



MINNESOTA PRAIRIE CHICKEN SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Spring 2003 Vol. 29, No.2

COME JOIN US FOR THE
30TH ANNUAL MPCS MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2003
TWIN VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
TWIN VALLEY, MN

MEETING AGENDA

TO THE BOOMING GROUNDS

5:30 AM Depart from TV Community Center
(one block southwest of the water tower)

MORE BOOMING AND CLUCKING

8:30 Registration Begins & Coffee

9:30 Welcome & Call to Order
Brian Winter, President

10:00 Pre and Post Settlement Years
Dean Sather

10:40 Break

10:55 Restoration Efforts for the NTGB
Ross Hier

11:20 Grassland Conservation Issues
of the Great Plains *Kurt Forman*

11:45 Prairie Life: Inspirational Slides
Brian & Lois Winter

FORAGING & LOAFING

12:00 PM Lunch (on own - local restaurant)

1:30 Business Meeting

DISPERSAL

3:00 Adjourn



FEATHER FEATURES

TOWARD A BALANCED LANDSCAPE

*It took Grady Mann 30 years to write about
the role total land use plays in the
retention of prairie wetlands* PAGE 3

AN APPRECIATION OF GRADY MANN

*Harold Duebbert waxes poetic about his 40 year
friendship with Grady Mann and relates their
experiences into ethical words of
wisdom for the future*

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WHOOPS FROM THE EDITOR: A TECHNOLOGICAL MARVEL

By RONDA DORSEY

Thirty years and counting...

To commemorate this special occasion, I am bringing an old friend to this year's annual meeting: my Panasonic RQ-2309 Cassette Recorder. This ole machine, circa 1983, has been recently resurrected from my closet abyss. Despite the dust bunnies and cobwebs, this childhood comrade will soon provide an invaluable service to the Society.

On April 26, you will have an opportunity to contribute to the *Memory Notebook on Tape*. In essence, it is an effort to collect thoughts about how the prairie chicken has affected members' lives. Do you recall the first time you heard the *whoop whoops* carried by a prairie wind? Is there a hunting story that cannot be retold without mention of a prairie chicken's antics? Or have you ever been moved by the flutter of a freshly preened feather? If so, my friend will listen.

Though the quality may be less than its digitally engineered successors, the results will suffice two main objectives: to record your personal thoughts; and to oblige our future members with a candid account of the past thirty years. Imagine how wonderful it will be to *hear* our *Memory Book* at the 2013, 2023, and 2033 annual meetings! I know I'll be there with my buddy, the technological marvel, poised...ready to press PLAY.

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TOWARD A BALANCED LANDSCAPE

By GRADY E. MANN

Submitted by Harold F. Duebbert

Secure the stream valleys. Protect their wooded bluffs and coulees. Adjust uses of the bottomlands to minimize losses. Protect prairie marshlands, natural reservoirs holding water on the land. Farm the best land. Retire the poor land, adjusting it to more appropriate long-term uses. Permanently protect from wind erosion the prairie light-soiled prairie zones. Assure a long-term distribution of marshes within all zones; this to add a degree of diversity to all locales. Reject the thinking that a person can always travel to the next farm to enjoy green space; replace this with concepts assuring well distributed wetlands and other green space on all ownerships. Plan with zones and goals to show where man should not trespass with certain operations. But, at the same time, constantly plan realistically to show him where he can proceed within natural constraints of the land and within long-term interests.



Wetland and uplands of the prairie pothole region are always intermingled. Thus, total land use of a specific locale plays a key role for retention of prairie wetlands. That tie is inseparable.

AN APPRECIATION OF GRADY MANN

By HAROLD F. DUEBBERT

The above, *Toward a Balanced Landscape*, came to me in a package of mail from my long-time friend Grady Mann on April 19, 2002. After reading it several times, I thought it contained too much wisdom to just sit in a file cabinet. So I called Grady and asked his permission to give it a wider distribution, which he did. On the margin of the copy he sent me he penned these words, "The one that took me 30 years to write." In August, 1974, Grady and I traveled several hundred miles together in Saskatchewan where he was doing a province wide wetland inventory. During those travels we talked about many of the ideas that he later put on paper. He told me recently that much of the writing was done while sitting on a hill in the prairie. He further stated that, "the only place to think is on a prairie hill (or the equivalent)."

If ecologists and geologists had controlled settlement of the United States, it would have been done with more respect for nature's rhythms.

Our friendship began in 1960 when we were attending a Regional conference of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in which we were both employed. After several hours of listening to talks about administrative details, Grady said to me, "We have been in here two days and I haven't heard the word 'duck' yet." From that I thought we were kindred spirits with minds on what was happening to prairie wetlands and prairie grasslands. We were both working in the Small Wetland Acquisition

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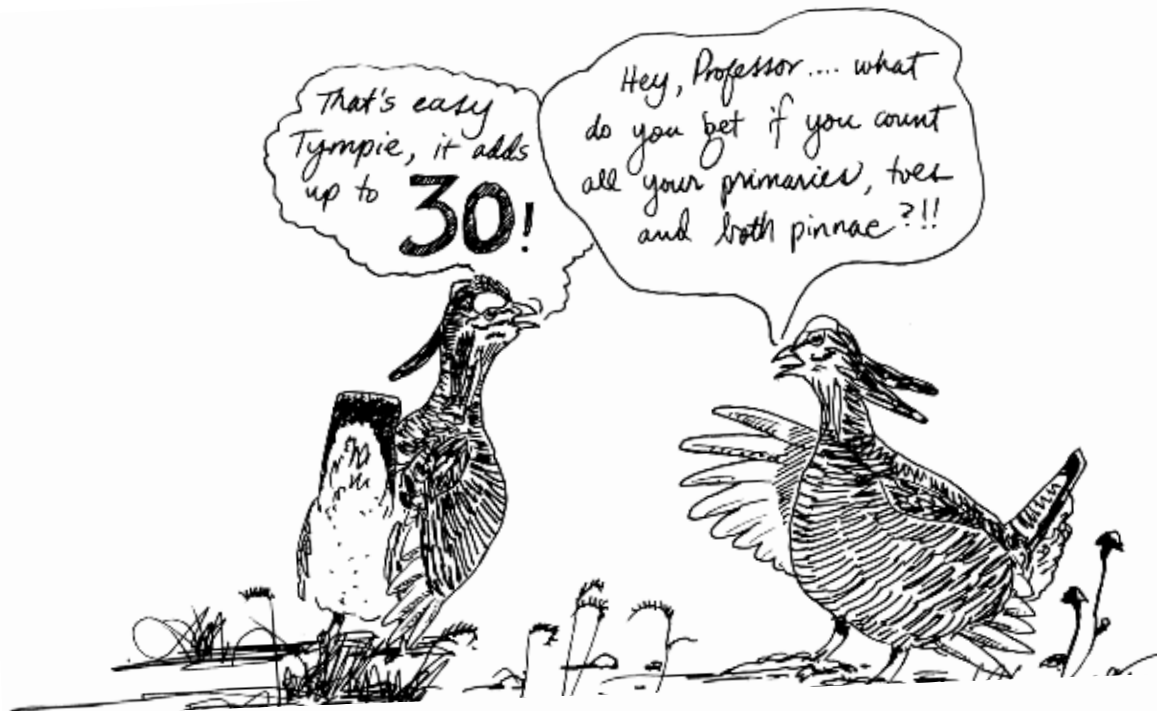
AN APPRECIATION OF GRADY MANN

Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Grady was Supervisor of the Fergus Falls, MN office, and I was a Wildlife Biologist/Wetland Manager at the Devils Lake, ND office.

During the ensuing 40-some years, Grady and I have spent many a pleasurable and memorable days together a field. He is the one who introduced me to the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area and we shared several canoe trips there. In 1993 and 1999, we canoed two different sections of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Area on the Missouri River below Fort Benton, MT. In the spring of the past several years, we have viewed together the spectacular concentrations of snow geese in southeastern North Dakota and northeastern South Dakota. Along with the geese, of course, we looked at all of the different species of prairie ducks and other wetland related birds. *CONTINUED ON PAGE 5*

THE ADVENTURES OF TYMPIE NUCHUS

By ROSS HIER



Happy 30th, MPCS!!!



MPCS 30TH ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

PRE-REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED BY APRIL 15TH

(INCLUDES COFFEE & ROLLS, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP, AND ELIGIBILITY FOR EARLY BIRD DRAWING - WHEN
POSTMARKED BY 4/15/03)

NAME _____ REGISTRATION: \$15 _____

ADDRESS _____ ADDITIONAL DONATION: _____

_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE EARLY MORNING FIELD TRIP? Yes _____ No _____

TWIN VALLEY IS ON MN HWY 32, 47 MILES NORTH WEST OF DETROIT LAKES, OR
46 MILES NORTH EAST OF MOORHEAD.

RETURN TO: MPCS, c/o EARL JOHNSON, 14583 Co. HWY 19, DETROIT LAKES, MN 56501

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AN APPRECIATION OF GRADY MANN

So, when Grady's note to me said that *Toward a Balanced Landscape* was, "The one that took me thirty years to write," I knew that into the writing went the sum of observations gained during the hundreds of thousands of miles of auto-travel, many days wading in marshes or walking on the prairie, and reading of hundreds of books on related resource topics. I have often thought that if ecologists and geologists had controlled settlement of the United States, it would have been done with more respect for nature's rhythms. Since that was not the case, it is now necessary to correct some of man's inappropriate actions: wetlands are being restored, grasses are put back in the places it should have never been plowed, floodplains are evacuated, and so forth. I predict that such things will continue in the future and with it people will come to appreciate and respect the wisdom of Native Americans who preceded us on this land.

In my lifetime, I have read many books that are concerned with proper care of the earth and creating land use ethic. To me, Grady Mann's *Toward a Balanced Landscape* contains all of the essential elements and it is my hope that those people who make land use decisions will pay attention to the wisdom in it. I appreciate the fact Grady put his thoughts down and is willing to share it with others. It reminds me of a line from the book *For the Time Being* by Annie Dillard (1989), "Our circling periods are running out, but we can still leave footprints in a trail whose end we do not know."

Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society Membership

Your gift and membership will help! A \$10 or more tax deductible contribution will bring you the MPCS Newsletter and supports the Society's efforts to save Minnesota's prairie chickens and their habitats. The number in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label shows the year of your most recent membership. Renew your membership today!

**Changing addresses?
Please keep in touch!
Send your new address to:
Earl Johnson,
14583 Co. Hwy 19
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501**

Name: _____

Address: _____

YES	NO	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<i>I would like to make a membership contribution.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<i>I would like to contribute to the Prairie Chicken Restoration Project.</i>		
Total Enclosed: _____		

The Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society is a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization exempt from Federal Income tax as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions made to the Society are deductible by donors as provided in Section 170 of the Code. The Society's Federal Identification Number is 41-1327954. Please make your tax deductible checks payable to the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society. Send to Earl Johnson, Treasurer, 14583 Co. Hwy 19, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, 218/847-1578.



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