



THE MINNESOTA SHARPTAILER

Spring Fling 2017– Celebrating 30 Years of Conservation

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MSGS Board

Coordinators &

Regional Representatives

Roche Lally, President
 Dave Pauly, Vice President
 Vacant, Secretary
 Vacant, Treasurer
 Matt Breuer, Web Coordinator
 Bill Berg, Honorary Director
 Bill Faber, Student Advisor
 Bill Goldberg, Accountant
 Dave Dickey, Membership
 Jodie Provost, MN DNR Rep.
 Melissa Koelsch, Newsletter
 Ward Julian, Acquisition &
 Magazine
 Regional Representatives TBD

2017 SPRING FLING - YOU'RE INVITED! April 29 at St. Croix State Park Meeting Agenda & Registration Form Enclosed

Thank you for your continued support of sharp-tailed grouse and brushland habitat conservation. Enclosed you will find information about a very special 30 year anniversary Spring Fling celebration. We hope to see you there!

Gather your flock and plan to join us at St. Croix State Park April 29th & 30th for a gala gathering at Norway Point Group Camp, the site of our first society membership meeting. This year marks a great milestone for MSGS as we celebrate 30 years of sharptail conservation! It seemed quite fitting to return to the site where the MSGS story began.

Festivities begin Saturday morning at 9:00 where coffee and rolls will be shared amongst ample conversation. In addition to visiting and catching up with fellow sharptail enthusiasts, members will have the opportunity to vote for new Board positions. The remainder of the day will be filled with presentations, discussions, and networking with brushland conservationists from MN, WI and perhaps MI and MB. At lunch time, a "build-Your Own Sandwich Bar" will be prepared with all the fixings. The afternoon agenda includes a MSGS Membership Meeting which includes updates of projects and election results.

As evening arrives, a social with fundraising raffles and auctions will occur around 5 PM. Some of the items include a German wire-haired puppy, handcrafted furniture and other outdoor items. A Smoked Barbequed Rib Dinner with beverages of your choice will be served as fundraising events take place. You are welcome to stay overnight in the cabins and enjoy a Sunday morning field trip of sharptail/habitat observation or savanna restoration in the Park .



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2017 MSGS SPRING FLING
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

Saturday- Sunday, April 29-30, 2017
St. Croix State Park –Norway Point Group Center, Mess Hall

Saturday – Spring Fling & 30th Celebration!

9:00 Registration, Coffee, Rolls & Visiting

9:30 Welcome – Roche Lally, MSGS President

9:35 MSGS History & Accomplishments – Founding Fathers, Roche Lally, Bill Berg & More

10:15 Grassland Bird Safari--from Sharptails to Seriemas – Carrol Henderson, MN DNR

10:55 Break

11:10 DNR Sharp-tailed Grouse & Brushland Vision – Paul Telander, MN DNR

11:35 Evaluation of Current Landscape Connectivity for MN Prairie Grouse – Charlotte Roy, MN DNR

12:00 Lunch – Build a Sandwich Bar

12:45 Sharp-tailed Grouse Breeding Habitat Selection & Survival – Lindsey Shartell, MN DNR

1:10 Omashkoozoog (“Prairie Moose”): Returning a Native – Mike Schrage, Fond Du Lac Band

1:35 St. Croix State Park Oak Savanna & Jack Pine Barrens Restoration Project – Rick Dunkley, MN DNR

2:00 Oak & Pine Savanna Restoration for Pollinators – Anna Hess, MN DNR

2:25 Connections with Crex Meadow Wildlife Area & NW Sands of Wisconsin – Bob Hanson & Steve Hoffman, WI DNR

2:50 Break

3:05 *Our Next 30 Years* & Sharptail/Brushland Manager Reports – Open to All (5 minutes each)

4:00 MSGS Membership Meeting & Board Election Results

5:00 Social Begins (Fundraiser with Raffle Tickets & Silent Auction Ongoing All Day)

5:30 Supper - Barbeque Ribs

7:00 Fundraiser Done, Socialize, Sign Up for Field Trips, Stay Over, or Travel Safely Home to Roost

Sunday – Optional Morning Field Trips

7:30 Coffee & Rolls - Mess Hall

8:00 Choice of Tours: SCSP Savanna Restoration (1 hour) OR Past/Recent Leks & Projects (2 hours)

MSGS 2017 Spring Fling/30th Anniversary Celebration

Fundraiser

You are invited to join us for not only a day of friendship and information sharing by fellow sharptail and brushland enthusiasts, but also an evening of fundraising and delicious barbequed rib supper. All funds raised will be critical to completing habitat projects by MSGS and partners. Contributions can provide match for Conservation Partnership Legacy grants and assist with closing costs on brushland tracts protected with the MSGS/PF FY15 Outdoor Heritage grant.

The highlight of the fundraiser will be raffle of a German Wirehaired Pointer Pup. It will be an 'At The Event Only' raffle and handled entirely by the pup owners. You will absolutely need to hold and cuddle this pup!

In addition, raffle tickets for the below items are available in this newsletter and will also be available at the Spring Fling. Feel free to make copies of the enclosed tickets. On them, one prize item per ticket, from the below list, can be designated. Tickets are \$5/ticket or \$20 for five tickets.

Tickets can be returned by mail to Jodie Provost, 27267 Spruce Grove Road, Aitkin, MN 56431, along with your Spring Fling registration form if attending, or returned at the Spring Fling.

Plenty of silent auction items will also be offered. Winners will be announced that evening. Except for the puppy raffle, raffle participants need not be present to win.

Raffle Items

German Wirehaired Pointer Pup (Hard Point Kennel –Jay & Sheila Martin)

Hand-painted Sharp-tailed Grouse Print (Ross Heir)

Leupold Golden Ring HD Spotting Scope 12-40x 60mm armored w/tripod & hard case (In Rob Naplin's Memory)

Artisan-crafted 38"x28"x18" reclaimed lumber & safety glass taxidermy display case/table (The Rustic Way)

F. LLIPIETTA Custom Remington 1858 Cap & Ball .44 cal Revolver in Presentation Case (P. Kliest/SNG Guns)

Guided Fishing Trip (Northcountry Guide Service – Matt Breuer)

Gift certificate for taxidermy bird mount (Woods & Water Taxidermy)

Dancing Sharptails Photo Print (Beau Liddle) in custom wood frame (The Rustic Way) -- 40"x20" dimension

Unique barn wood/birch bark octagonal taxidermy mount wall panel (The Rustic Way) – 26"x26" dimension

Framed Print – Prairie Chickens in the Hills – 27"x21" (MSGS)

Barn Wood Framed 'Owen Gromme' Killdeer Family Print (D.C. Pauly)

Plus expect at least six more unique and interesting items!

We encourage/invite all members to feel free to copy & print additional Raffle Tickets to promote/sell more fundraising opportunities for the MSGS.

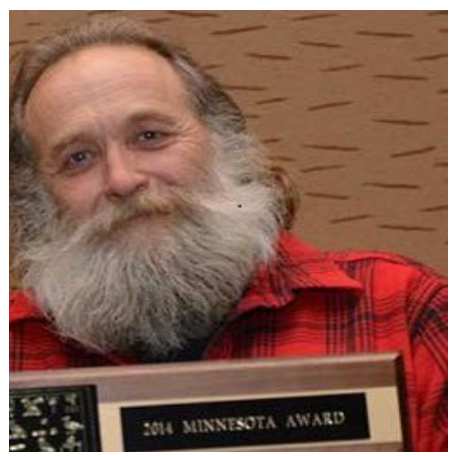
Your MSGS 2017 Candidates for Board of Directors

MSGS honors the past, respects the dedication and hard work of its founders, and now looks to the future with continued hope and dedication due to the time and talents offered by these very passionate and skilled Board of Director candidates.

Two methods of voting are available: 1. At the Spring Fling on April 29 OR 2. On-line by noon on April 28 at www.surveymonkey.com/r/KKBHXL2

Election results will be announced at the MSGS Spring Fling Membership Meeting on April 29.

EXECUTIVES

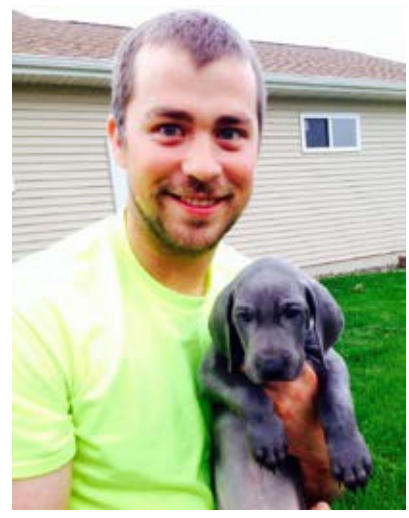


President (2 year term) - Dave Pauly

I have ~ 40 years of professional and personal involvement with STGR in MN. Spanning spring census and survey activities, hunter harvest bag checks, private and public lands habitat enhancement /development, and acquisitions. I am a retired MN DNR Wildlife Supervisor with a long history of being thoroughly intrigued by the ‘Species Richness’ of the brushland/openland environments. I am a Life Member of your MSGS and look forward to the exciting challenges the position of President will offer..

Vice President (1 year term now, then 2 year term thereafter) - Kyle Arola

I am currently Assistant Wildlife Area Manager at Thief Lake WMA. I have found that working with folks from a variety of backgrounds and experiences can greatly facilitate achieving a common goal. Many habitat management practices used in my current position are geared towards early successional species, including sharp-tailed grouse. It is rewarding, and encouraging, to see wildlife respond positively to management practices. I would be honored to serve as Vice President for MSGS and be a voice for the future of sharp-tailed grouse.



Treasurer (2 year term) - Derek Frost

When I took the position in Aitkin as the Assistant Wildlife Manager last spring, I admit I had never had the opportunity to observe a sharp-tail on a lek prior to running our surveys. When I pulled up to the spot where the GPS said there was a lek, I found myself looking out over a plowed agricultural field. I thought I would quickly realize that there is no sharp-tailed grouse here and move on. To my surprise, I saw a flash of white in my binoculars while scanning the field and found myself mesmerized, watching the males dancing on the lek. I was amazed, and slightly amused, by how coordinated their efforts were and their stomping little feet. After what seemed like 20 minutes of watching them, I realizing I had a limited amount of time to visit my other leks that morning. I had to pry my eyes away and record 19 sharp-tailed grouse on my data sheet.

It is a memory that I will never forget, and one that will continue to excite me come April. It is a memory that I hope to share with my wife this spring, and with my 9 month old son when he becomes old enough to hold a pair of binoculars. It is with this thought that I would like to become involved with the MSGS in the hopes that there will be sharp-tailed grouse to amaze and amuse me, my family, and many more people for years to come.

Candidates Continued...

Secretary (1 year term now, then 2 year term thereafter) - **Martha Minchak**



I am currently an Assistant Area Wildlife Manager in Duluth. I have been with the MN DNR for over 30 years, working from the prairie to the forest but mostly in brushland systems and managing for Sharp-tailed Grouse and other openlands wildlife. I am a life member of the MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Society. MSGS is the primary organization championing and giving voice to brushlands and openlands wildlife in Minnesota.

I would be honored to serve as your Secretary and to be part of the team working to maintain openlands and Sharptails on the landscape now and into the future.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

NE MN (2 year term) - **Jeremy Maslowski**

I hail from rural Little Falls, and currently reside on Lake Vermilion near Tower where I am one of two Assistant Area Wildlife Managers with the MN DNR. I began my education with an A.A.S. in Natural Resources Technology at Central Lakes Community College in Brainerd, continued on to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where to complete my B.S in Wildlife Ecology Research & Management and then receive an M.S. in Natural Resources Management from North Dakota State University.

I've done seasonal stints with Agassiz and Seney National Wildlife Refuges in Minnesota and Michigan, respectively as well as the Morris Wetland Management District, smoke chased with MN DNR Forestry in Backus Area and was a Waterfowl Technician at Mississippi State University. I also has worked for the 1854 Treaty Authority across northeastern Minnesota as a Fish and Wildlife Technician prior to joining DNR Wildlife in 2015. Among many other wildlife projects going on across my work area, I assist with managing the Sax-Zim WMA complex for sharp-tails and many other boreal and bog bird species. In my spare time I enjoy fishing year round on Lake Vermilion, dark house spearing, snowmobiling, backpacking, and waterfowl hunting. I was first introduced to MSGS in the winter of 2006-2007 at a brush cut event while a young, shy college student and have only missed two since then while living outstate.



Candidates Continued...



NW MN (1 year term now, then 2 year term thereafter) - **Scott Laudenslager**

I was the Assistant Wildlife manager at Norris Camp for 20 years and have been the Baudette Area Wildlife Manager for six years. Sharp tailed grouse and brushland management need help and deserve more attention.

These are the reasons I want to be the NW Representative for the Minnesota Sharp tailed Grouse Society. My goal is to raise brushland management awareness and importance. I will help tear down walls and don't expect Canada or other states to pay for it. No fake news and/or alternative facts and the media is not the enemy. I will not ask any

billionaires for their advice. I just want their political influence and money so acquisitions can happen. Contact me at (218) 395-0742 if you have any ideas for getting brush land management.


SW MN (2 year term) - **Walt Gessler**

Over the past 25+ years I have held several positions with Minnesota DNR, including a Smoke Chaser in Mora, MCC in Cambridge, Seasonal Laborer in Hinckley, Shallow Lake Survey Crew at Carlos Avery, Assistant Wildlife Manager in Ely and Tower, Roving Crew Supervisor in Region 4 and presently the Wildlife Area Supervisor at Lac qui Parle WMA. I am passionate about the use of fire and its role in managing wildlife habitat and plant communities. A couple of important issues that I feel needs to be moved forward to maintain wildlife habitat and plant communities across Minnesota's landscape are private landowners gaining the desire, knowledge, skills and abilities to manage their own land with conservation groups and public agencies providing a foundation, conservation groups and public agencies continuing to work together, expansion of public land base, improvements in soil health and water quality across the agricultural landscape and monitoring both federal and state legislatures. I presently reside in Montevideo with my wife Kathy and 9 year old black lab Nellie. My daughter is presently in a PhD. program in genetics at Iowa State in Ames.

I have been a member of MSGS for a number of years and am presently the Wildlife Manager at Lac qui Parle WMA. Lac qui Parle likely represents the southern extent of the present Sharp-tail range in Minnesota. I feel I could provide a unique perspective from this part of the birds range to the Board. Our prairie restorations efforts via tree removal, prescribed burning and prairie restorations continue to provide unexpected surprises as we open up this landscape. The information that we learn out here would be useful to the board and I feel I am in a good position to report on this region.




SE MN (1 year term now, then 2 year term thereafter) - **No candidates**



Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____
 Choose and write in one raffle item/ticket from the List in this Newsletter. Call Dave Pauly at 320-279-1777 if q questions.

Raffle Selection _____


MSGS Spring Fling Raffle
30 Years of Conservation
 Saturday 29 April 2017
 St. Croix State Park
 1 ticket for \$5/ 5 tickets for \$20
The Firebirds thank you!



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2017 MSGS SPRING FLING: *CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CONSERVATION*

REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday – Sunday, April 29-30, 2017

St. Croix State Park –Norway Pine Group Camp, Mess Hall

30065 St. Croix Park Road, Hinckley, MN

Your registration by April 15 is greatly appreciated to plan accordingly for meals and cabins.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email (for newsletters) _____

REGISTRATION: \$20 per attendee (refreshments, meals, facility) = \$ _____

CABIN: \$5/night x _____ nights = \$ _____

Cabins are first arrive/first select. Five cabins near Mess Hall have electricity, no heat & use Central Bathroom/Shower House, except the Staff Quarters Cabin has a bathroom (sleeps 11). Farther Guest House #2 also available, & has heat & bathrooms (holds 12). Bring bedding, towels & TP. Space heaters, alcoholic beverages & pets allowed (but pets not in buildings).

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Regular \$15, Contributing \$50, Sustaining \$100, Sponsor \$200 or Life \$500 = \$ _____

RAFFLE TICKETS: \$5/Ticket or \$20 for 5 Tickets = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ = \$ _____

Enclose check (payable to MSGS) & mail this registration form by April 15 to:

Jodie Provost, 27267 Spruce Grove, Aitkin, MN 56431.

Raffle tickets & money can be also be mailed to the above address or brought to Spring Fling.

Feel free to bring prairie grouse/outdoor enthusiast items for the fundraiser. Thank you!

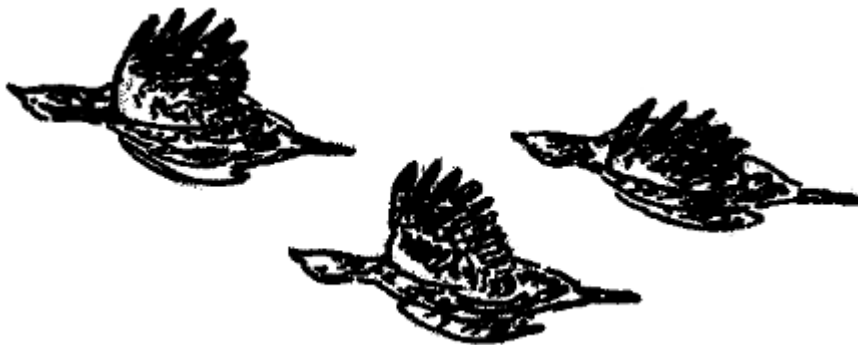
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Park Info: Park stickers not required for Spring Fling attendees. Directions: 15 mi. E of Hinckley on Hwy. 48, then 5 mi. S on Co. Rd. 22, Phone 320-384-659, Email stcroix.statepark@state.mn.us, Website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/st_croix/index.html

Other Accommodations in Hinckley: Grand Casino (320-384-7771), Grand Hinckley Inn (800-468-3517), Days Inn (320-279-8392), Americas Best Value Inn (320- 384-6112)

Questions: Contact Jodie Provost at 218-838-3553.

Minnesota Sharp-tailed
Grouse Society
Celebrating 30 years of
Conservation!



PAPERLESS NOTICE
MSGSG strives to contribute as much financial support as possible to aid in sharp-tailed grouse and brush-land conservation. In an effort to decrease postage costs, newsletters will be distributed to members via email starting with the **2018 Winter Newsletter**. Magazines will continue to be printed and distributed through the mail. If you have any concerns please contact MSGSG (mailing address located on page 7).

MN Sharp-tailed Grouse Society
P.O. Box 3338
Duluth, MN 55803

Stamp

Address Label

Address Service Requested