



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(In-Person and Virtual)

7pm MONDAY, MARCH 21st, 2022

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the preceding AGM March 2021
3. Annual Report of the President
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Auditors for 2022
6. Annual Reports of Nature Manitoba Committees
7. Resolutions
8. Proposed Amendments to Terms of Reference
9. Election of Board Members
10. Election of Executive Members
11. Adjournment
12. Presentation:

Bird Monitoring in the Time of COVID: Angry Bulls,
Docile Swans and Confounding Swifts

by Tim Poole, Species at Risk Biologist, Habitat and Endangered
Species Section, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Natural Resources and
Northern Development

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**Minutes of the virtual Annual General Meeting of Nature Manitoba
22 March 2021 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

1. Present: 78 members registered and were present on line. Jack Dubois, President of the Board welcomed participants and declared the meeting open at 7:07pm. He turned the chair over briefly to Board member Marika Olynyk, who explained how voting on motions and the resolution would be done using features of the Zoom application.
2. As the Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held 23 March 2021 could not be held due to the pandemic there were no minutes to be presented for information. Jack reported on the results of the electronic and postal ballots mailed out to members on 20 May 2020:
 - a. Treasurer's Report for 2019 was approved unanimously.
 - b. Motion to appoint Heartland Chartered Professional Accountants as Auditors for 2020 was approved unanimously.
 - c. Resolution that the members of Nature Manitoba instruct the Board Executive to effect the transfer of ownership of its Tall Grass Prairie properties to Nature Conservancy of Canada was approved unanimously.
3. Jack summarized the President's Report from the Annual Report and expressed his gratitude to the members, board and staff for making the last five years as president such a great experience.
4. Andre Laberge, Treasurer, summarized his Report, noting that Nature Manitoba is in a healthy financial position, with a surplus of revenue over expenses for the fiscal year 2020 of \$34,177. After highlighting some of the major transactions for the year he expressed thanks to our volunteers, those who have donated, and our grantors for their support during these challenging times.
 - a. Motion: Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, moved by Andre, seconded by Karen Smith. Approved unanimously.
5. Motion: To appoint Hartland Chartered Professional Accountants as Auditors for 2021, moved by Andre, seconded by Roger Turenne. Approved unanimously.
6. Jack gave some highlights from each of the committee reports and urged all members to read the full reports. He also acknowledged and thanked the donors listed in the Annual Report, as well as the committee chairs and the many, many volunteers who made the wide range of activities possible.
7. A Resolution (appended) was put forward to amend Nature Manitoba's Bylaws to permit the holding of, and attendance at meetings electronically and for the use of electronic or mail-in ballots. The Resolution was passed unanimously.
8. As there were fewer candidates for Board positions than openings, and most current members' terms were not up, there was no need for elections and the Board was acclaimed. It was noted that there were two vacancies on the Board and members were encouraged to contact the office if they wished to serve, as the Bylaws permit the Board to appoint members between annual general meetings, subject to ratification at a subsequent annual general meeting. BOARD MEMBERS: Term ending Mar/2024 Les McCann; Term ending Mar/2023 Christian Artuso, Marika Olynyk; Term ending Mar/2022 Lesly Andrews, Alain Louer, Maria Mitousis.

9. As there were the same number of candidates for executive positions as there were positions there was no need for an election and the Executive was acclaimed. 2021 EXECUTIVE (1year term): President Sandy HayGlass; Executive Vice President Don Himbeault; Vice President James Whitelaw; Treasurer Andre Laberge; Secretary Katrina Froese; Past President Jack Dubois.
10. The Service Award was given to Francy Wheadon. The President's Award was given to Katrina Froese. Recipients thanked the Board.
11. The Meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm, to be followed at by a presentation at 8:00pm by Dr. Michael Schrimpf, University of Manitoba, titled "Migration in a COVID World: the Effect of Lockdown on Birds".

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Sandy HayGlass)

Adaptability, patience, and resilience were the key works for this second year of COVID. Uncertainty was common, health orders changed often and a new normal emerged. Despite all this, Nature Manitoba volunteers, members and staff excelled at making the best of things. We operated activities when we could and cancelled activities when we couldn't. We did our first Zoom AGM, and constantly adjusted our COVID protocols. In this report, you can read all about how each Nature Manitoba program adapted to COVID. You can read about the hard work and commitment of our volunteers.

In 2021, the Garden Tour was cancelled on very short notice after months of work. Birding activities and the workshops were cancelled before they started. Discovery Evenings and the outdoor program restarted in the fall. The Grey Hares were like traffic lights - starting and stopping activities all year long. Mantario operated a reduced program. Partner programs such as the Manitoba Important Birds Areas, Chimney Swift Initiative, Christmas Bird count, Manitoba Bluebird program and Bridging the Gap made adjustments to maximize program activities to the extent possible. What an amazing effort!

I'd like to thank all our volunteers who make Nature Manitoba the great organization it is. I thank the administration staff and my fellow board members for their work.

Financially, the year turned out positive as shown in the Treasurer's Report. We thank everyone who renewed their membership and those members who made donations. We were also successful in obtaining a competitive Winnipeg Foundation Stabilization Grant and COVID related operating grants from the Province of Manitoba. We thank Guenther Salzmann, who left a very generous legacy donation to The Winnipeg Foundation Nature Manitoba Bluebird Fund. We are deeply grateful.

Stay tuned to our newsletter and website for information on our 2022 programs - birding, workshops, hikes, the Garden Tour, Grey Hares, Mantario Summer Program, and our new Family Nature Club. A vibrant spring and summer await!

Hope you have a great summer and enjoy the beauty of nature

TREASURER'S REPORT (Andre Laberge)

Nature Manitoba's general operation finished the year 2021 with an excess of revenue over expenses of \$26,457.

The general operations received Covid-19 related grants from the Province of Manitoba of \$15,000 and \$9,500 from The Winnipeg Foundation. Our membership revenue was up by \$1,960 and the administration fees were down by \$2,146. The general operations received a disbursement from the Manitoba Naturalists Endowment Fund held at The Winnipeg Foundation for \$6,715, an increase of \$27 from 2020.

The expenses of the general operation saw minor changes. The changes were due to an adjustment to salaries and an increase to the insurance (in 2020, we received a credit from our insurance provider due to Covid-19).

The Paul Guyot Endowment Fund for Habitat received a disbursement of \$8,212 and the Manitoba Bluebird Endowment Fund received a disbursement of \$13,426 from the Winnipeg Foundation.

During the year, the Nature Fund received a combination of donations and a bequest for \$6,000, and the Manitoba Bluebird Fund received a bequest of \$819,012.

This year's planning was made difficult with the uncertainties due to Covid-19. Although our financial planning is to have a balanced budget each year, it is typical for our year-end position to cycle between surpluses and deficits. The board continues to look at ways to increase revenue and reduce costs, while also wanting to make sure the money we are spending is being effective and providing value to the members. I would like to thank our volunteers, those who have donated, and our grantors for their support during these challenging times.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GREY HARES

Report by Kevin & Anita Miller

Grey Hares is a group of retired, partly retired, and flexible-work-hours people within Nature Manitoba who enjoy nature, new experiences, making friends, being physically active, doing meaningful things, and sharing time with like-minded people. Grey Hares has an activity every Wednesday during the day, and sometimes there are other activities that are multi-day or on a non-Wednesday. For more info, go to <https://www.naturemanitoba.ca/grey-hares-trips-0>.

We took over administration of Grey Hares from Francy Wheadon in February 2021. Administration tasks fall into five categories:

- ☐ Coordinating the weekly activities.
- ☐ Communication.
- ☐ Membership.
- ☐ Financial.
- ☐ Liaison with Nature Manitoba's staff and board.

Weekly activities

2021 was again an odd year because of the pandemic. Grey Hares activities were on-hold until early March (9 Wednesdays), active from March 10th to May 5th (9 Wednesdays), on-hold from May 12th to June 23rd (7 Wednesdays), and then active from June 30th onwards (27 Wednesdays). Of the 37 Wednesdays with activities, a few had two activities to choose from, and a few didn't have an activity because none of our members volunteered to lead one.

There weren't any multi-day activities (for example, a camping/paddling/hiking/biking trip), and there was only one second-Tuesday-of-the-month breakfast (on December 14th).

Unlike pre-pandemic, there were almost no indoor activities.

Communication

We use Mailchimp to send weekly email messages to Grey Hares members. We sent 46 in 2021, usually on Wednesday evening. Topics include info about upcoming weeks' activities, requests for leaders/activities for upcoming weeks, requests for feedback, photos from past weeks' activities, and misc news.

Since November, we've been posting our activities on the Nature Manitoba website. Thanks to Lynsay Perkins (Communications Specialist) for working with us to make changes to Grey Hares info on the website, and giving us authority to post activities

Membership

2021 started with 214 members and ended with 217 members. Grey Hares members must be current members of Nature Manitoba, and must pay a one-time lifetime \$5 fee to join our membership list and email list. 24 people became new members in 2021. 18 people left the membership ... most in March as a result of removing people who no longer had a current Nature Manitoba membership and chose not to renew. Susan McLarty (Office Administrator) initiated this action and worked with us on it. This will probably be an annual undertaking.

Financial

Grey Hares started 2021 with a balance of \$608.25 and ended with \$616.39. All income was via \$5 membership fees. There were two expenses: a gift and an "in memory of" donation.

Liaison with Nature Manitoba

We've developed a good administrative relationship with Susan McLarty. In addition to the previously mentioned membership synchronization initiative, we had a number of misc email conversations with Susan. Specifically, it was common for her to forward email messages from Nature Manitoba members who wanted to join Grey Hares, but this should decrease going forward because the Nature Manitoba website now lists a greyhares@naturemanitoba.ca email address that auto-forwards to us. Susan, thank you for assisting us with administration.

We developed and maintained good communications with President Sandy HayGlass throughout the year. Most of our email conversations were pandemic-related. In particular, we worked together to develop and coordinate COVID-19 protocols, including a recommendation in July for activity/trip participants to be fully immunized, and a requirement in November that they be fully immunized. Immunization status is obviously an ongoing topic. We appreciate Sandy's support.

And there have been a few misc conversations with Lynsay Perkins, in addition to the November website initiative we mentioned earlier under Communications.

We're looking forward to evolving towards a new normal during 2022 ... just like everyone else.

DISCOVERY EVENINGS

Report by Sandy HayGlass

The Discovery Evening program resumed in the autumn of 2021. I'd like to thank Katharine and John Schulz for their dedicated volunteering for every Discovery Evening. John manages the evening's audio visuals and IT, and Katharine handles the COVID protocols and admittance.

We greatly appreciate the generous contribution of time and effort made by all of our 2021 speakers:

2021 Discovery Evening Presentations

1. **Poweshiek Skipperling: Prairie Butterfly on the Brink** Laura Burns, Research and Conservation Specialist, Assiniboine Park Zoo
2. **Bird Stewardship in Manitoba** Amanda Shave, Manitoba Important Bird Areas Coordinator
3. **Co-existing with Coyotes** Pauline Bloom, Lead Wildlife Biologist - Central Wildlife, Fisheries & Resource Enforcement Branch

WORKSHOP SERIES

Report by Al and Cindy Louer

Unfortunately, all the workshops for 2021 were cancelled due to COVID. Cindy and Alain Louer are looking forward to organizing and offering the 2022 workshop program.

MANTARIO

Report by Katrina Froese

MANTARIO SUMMER PROGRAM

The Summer Program was not able to go ahead for the second year due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. The Committee did not make purchases of food or supplies for the Summer Program, expecting to use up excess supplies that had been stocked in early 2020.

The Summer Program foodstuffs remained at the cabin, stored as effectively as possible. To utilize some of the food stocks, they were offered to private booking groups for a small fee. Donations for food were taken through PayPal payments of \$15, \$20 or \$35 depending on the amount of food needed.

MANTARIO CABIN - Usage and Communication

The Mantario Cabin was open for private, approved member-led trips throughout the year. Volunteers prepared the cabin through work party maintenance activities in spring and fall. COVID-19 protocols were adapted throughout the year as Provincial regulations changed. At times the cabin was available to household contacts only, at other times, it was open to group trips of up to 8 people.

Nature Manitoba sent communications in newsletters and posts online to direct any approved users to book their space through the Mantario Committee. The method of payment for groups continued the per night rental fee paid via PayPal or cheque.

A public trip for Thanksgiving weekend was listed in the Nature Manitoba newsletter and on the website and filled quickly. It was able to go ahead due to lessened COVID-19 restrictions, good protocol and fair weather.

MANTARIO CABIN - Bookings

Overall, 2021 saw 25 trips and a total of 75 people visiting the Mantario Cabin.

There were 7 private groups which went on winter ski trips to the cabin from January - March, 2021, with a total of 12 people. Most groups stayed for more than 2 nights.

Three private trips visited the cabin by canoe in June/July (7 adults, 2 children) before the high fire risk caused a backcountry travel ban that lasted until August 20.

From August - October, a total of 6 canoe trips went to the cabin. For the 4 private bookings, there were a total of 15 people. Two Committee led trips included work party volunteers, but also participants who wanted to become familiarized with cabin protocols in order to be able to lead trips in the future (5 + 6 people including trip leaders). One Thanksgiving weekend listed public trip (Nature Manitoba newsletter) attracted a full number of participants (5 including leaders).

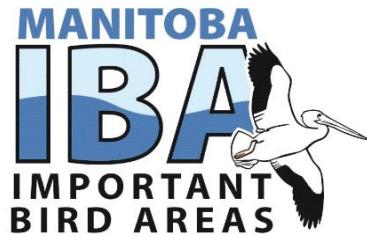
November and December saw 3 groups (7 people) make their way in.

MANTARIO CABIN – Maintenance

Spring work parties consisting of Committee members and their families were able to maintain the spring duties at the cabin in June. (4+4)

Small volunteer work parties, consisting of Committee members and their families, took place in June and October to maintain the cabin.

A larger work party (8) in late October restocked the cabin with firewood and completed other tasks needed before winter.



Events and Activities

While public health orders and high rates of COVID-19 cancelled in-person events during spring migration season in 2021, we were able to continue offering altered programming and rescheduled events into summer and fall 2021.

We held 4 webinars this spring, in what has become our annual spring webinar series. All webinars were later posted on Manitoba IBA's YouTube Channel for the public to view. We had 175 attendees watch the webinars live and a further 245 views of the webinars after they were available on YouTube.

We held many activities related to shorebirds and other waterbirds this year. There were 3 shorebird ID walks/ practice sessions; 2 held at Oak Hammock in the spring and the 3rd held in southwestern Manitoba in the fall at Griswold Marsh and Oak Lake/ Plum Lakes IBA (postponed from the spring). We held blitzes at Delta Marsh IBA on August 14th and Whitewater Lake IBA on August 28th. We held two weed pulls, one in August and one in September, both at Riverton Sandy Bar. Our first weed pull had rainy weather, while the second weed pull took place in much nicer weather. Volunteers and staff also conducted 67 International Shorebird Surveys (ISS) in spring and 47 surveys in fall this year. ISS routes were run at Oak Lake/ Plum Lakes; Whitewater Lake; Oak Hammock Marsh; and North, East and West Shoal Lakes IBAs.

We also focused events on the Red-headed Woodpecker and Eastern Whippoorwill. The number of in-person events we could do for these species was limited, due to the overlap of the breeding season with COVID-19 restrictions, but IBA staff and volunteers were able to follow our new survey protocol and survey with people within their "bubbles". Areas surveyed included Delta Marsh; Netley-Libau Marsh; and North, East and West Shoal Lakes IBAs. We were able to hold

a combination formal survey/ blitz for Red-headed Woodpeckers at Oak Lake/ Plum Lakes IBA later in the summer for Red-headed Woodpeckers.

The IBA program and contractors also conducted grassland bird surveys in southwestern Manitoba this year. A total of 64 properties owned by 27 landowners were surveyed for the Souris River Watershed District and for the Species at Risk Partnership on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) program. We also held a grassland bird event at Oak Hammock Marsh in the tall grass prairie habitat north of the marsh as well.

Funding

Our main sources of funding this year came from the federal EcoAction and Habitat Stewardship Program grants. These are 3-year grants, with 2021-2022 being the second year of both grants. Another major source of funding was our contract to Manitoba Beef Producers for grassland bird surveys under the SARPAL program. We also had a sizable donation from the Patvin Foundation, along with several smaller donations from individual. Nature Manitoba's in-kind support has also been invaluable for us. A big thank you goes out to our funders and donors in 2021.

Volunteers and Steering Committee

We had a total of 86 volunteers who came out to IBA events and surveys this summer. They donated 651 hours of their time to the program. Further volunteers who shared their eBird lists with us while birding in our IBAs provided a further 588 hours of informal surveying effort to help us cover bird populations of IBAs outside of official events. A big thank you to our volunteers helped us to run a successful program in another challenging year!

We welcomed Gillian Richards to our Steering Committee. She joins Tim Poole (Chair), Christian Artuso, Paula Grief, Bonnie Chartier and Marika Olynyk.

Significant Bird Findings in IBAs

With the help of volunteers and IBA staff our focus on counting Red-headed Woodpeckers in our IBAs in 2021 paid off, as we counted numbers above the IBA threshold (14 individuals) for this species in Oak Lake/ Plum Lakes IBA with 27 individuals, and at the Shoal Lakes IBA with 19 individuals.

Oak Lake/ Plum Lakes also surpassed the IBA threshold for Sandhill Cranes (5,300 individuals) with 12,000 cranes counted by Gillian Richards – approximately 2% of the world's population. We also had several exciting sightings at Whitewater Lake IBA this year. There was a Piping Plover and a Black-necked Stilt seen this spring by Colin Blyth. A bit later in the spring Gillian

Richards counted 12,050 Pectoral Sandpipers while at the IBA for the ISS surveys. This is 20% of the world's population of this species and well beyond the IBA threshold of 625 individuals. Other interesting sightings include a pair of Piping Plovers briefly seen at Chalet Beach (Netley-Libau Marsh IBA) during the May-long weekend, a Sabine's Gull at Delta Marsh in September, at least 3 Lesser Black-Backed Gulls moving around Delta Marsh IBA this summer, and a pair of wild Burrowing Owls that successfully raised 6 young this summer in the Southwestern Manitoba Mixed-Grass Prairie IBA.



Report by Amanda Shave

Monitoring

We had a bit of a rocky start with gathering limits imposed by public health orders in the spring when the Chimney Swifts were arriving. However, our monitors tend to observe the swifts with people in their household “bubbles” and so we were able to have over 82 volunteers put in over 600 hours of monitoring effort. This year we continued our MCSI Nights each Wednesday evening from May 26 to June 23, while select sites that host larger roosts of swifts were monitored on nights designated by the federal National Roost Monitoring Program (NRMP). 170 chimneys in 23 communities were monitored this year. Nine new swift chimneys were discovered.

We had two exciting new situations this summer with Chimney Swifts.

The first being the discovery of a large roost at 424 River Avenue, in Winnipeg. At its peak the roost had 193 birds. This roost was first discovered by word of mouth and many people visited the site to watch this spectacle.

Our second exciting situation was the continuing mitigation for Chimney Swifts at Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

Two chimneys that host swifts were scheduled to be torn down for safety reasons in spring 2021 (one was actually removed). In order to mitigate this impact on swift habitat it was required by the Province of Manitoba and the Federal Government to replace this habitat. In spring 2021

four artificial Chimney Swift towers went up on site. These new towers were designed after the successful Assiniboine Park Chimney Swift tower. With a lot of work by Tim Poole (Provincial Species at Risk Biologist) and MCSI volunteers in Selkirk we documented Chimney Swifts using all four towers at different points in the season, and a successful nest in Tower 4 (stack replacement tower) with at least 2 fledglings!

Chimney Repairs and Cleanings

Two chimneys were repaired on the Orange Block building in Brandon early spring 2021. Once of these two chimneys is consistently used by swifts, and the second chimney was repaired as we commonly see swifts using nearby chimneys to roost once the young have fledged. In late spring/summer, we did see swifts using both newly repaired chimneys! It was not clear from observations if there was nesting in both chimneys (as opposed to roosts), but they were used throughout the season.

In Winnipeg in early spring 2021, we had a chimney repair at Maryland Foodfare. We were 3 for 3 on repaired chimneys this year, as our monitor at that site also documented 2 swifts using this chimney during our MCSI nights.

In Swan River in early spring 2021 we had a chimney repaired at a commercial building where a swift was seen entering a chimney in 2020 by a volunteer. Unfortunately, there were no signs of swift use reported by the building owner in 2021, but we will keep checking in to see if the swift(s) return.

A chimney was also cleaned at a private residence in Winnipeg that has hosted nesting Chimney Swifts for many years.

Outreach

Outreach continued to be the main part of our program impacted by COVID-19 this year due to gatherings and in-person presentations to schools and community groups being limited. Outreach opportunities were largely limited to one-on-one outreach with volunteers and building owners. MCSI had three Chimney Swift Champions this year, Joanne Tuckwell for her work with the Chimney Swifts at Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site, the Watson Arts Centre in Dauphin as excellent Chimney Swift hosts, and last but not least, Sean Charlebois in Swan River, whose building chimney was repaired this spring and hosted the most northerly Chimney Swifts identified by our program.

Steering Committee

In 2021 we welcomed 3 new members to our Steering Committee. Laura Burns and Ashleigh Westphal joined us from Assiniboine Park Zoo, and Joanne Tuckwell has joined us from Parks

Canada. A big thank you to the three of them, along with our longstanding committee comprising of Christian Artuso (Chair), Tim Poole, Rob and Barb Stewart, Nicole Firlotte, Ron Bazin, Frank Machovec, Ken de Smet, Jack Dubois, Lewis Cocks, and Neil Butchard. Also, a big thank you to Frank Machovec for his continued work on managing our website and keeping our blog readers informed online.

MANITOBA BLUEBIRD FUND

Report by Don Himbeault

The Manitoba Bluebird Fund (MBF) was established in 2011 by Nature Manitoba and was made possible by the donations of Elva and Guent Salzmann whose vision was to stop, and more importantly reverse, the continuing decline in the numbers songbirds in Manitoba. Since its inception, the fund has encouraged the planting of trees and shrubs that provide food and habitat for Manitoba songbirds, by both subsidizing the purchase of trees by private land owners, and by the purchase of trees and shrubs for other planting campaigns on public land, which in the past has included places such as Henteliff Park and the S.O.S. Rain Garden. Other initiatives the fund has supported are the Manitoba Chimney Swift program and the Friends of the Bluebirds located in Brandon.

It was with great sadness that on 18 November of 2020, Mr. Salzmann passed away peacefully in Vital just 10 days shy of his 101st birthday. However, Mr. Salzmann's vision will continue on thanks to the fund that he started for the benefit of birds in need of our help. In fact, Mr. Salzamann bequeathed a significant contribution to capital fund of the MBF being held by the Winnipeg foundation, which will effectively triple the yearly spending budget of the MBF in future years.

In 2021, the MBF private landowner tree campaign continued to be popular, and has encouraged the planting of approximately 75 new trees. Where before the tree subsidy program was paid out in two installments to the homeowner (50% at initial purchase, balance after 3 years), the MBF committee decided for the 2022 campaign the program will commit to subsidizing the purchase of up to 75 eligible trees with a one-time subsidy of up to \$100 to the homeowner at the time of purchase.

The MBF committee meets formally as required through the year to review ongoing programs and to decide future spending initiatives. The fund will also continue support to the Manitoba Chimney Swift Initiative with a grant of \$5,000 over two years (2021 and 2022) where the funds will provide a base amount that can be matched with other funding requests to provide and even greater impact.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Engaging Inner-City Youth in Stewardship

Report by Taja Hanine

Field Trips

In fall 2021, field trips were again offered through BTG. We began a new partnership in 2021 with FortWhyte Alive and were able to offer 4 field trips at FortWhyte. The field trip curriculum changed due to the location change and is now offered in the morning through FortWhyte's staff where the students participate in the "Adapt or Die" program. Lunch then follows where the students eat outside the Interpretive center and the afternoon is a guided "Bison Tour" done by BTG's staff. The afternoon consists of a hike to explore around the field in which the bison are found. The participating schools in fall 2021 were Machray school, Arthur E. Wright, Isaac Brock and Weston schools.

Seed Starting

Seed starting continued in spring 2021. BTG provided all necessary materials to classrooms and went down to the schools to show the students how to start seeds and take care of them until they are ready to be transplanted into the gardens. All classes were done outside to respect COVID rules inside the schools. Twenty different classes participated in this programming. Many seeds were started in the greenhouse at the Program manager's house and taken care of over winter and spring to ensure there would be enough plants for the gardens.

Gardening

Gardening was again continued in 2021, although teaching was limited due to the schools only having certain students in the school. Some schools adapted and projects were continued using students from different grades to assist the grade 4 students that were present at the school. Some of the participating schools had many students remain in the schools and the program was continued as it is regularly. Several projects were completed and new gardens planted.

The new projects included:

Isaac Brock School: BTG's manager and the grade 4 teacher from Isaac Brock built four new garden boxes at the school. Students worked hard to move soil into the boxes and plant their gardens. They were very successful as there was a good maintenance system over the summer.

Shaughnessy Park School: Two new garden boxes were built as a beautification plan for the school. BTG program manager and volunteers were responsible for the building of the boxes and

the students moved the soil and planted the gardens. These gardens were also very successful and very well maintained. The project will be finished in spring of 2022.

Victoria Albert School: A plan for an outdoor learning space was created and construction began in 2021. BTG helped move many garden boxes, dig up and set up a space for outdoor learning. Soil was brought in and students helped move it and plant the gardens. The gardens were mostly successful but there were a few issues with vandalism over the summer. The project should be completed in spring 2022.

Norquay School:

A project was started, and completed in spring 2021, to have a sacred medicine garden at Norquay school. Three garden boxes were built, containing sweetgrass, tobacco and sage and 2 cedars were planted on either side. The principal of the school, a Knowledge Keeper, came outside before and after the students planted, where we participated in a smudge and the gardens and plants were blessed. Though there were only a few students to help with the gardening and the moving of the soil at that school, they worked very hard and did a fantastic job.

Weston School: A new pollinator garden was put in at Weston, along the side of the school. Students helped dig up weeds, turn the existing soil and move the new soil. They also helped plant and water the new plants that got put in. Although it will take a couple years before the plants really establish themselves, the garden was a beautiful addition to the school and plants were provided by Prairie Originals.

King Edward School: King Edward school had two projects going for the year. One was weeding and replanting their medicine wheel, which was meant to be a school project, but schools shut down before the project began and, so, it was mostly done by BTG's staff and volunteers. The other part of the project was adding new soil to the back garden boxes. Soil was moved by BTG's staff and volunteers, and gardens were planted by the students. Watering remains a problem at that school and so summer maintenance was very difficult and the gardens did not have an abundance of success.

William Whyte School:

A pollinator garden was started at William Whyte and BTG went to help with that. Although the plants were provided by a grant the school had gotten, BTG still assisted in the technical aspects of the gardening. Several different classrooms came out to help with the planting and the gardens were a great success.

Although less schools participated this year, because of the COVID situation, more classrooms of the students that were left in the school, were invited to come out and help and the projects were quite large. We worked with several different grades and are hoping this will help everyone take care of the gardens in the future.

Harvesting

Harvesting was offered again in the fall of 2021. BTG went down to participating schools and helped with all harvesting activities, such as, picking plants, taking out annuals and composting them, turning up the soil, and prepping the gardens for the following season. There were six participating schools and eight different classes. There are lower numbers, again in 2021, as schools were busy organizing their classrooms for another year with COVID.

BTG News

2021 was a difficult year for Bridging the Gap as we lost two of our very valued staff and volunteers. Les McCann and Joe McLellan both passed in 2021. They were both very loved by our staff, volunteers, teachers and students and will be forever missed.

Grantors

At this time, BTG extends a big thank you to grantors; The Winnipeg Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment, Province of Manitoba's Heritage grant, Manitoba Hydro, Caisse Financial and The Red River Co-op whose grants enabled us to offer programming throughout 2020; as well as our in-kind donations from Prairie Originals and the City of Winnipeg.

For more information about our program and what we offer, please visit our website at: www.btgwinnipeg.ca

COMMUNICATIONS

Report by Lynsay Perkins

2021 was a year of pivoting and adapting for communications at Nature Manitoba. With changing COVID-19 restrictions, and the re-opening of some of our programs, it was more essential than ever to ensure our online information was up to date. Thankfully, we had some exceptional volunteers who amended their program information/policies frequently and made every effort to get changes into our office promptly. Thank you to those volunteers, especially Kevin and Anita Miller and Katrina Froese.

We once again published 12 issues of our e-newsletter, Nature Manitoba News, and our list of subscribers has grown to more than 2600 subscribers. Thank you to those who contributed to our newsletter content, as well as our regular contributors for photos, articles, and reports. A big thank you to Deanna Dodgson for her hard work on the newsletter this past year! Deanna is

working on the newly revived Newsletter Committee, and we are looking forward to expanding the Committee in 2022.

Following our 100th anniversary last year, it became clear that doing a major office re-organization would help us make our historical items more accessible for the future, and would help us streamline our current operations. Communications has taken the lead on this project, and all the office staff have been working hard sorting, archiving, digitizing, and cleaning out old filing cabinets. This is the first step toward a more digital and accessible office space, and effectively managing Nature Manitoba's information.

We would also like to welcome John Schulz. John is supporting Communications and the NM office in working toward digital upgrades to our programs and administration.

Another project that has taken up a lot of time for communications has been doing a website audit and site map. Using Google Analytics, we have also done a thorough analysis of the site and interpreted the results. We have identified key areas for site improvements, and created a meaningful plan for site optimization based on user data.

I look forward to continuing to work on these and other important projects in 2022.

HABITAT CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Report by Marilyn Latta

The focus of the Habitat Conservation Committee had been primarily on the conservation of tall grass prairie, and management of the 880 acres of prairie owned by Nature Manitoba in the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve.

Title to these lands was transferred to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) with the final documents being signed early in 2021. A cash donation of \$70,000 was also provided to NCC, from the Paul Guyot Fund for Habitat Conservation, to establish a trust to provide for future management costs of the lands.

The Paul Guyot Fund for Habitat Conservation was initially started in 1990 for the purpose of providing funding for taxes and management of lands owned by Nature Manitoba and for acquisition or leasing of wildlife lands. Its mandate was later expanded to include special projects related to habitat conservation. The approximately \$125,000 remaining in the endowment fund will still provide an income of approximately \$5000/year to the Habitat Conservation Committee. The Committee has been investigating how to best utilize this income in a manner consistent with the original goal of habitat conservation.

Nature Manitoba continues to be a part of the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Steering Committee and is currently represented by Marilyn Latta.

Resolutions

"Whereas Nature Manitoba no longer owns large parcels of land and subsequently does not need a large stable income to pay for taxes and management fees"

"Whereas there is still income from the Paul Guyot Endowment Fund which could be beneficial in restoring or managing native habitats"

"Whereas the current Terms of Reference only allow for management costs on wildlife habitat lands owned by Nature Manitoba"

"Whereas any changes in the terms of reference for the Paul Guyot Endowment Fund require approval by a majority of the members at an Annual General Meeting of Nature Manitoba.

"Be it resolved that Nature Manitoba adopt the proposed amendments to broaden the Terms of Reference, while remaining consistent with the original intent of conserving native habitat".

Proposed Amendments to Terms of Reference

Paul Guyot Endowment Fund for Habitat

Please note:

Sections to be removed will be identified with ~~strikethrough~~.

Sections to be added will be identified in **bold**.

All references to "Manitoba Naturalists Society" have been update to "Nature Manitoba".

The purpose of the Paul Guyot Endowment Fund for Habitat is to provide **Nature Manitoba** with an ongoing and stable source of income for the purpose of covering expenses which are incurred ~~by the society~~ in owning land and managing ~~wildlife~~ **native** habitat.

The principal of the fund shall remain intact and only the interest from the fund shall be expended each year. The Habitat Conservation Committee shall make recommendations to the board about allocating the interest and all expenditures must be approved by the board. The following uses would be applicable and are listed in order of priority:

1. For payment of taxes on land owned by **Nature Manitoba** for the purpose of preserving ~~wildlife~~ **native** habitat.
2. For management of ~~wildlife~~ **native** habitat owned by **Nature Manitoba**. Management activities may include fencing, weed control, signage, and restoration, and may also include the hiring of personnel to carry out the above duties.
3. For acquisition and leasing of ~~wildlife~~ **native** habitat including the legal fees involved.
4. ~~"To finance special projects involving preservation of wildlife habitat or education on the value of wildlife habitat."~~ **"To finance projects involving conservation, restoration and/or management of native habitat or education on the value of native habitat."**

Funds must not be used for any purposes other than those specified above. Any money not used within a given year may be carried over to the next year or returned to the endowment fund. Any changes to the terms of reference for this fund, or use of the funds for purposes other than those specified above, must be approved by a majority of the members at an Annual General Meeting of **Nature Manitoba**.

NOMINATIONS

2022/2023 Proposed Slate of Officers

EXECUTIVE (1 year term)

President	Sandy HayGlass
Executive Vice President	Don Himbeault
Vice President	James Whitelaw
Treasurer	Andre Laberge
Secretary	Katrina Froese
Past President	Jack Dubois

BOARD MEMBERS (3 year terms)

Term ending Mar/2025	Term ending Mar/2023
Maria Mitousis	Christian Artuso
Meredith Stoesz	Marika Olynyk
John Schulz	

DONORS 2021

Olive Arendt
Yvette Berube
John Bourbonnais
Stewart Bramwell
Carol & Dale Brown
Winston Burleigh
Bryon Burvill
Linda Cameron
Alexander Campbell
Shirley Carson
Cheryl & Gerry Chesney
Gary & Fiona Crow
Linda Curtis
Vivek Dabral
Donna Danyluk
Gary Day
Ken De Cruyenaere
Catherine Dewar
Mary Dixon
Peter Douglas
Leonard Dueck
Alfred Dyck
Beverley & Will Eert
Davilyn Eyolfson
Jill Faber
Susan Finlay
Margaret Fisher
Aden Fulford
Pat & John Gray
Miriam Greene
Herta & Peter Guduakas
Ellen & Arthur Hanson
Tony Hawrychko
Carol Hichon
Elizabeth Hiltz
Loretta Humeniuk

Phyllis Hunter
Johanna Hurme
Harry Ingleby
Karen Johnson
Janis Kaminsky
Lindsey Keopke
Jacqueline Krindle
Diane Kunic
Andre Laberge
Evelyn Labun
Robert & Patricia Lamb
Tom Laver
William Legge
Katheryn Lesyk
Alain Louer
Cathy Lovatt
Donna MacKinnon
Karen Mackintosh
Joanne Thiessen Martens
Laura Meuckon
Michelle Mico
Peter Miller
William Miller
Gary J. Mills
Grant Mohr
Liz Morash
Doris Orchyk
Bruce Piercy
Annabelle Pirie
Timothy Poole
Muriel Redwood
Julie Reid
Stanley Reimer
Mile & Janet Rendulic
Ed & Christina Sanwell
Elizabeth Schirmer

Katharine & John Schulz
Ken Schykulski & Danielle Papin
Kelvin Seifert
Tirzah Sharpe
John Shearer
Brian Simmons
Ray Sokalski
Allen Spigelman
Shelley Tallin
Andy & Ruby Tekauz
Betsy & Brad Thorsteinson
Roger Turenne
Brian Wagg
Marlene Waldron
Shelley Walker
Ian Ward
Geraldine Weigeldt
Josephine Wright

Benevity Community Impact
Feed the Birds
Premier Removal
Red River Co-operative
The Estate of Guenther Salzmann
The Patvin Foundation
The Wpg Foundation
The Wpg Foundation on behalf of
MacDonald & CaGeorge Fund
Webster Lyons Fund
Puchniak Family fund