sandi Dorboise, Stella Laboissiere, Anne Layman, Jerry Ameis. **Taking the photo:** Judy McKinnon.

This year's Outdoor Program spring kick-off, the Hunt Lake hike, had its usual allure with 27 participants on what is billed as a popular but strenuous hike. "Strenuous" is subjective, of course, as I have seen true (and even somewhat borderline) athletic types rule that this is not a challenging hike. For me, however, it IS challenging. Although the last two years I have noticed that I have been able to remove myself from the car after the two-hour drive back to Winnipeg without assistance.

I'm sure everyone's mind had a second thought when the weather forecast called for the beginning of a prolonged rainy period accompanied by chilly weather. But this year's Hunt Lake hike went well.

The rain never did show up. Everyone missed the bright cheerfulness of the sun, but agreed that the chilliness added an aspect of comfort, in a quirky sort of way, keeping sweat to a minimum on the hike.

In the end, everyone got what they had come for – a wonderful day of experiences (not all ideal, as we will see).

There was camaraderie with everyone pitching in to help each other over the slippery stream rocks, and up and down the artistically root-strewn rock ridges. All shared in the sights as we crossed shimmering white aspen groves, or dropped into damp but majestic cedar bogs. There were many fine overviews of Hunt Lake, West Hawk Lake, and their intermingling forests. The green freshly opened leaves flaunted

their softest tones. Some took the opportunity to be sensually pleased with the fragrance offered simply by squeezing a twig of the always present Balsam Firs.

Spring was definitely in the air as we listened to the sounds of migration back to Manitoba. Ovenbirds, kingfishers, White-throated and many other sparrows, Blue Jays, at least three of the woodpeckers, and

a number of warblers, all sang for us. A birder in the group would have been kept busy responding to our many queries! There were plenty of other wondrous sounds from the woods. Some thought they heard a distant grouse drumming. Other natural points of interest included wolf and other scat on the trail, some having barely made it through the winter, others left behind likely that morning.

But, as I alluded to earlier, not everything went perfectly. Two of our party found themselves in a situation – basically, they were lost, in the full sense of the word. Importantly, the lost individuals stayed together. (It is one thing to be lost with another person; quite another to be lost alone.) For them, the sounds in the bush did not seem so entertaining. The insects were relentless; the brush was rasping and in the way. The fact that we had already been walking over tiring terrain for close to 5 hours would be a strain for anyone, never mind being caught in this circumstance.

(continued on next page...)



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### About Nature Manitoba

Nature Manitoba is people sharing a passion for nature. Since its foundation in 1920, Nature Manitoba's mission has been to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of nature, and to preserve and enjoy it. In support of this mission, Nature Manitoba offers a wide variety of educational programs and publications, supports research into Manitoba's biological and geophysical diversity, organizes field trips and outdoor activities year-round, and advocates for the protection of our natural environment.

(...continued from previous page)

Fortunately, they had a cell phone, and eventually came upon a cottage which provided indication of their location. They were able to contact a friend in Winnipeg and the event ended with help of the RCMP.

At the end of the day, how had we done as a group? We had taken some precautions. Participants had been cautioned to stay together as a group, as this can be helpful should there be an accident on the trail, or a wildlife encounter, or should anyone be tempted to get off trail. However, in a group of this size, it is inevitable that people will get separated, due to traveling at their own pace or for whatever reason. So we had a sign-out sheet at the end of

the trail and if any car group left before we all returned, they were all to sign the sheet.

Sure enough, when everyone seemed to be out, there were two names missing. Did they leave with the vehicles that had already left, or were they still in the bush? We were unable to connect by cell phone with all the vehicles that had already left, as we didn't have everyone's cell numbers. Exchanging numbers would have helped, especially since one of those lost did have a cell phone.

Our story has a happy ending and, as with all life's experiences, we learned valuable lessons: use a sign-out sheet, record all available cell numbers, and always use the buddy system.

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See page 9 for 2013 trip  
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