



PGTC Summer NEWSLETTER 2013

Greetings prairie grouse and I hope that things are fairly good where you are in your part of the grouse range. I try to be an optimist but there are some dark clouds on the horizon, here and there. Some of them are dust clouds according to stark photos that I've seen from Texas; quite reminiscent of the Dust Bowl. Rain clouds have pummeled parts of the Midwest, sending tons of additional topsoil to the Gulf of Mexico along with its loads of nutrients. As we know, some of these land use tragedies are the simple results of greed prompting land users to cultivate where they shouldn't and the loss of erodible acres being taken out of CRP. Other instances are due to climatic fluctuations and drought cycles; some of which may be related to climate change. Here in Minnesota we had a very late spring with late melting snow and cool temperatures following by drying winds and some serious wildfires. And then the heavy rains came in the chicken range in late May and early June. It could have been tough on broods. Time will tell.

But let's look hopeful towards the upcoming fall meeting of the 30th Prairie Grouse Technical Council Council and Conference scheduled for the University of Minnesota, Crookston from the 10th to the 13th of October. Crookston is the northwest corner of Minnesota; 25 miles from Grand Forks, ND and 80 miles from Canada. The campus is located near the transition of the tallgrass prairie, southern tip of the aspen parkland, and the northern tip of the deciduous forest. The meeting outline is as follows:

Third announcement!

**"Whooping it up on the
Minnesota prairie!"**

**30TH PGTC conference and meeting
Crookston, MN.**

10-13 October 2013

"Good works need not be done in a sepulchral atmosphere!"
-- Fred Hamerstrom



Hosts: Northwest Research and Outreach Center, U of MN; University of Minnesota, Crookston; Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society; and Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society. (with others to be added)

Thursday, 10 October:

Informal grazing and browsing social and registration. **Prairie Lounge, U of MN, Crookston (UMC)**. Food and drink in Nature Nook, weather permitting, otherwise in Prairie Lounge of Sargeant Student Center. Commencing at 5:30 p.m. and lasting until 9:00

Friday, 11 October:

7:30 - (Registration desk open at 7:00) **Breakfast in Bede Ballroom, UMC**

8:00 - Sessions commence in **Bede Ballroom**.

12:00 - **Lunch**

1:00 - 5:00 - Sessions

5:00-6:00 - Social and fun/fund raiser

6:00. Program and **banquet. Bede Ballroom, UMC**

Saturday, 12 October.

7:30 - **Breakfast in Bede Ballroom, UMC**

8:00 - 9:00 Business meeting in **Bede Ballroom**

9:00 Sessions commence.

12:00 - Lunch

1:00 Field trip to Glacial Ridge NWR and environs. Bus provided

5:30 Evening B-B-Q in the prairie. Catered.

Sunday, 13 October

Dispersal.

**THANKS AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS.
REGISTRATION DETAILS ARE STILL BEING REFINED SO STAY TUNED.**

DAN SVEDARSKY, CHAIR – 30TH PGTC

Third Call for Papers – 30th Prairie Grouse Technical Council

Abstracts for the 30th Prairie Grouse Technical Council meeting are now being accepted. **The deadline for receipt of the abstracts is 1 August 2013.** Authors will be notified about the acceptance of their submissions by 1 September. Selected papers will be scheduled at 20-minute intervals. Presentations should be limited to 15 minutes to allow 5 minutes for questions and comments. Speakers will be notified of the day, time, and location of their presentations.

An example of the abstract format is given below. First, give title in caps, double space, then provide author(s) and their affiliation. Capitalize all authors' names and state abbreviations. In cases of two or more authors, place an asterisk after the name of the person presenting the paper; then double space again and start the abstract. Do not indent any part of the abstract. Abstracts, including authors and title lines, should be no more than 250 words (including title and authors).

Following the abstract, provide the following information:

- 1) E-mail address (if available) for corresponding author
- 2) Full address of corresponding author
- 3) Telephone number of corresponding author
- 4) Type of presentation (Paper or Poster)
- 5) Audio-visual needs (E.G. SLIDE PROJECTOR, POWER-POINT PROJECTOR, OVERHEAD PROJECTOR, VIDEOTAPE PLAYER, AUDIO TAPE PLAYER, etc.)
- 6) Any additional comments about the presentation.

Abstracts should include a statement of objectives, brief description of methods used, presentation of results, and a summary of conclusions/inferences drawn.

Sample abstract:

ALL PROBLEMS OF PRAIRIE GROUSE RESOLVED.

I. M. SMART*, Dept. Biological Sciences, Slapout Univ., Slapout, OK 73848 USA, N. O. ITALL and D. UNNIT, Oklahoma Conservation Dept., Foraker, OK 74000 USA.

Biologists have been plagued by problems of prairie grouse conservation since time immemorial. Our research has shown that the solution to all of these problems is ...

imsmart@slapout.edu

I. M. Smart

Department of Biological Sciences

Phillips Building

123 Highway 270

Slapout, OK 73848

580-555-1212

Please e-mail abstracts to: **Emily Hutchins** in MSWord or plain text format. If you do not have e-mail available, you may mail the abstract (in the same format) to:

Emily Hutchins

Private Lands Wildlife Specialist

MN Department of Natural Resources

31077 Hwy. 32 S

Mentor, MN 56736

(218) 637-2156

emily.hutchins@state.mn.us

Call for Hamerstrom Award Nominations

The Awards Committee is currently seeking nominations for the Hamerstrom Award for the 30th PGTC Conference. This award was established in honor of Fred and Fran Hamerstrom, pioneers of prairie grouse research and management. It will be awarded during the banquet held on Friday night, 11 October of this year's meeting. The award will consist of a plaque with the engraved name of the recipient. **The deadline for nominations is 1 September 2013** so be thinking about nominations now.

HAMERSTROM AWARD CRITERIA:

1. To recognize an individual(s) and organization(s) who have made significant contributions in prairie grouse research, management or other support programs which have enhanced the welfare of one or more species of prairie grouse in a particular state or region.
2. The contribution should be evidenced by a sustained effort over at least 10 years.
3. The contribution may be related to research, management activity, promotion of an integrated program, or some combination thereof. The relative importance given to these three categories of

contributions is the prerogative of the Awards Committee but it should be based on how it has helped the overall welfare and survival of prairie grouse.

Selection Procedure:

1. The selection of award recipients will be made by the three-member Executive Board and two additional members appointed by the Chair.
2. Nominations will be accepted at large as well as from members of the Awards Committee.
3. Nominations will be submitted to the designated Awards Committee Chair at least one month before the biennial meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council.
4. A maximum of two individual awards and two organization awards may be presented at a biennial meeting. No awards will be given if the Awards Committee feels that no deserving individuals or organization are available at the time.
5. Nominations should include the following information:
 - A. Name, address, and phone number of nominee.
 - B. Biographic sketch of individual or brief history of an organization.
 - C. Overview of contributions indicating the nature of the contributions, duration, how it has contributed to the welfare of one or more species of prairie grouse, and the geographic area influenced by the contributions.

SEND NOMINATION MATERIALS TO:

Dan Svedarsky, Chair of 30th PGTC
Research Biologist, NW Research and Outreach Center
U of MN, Crookston, MN 56716
218-281-8129. dsvedars@crk.umn.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAVE DAHLGREN BACK TO UTAH. Immediate past PGTC Chair, Dave Dahlgren is headed back to Utah and the Sage Grouse world. Dave will be working as an extension wildlife specialist with Utah State University. Dave's life will certainly notch up a bit as far as resource management excitement as he works with Sage Grouse. Dave studied Greater Sage Grouse as part of his Ph. D. research on the habitat needs of this species of concern in the Intermountain West. Dave has agreed to serve on the PGTC Executive Board until the October meeting.

BILL VODEHNAL, RECEIVES USFS REGIONAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Long-time Nebraska prairie grouse, Bill Vodehnal, recently received a dandy recognition of his partnering work with the U.S. Forest Service, the “Regional Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants Partner of the Year Award.” This honor recognizes Bill’s unique blend of practical experience in the region, his talent for communicating with grazing permittees, and his ability to infuse solid, science-based information into practical strategies. Bill works with the Nebraska Parks and Wildlife Commission and serves as the Forest Service liaison for the Bessey Ranger District including the McKelvie National Forest. Bill has served in a shared position between the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands for the last 2 years.

Below is Dan Jiron, Regional Forester presenting Bill with a sharp-tailed grouse print (which most folks know is Bill’s expertise and his career dedication to prairie grouse management). Also present are Jane Darnell, Forest Supervisor and Jeff Abegglen, NNFG Wildlife Program Manager.



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PRAIRIE GROUSE TECHNICAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Past-Chair, David Dahlgren
Extension Wildlife Specialist
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84322

Chair, Dan Svedarsky
Research Biologist
NW Research and Outreach Ctr.
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Chair-Elect, Max Alleger
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