



# MINNESOTA PRAIRIE CHICKEN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

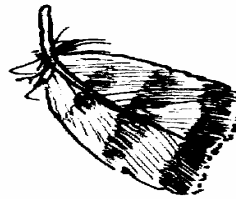
Volume 49 No.2 Spring 2023



“Prairie Snow Cones” (It could be that kind of a Spring!)

## Editor’s Note:

**To our faithful flock; the Winter of 2022-23 maintains its grip on Minnesota’s Prairie Chicken Range. Do not fret, the Editor is using ALL his editorial powers to ensure no image like the above will be seen in the Summer Newsletter! Hmmm! See you on 22 April 2023.  
RHH**



## FEATHER FEATURES

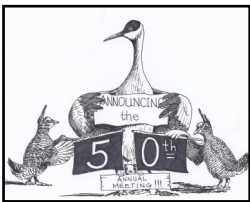
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## ***50th Annual Meeting***

Big Boomer will be waiting for the MPCS flock to join him in Rothsay next month. The agenda is complete and it promises to be an excellent meeting and time with friends and followers of prairie chickens, prairies and the multitude of flora and fauna in our grassland habitats. ***Look at the next couple pages for the agenda, maps to our “Booming Ground”, etc!***

**DATE: 22 April 2023 (Earth Day)**  
**LOCATION: Rothsay Community Center**  
**(Yep ... right in Big Boomer’s Backyard!!)**



## 50th Annual MPCS Meeting

### Saturday, April 22, 2023

Rothsay Community Center, Rothsay, MN

#### **Roosting**

Comfort Zone Inn – Rothsay (218) 867-2777; Super 8 – Fergus Falls (218) 321-4591  
 Country Inn & Suites – Fergus Falls (218) 531-9992; Pelican Motel – Pelican Rapids (218) 863-7829;  
 AmericInn – Fergus Falls (218) 739-3900

### **Saturday April 22 – Meeting Agenda**

#### **Habitat Field Trip**

**6:00** Meet at Rothsay Truck Stop for morning field trip to local grasslands/wetlands. Carpooling encouraged.

#### **Back at the Lek**

- 9:00 Registration and snacks
- 9:30 Announcements and Call to Order – Doug Wells  
 Welcome – Rothsay Mayor Joe Tillman/President Brian Winter  
 Field Trip Report
- 9:45 Dan Svedarsky and Terry Wolfe—Beginnings: The MN Prairie Chicken Society
- 10:10 Geoff Barnard –The Nature Conservancy and its Involvement in the “MN Prairie Chicken Preserve System”
- 10:30 **Break**
- 10:45 MPCS Scholarship Award presentation
- 10:50 Greg Hoch – Habitat Restoration and Carbon Storage
- 11:10 Jodie Provost - North American Grouse Partnership - Your Partner in A Conservation  
 Voice for Greater Prairie-Chickens
- 11:35 John Schladweiler - What do Prairie Chickens, Starlings and Kestrels Have to do with Electric  
 Transmission Lines?
- 11:50 Friend of the Prairie Chicken Award presentation

#### **Foraging & Loafing - 12:00 Lunch on-site**

#### **More Cackling**

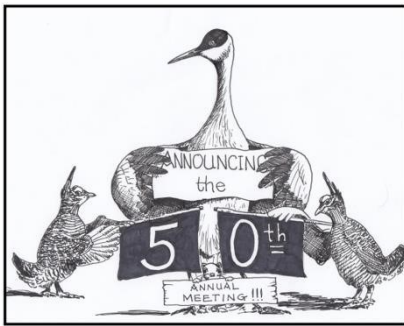
- 1:00 Art Contest Winners announced
- 1:05 Jessica Petersen - Prairie Bee Specialists of Minnesota
- 1:30 MPCS and Pheasants Forever— Outdoor Heritage Council \$\$  
 Accomplishments
- 1:50 Dale Gentry – Audubon’s Conservation Ranching Initiative

#### **Our Business in Booming**

- 2:15 MPCS Annual Business Meeting – Brian Winter, President MPCS
- 3:00 **Raffle Prizes** – MEMBERS ENCOURAGED to bring/solicit items (original art, hunting/  
 fishing items, preserves, maple syrup, books, etc.).

#### **Dispersal; Thanks for Attending and Safe Travels Home!**





**MN Prairie Chicken Society**  
**50th Annual Meeting**  
**April 22, 2023**  
**Rothsay Community Center**  
**124 1st St NW Rothsay, MN**

Pre-registration encouraged by mail or online  
 Register by **April 8, 2023** for **Early Bird** prize drawing!  
 Registration costs include lunch, snacks, MPCS Annual Membership

Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
 City : \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Register ASAP! Send**  
 registration to: **Travis Issendorf**  
**23983 County Road 113**  
**Detroit Lakes, MN 56501**

**Pre-Registration = \$35.00**  
**OR**  
**@ Door \$40.00**  
 Additional Donation = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

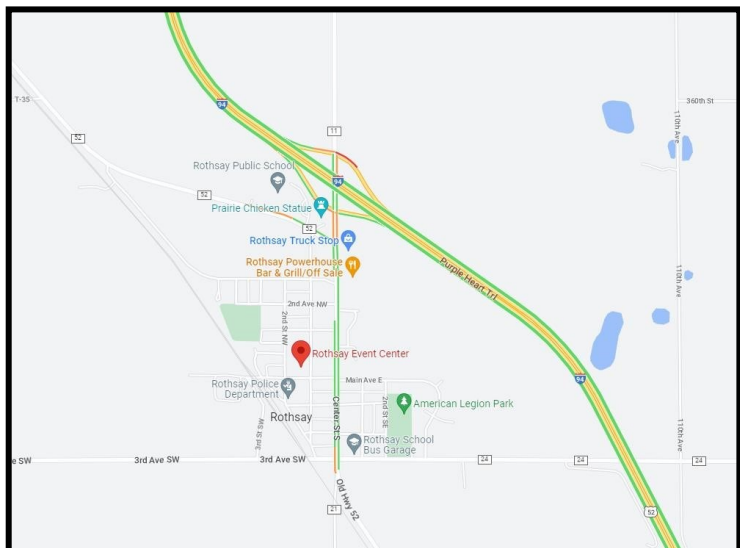
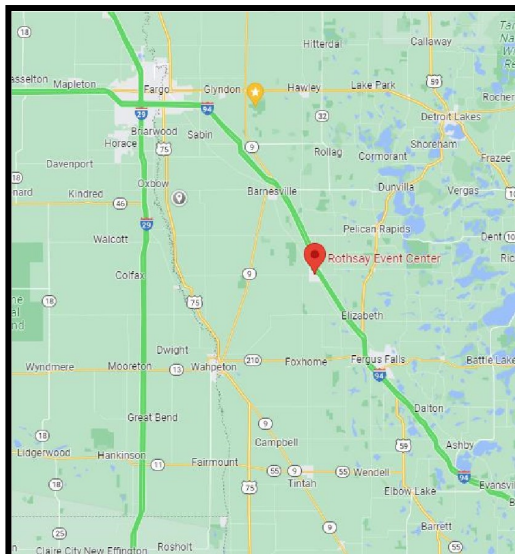
Checks payable to MPCS

OR

Register online with PayPal at  
[www.prairiechickens.org](http://www.prairiechickens.org)

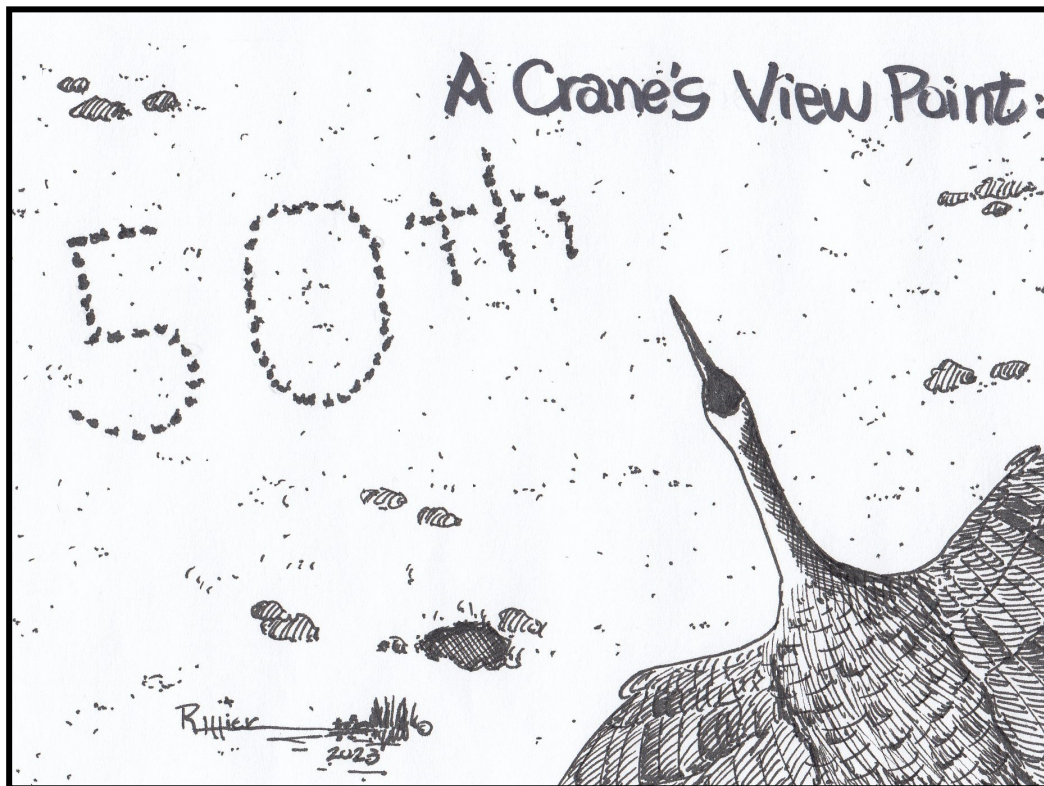
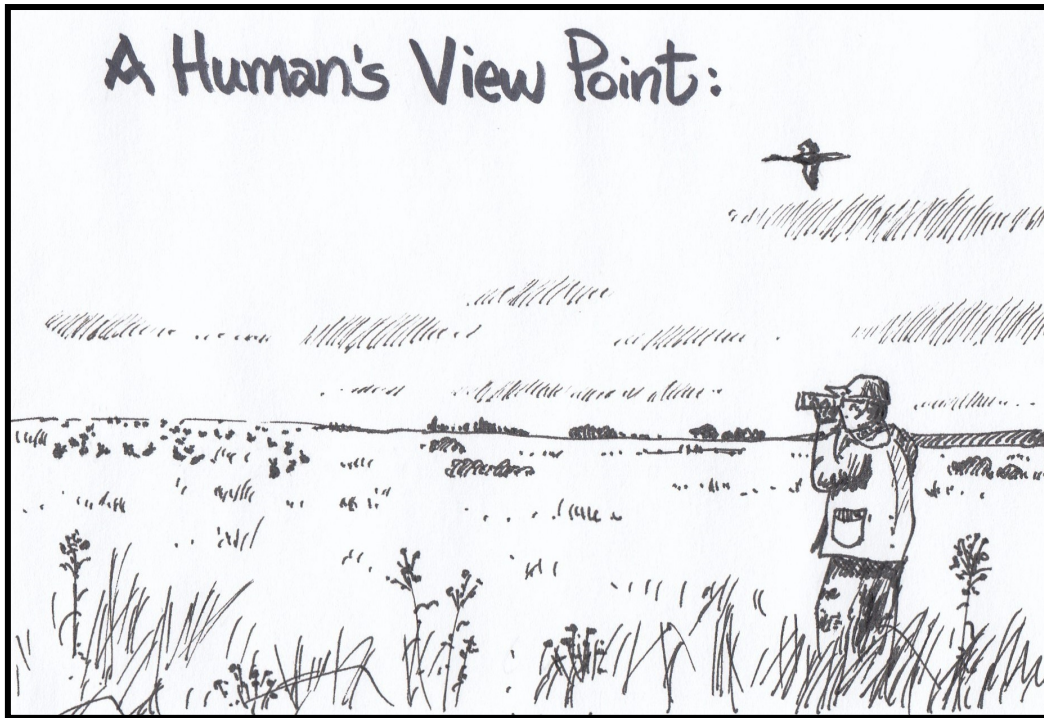
**Morning Habitat Tour**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No

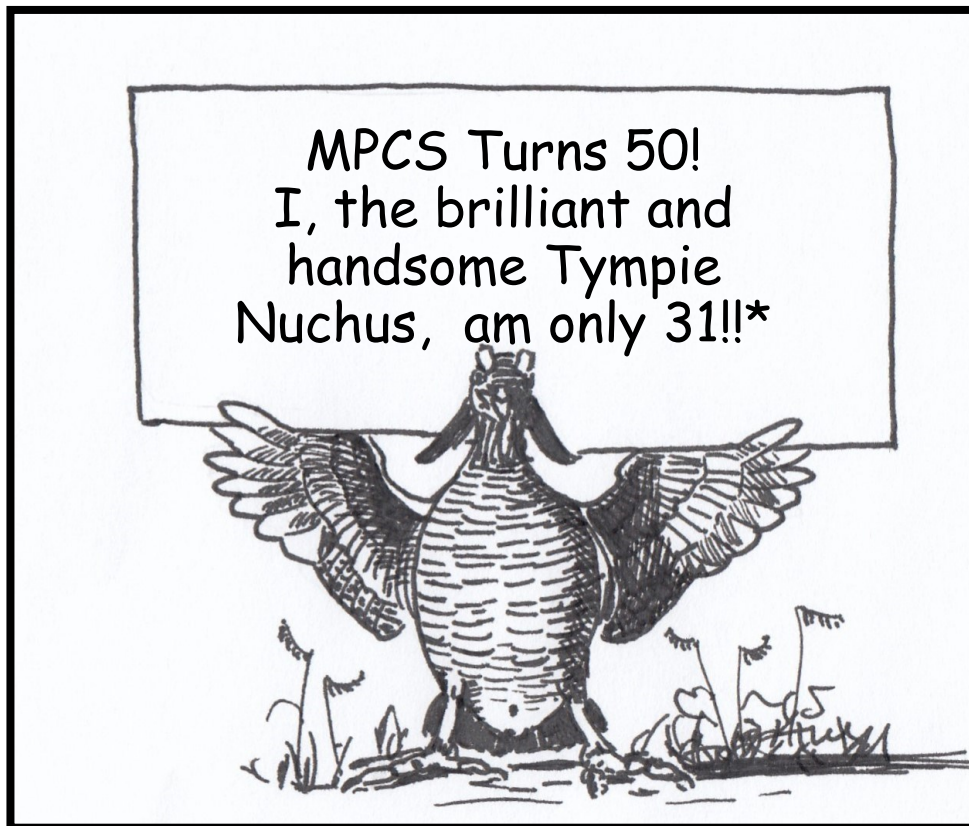


# The Adventures of Tympie Nuchus

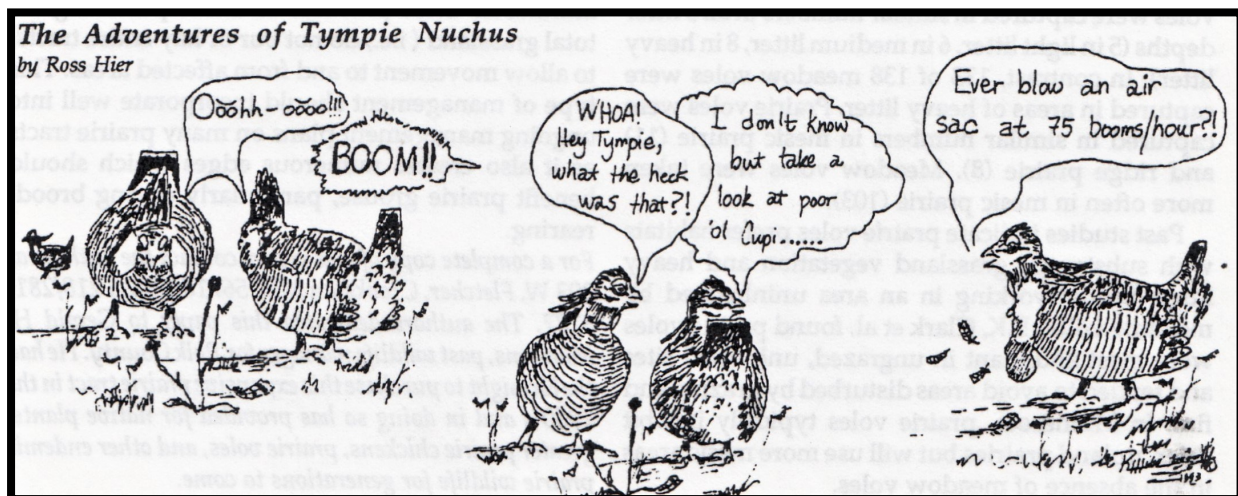
By Ross H. Hier







**\*Editor's Note:** I apologize for Tympie Nuchus; he can be a bit “full of himself”. However, in his defense, you have to be to remain a Top Boomer for over 3 decades!! Keep at it Tympie Nuchus along with all your fellow Chickens!



An early view of Tympie Nuchus one year into his life in 1993.



Below and on the next page see images of the membership stub and agenda for the very first MPCS meeting. It took place in Fergus Falls at the Community College on April 27-28, 1974. Many of those who worked so hard to create our wonderful organization are no longer with us. We honor their memory with each annual meeting and each walk on the prairie and whenever we listen to or watch prairie chickens.

<p>MINNESOTA PRAIRIE CHICKEN SOCIETY</p> <p><u>MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 1974</u></p>			
<p>NAME _____</p>			
<p>ADDRESS _____</p>			
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____	
<p>I HAVE _____ RECEIVED A COPY OF THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES/NO</p>			
<p>CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.</p>			
<p>Mail this application with annual dues of \$5.00 to: Al Grewe, Finance Chairman, St. Cloud State College, St. Cloud, MN 56301.</p>			



### SPEAKERS

Mrs. Tom Donoho, Mayor  
City of Fergus Falls, MN

Drs. Fredrick Hamerstrom, Jr. and  
Frances Hamerstrom  
Wildlife Research Biologists  
Plainfield, Wisconsin

Robert L. Herbst, Commissioner  
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources  
St. Paul, MN

Grady S. Mann, President  
Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society  
St. Paul, MN

Steven Oney, Assistant Midwest Director  
The Nature Conservancy  
Minneapolis, MN

Clarence Swenson, retired farmer and  
caretaker  
Agassiz Dunes Natural Area  
Fertile, MN

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

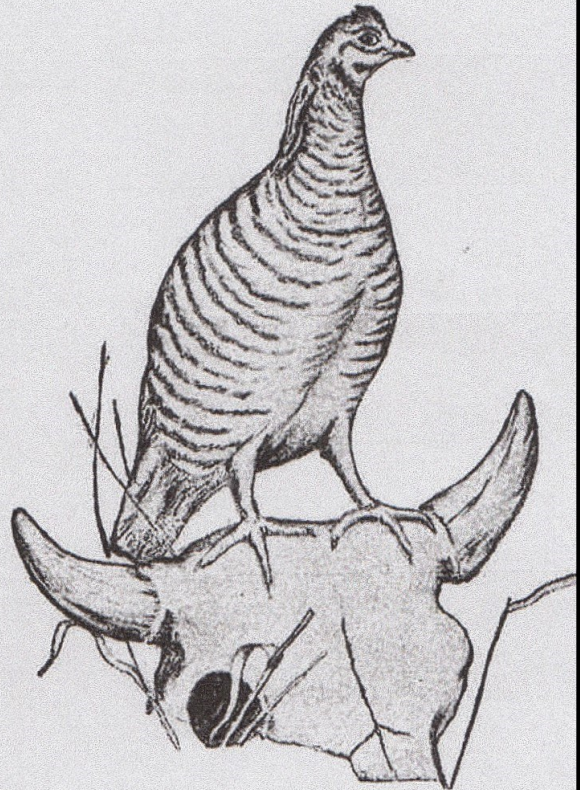
Dr. Alfred Berner, Chairman (Minn. D.N.R.)  
Madelia, MN

Marvin Mansfield, (B.S.F.W.)  
Fergus Falls, MN

Gordon Neilsen, (Minn. D.N.R.)  
Fergus Falls, MN

Richard Portman, (Fergus Falls Community  
College), Fergus Falls, MN

Dr. Thomas Smith, (Izaak Walton League)  
Fergus Falls, MN



***1st Annual Meeting  
Minnesota Prairie Chicken  
Society  
Fergus Falls, MN***

***April 27-28, 1974***



# P R O G R A M

## FRIDAY, APRIL 26

7:30 p.m. Informal gathering at Holiday Inn (Highway 94 and 59)

## SATURDAY, APRIL 27

7:00 a.m. Registration at Fergus Falls Community College, theater in Humanities Building

8:15 a.m. Welcome - Mayor Donoho

8:25 a.m. Minnesota's Plans for the Prairie Chicken - Commissioner Robert Herbst

8:45 a.m. The Prairie Chicken in Wisconsin - Drs. F.N. Hamerstrom, Jr. and Frances Hamerstrom

10:00 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

10:30 a.m. The Nature Conservancy's Prairie Chicken Project - Steven Oney

10:50 a.m. "Reflections from the Past" - Clarence Swenson

11:15 a.m. Historical Review of Society & Business Meeting - Pres. Grady Mann

Noon LUNCH

2:30 p.m. Wetlands Tour - leave parking lot of Holiday Inn

5:30 p.m. DINNER

7:30 p.m. "Vital Heritage - Our Swamps, Bogs & Marshes" - Minnesota Film Premiere at theater in Humanities Bldg., Fergus Falls Community College

## SUNDAY, APRIL 28

5:30 a.m. Prairie Chicken Booming Ground Tour - leave parking lot of Holiday Inn

10:00 a.m. Conclusion of First Annual Meeting of Prairie Chicken Society





## Pieces of the Prairie



**Breadroot Scurfpea (*Psoralea esculenta*):** This unique member of the pea family goes by many common names. The Lakota name for it is *Timpsila*; some other common names include Prairie Turnip, Indian Breadroot, Scurfpea, and Tipsin. A cool season forb, it was likely the most important plant harvested and used by the nomadic Plains tribes that hunted Buffalo. Its versatility for food uses made it indispensable for those people. The Lakota even called the month of June “*Timpsila itkahca wi*”; “*Moon when Timpsila is ripe*”. The prized part of the plant is the tuber (~ 2 1/2 inches in length and 1 inch wide). The tuber is generally 3-4 inches below the surface and was removed with a distinctive, long probing stick (Lewis and Clark describe this activity and one can find old photos of Native women harvesting tubers). After removing the “husk” the white tubers could be boiled, fried or dried for later use. Once dried they kept very well and could be pounded into a flour for thickening soups, making tallow/meat breads, etc.. Lewis and Clark called them “white apples” while French traders referred to them as “*pomme blanche*” or “*pommes des terres*” (ground apples). Lewis and Clark noted the Plains Grizzly dug and fed on these tubers very heavily. Typically found on drier, hillside prairies, they flower in May and June. After seed formation, the stem near ground level “breaks-off” and driven by prairie winds, the drying plant tumbles across the prairie to disperse its seeds.





## MPCS Board Members

(Updated 25 March 2022)

### Officers:

### Board Members:

	<u>Terms Expiring in 2022</u>	<u>Terms Expiring in 2023</u>	<u>Terms Expiring in 2024</u>
<b>President:</b> Brian M. Winter Mpcs.web@gmail.com	Rob Baden	William E. "Bill" Faber	Jerry Forgit
<b>V-P/Secr/ Archivist/Editor:</b> Ross H.Hier	John Voz	Jenny Mongeau	Terry Lydell
<b>Treasurer:</b> Travis Issendorf Mpcs.web@gmail.com	Doug Wells	Sara Vacek	Phil Doll
	Earl N. Johnson	Doug Hedtke	Stacy Salvevold
<b>Director At Large:</b>	Terry Wolfe and Dan Svedarsky		
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Ross H. Hier		
<b>Website Coordinator:</b>	Sonia Winter; Mpcs.web@gmail.com		
<b>Twitter Coordinator:</b>	Phil Doll; @M_P_C_S		

## Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society Membership

Your gift membership will help! Any tax deductible contribution or donation will bring you the MPCS Newsletter and supports the Society's efforts to save Minnesota's prairie chickens and their habitats. Renew your membership today!

The Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society is a non-profit 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.

- ☐ I would like to make a membership contribution.
- ☐ I would like to contribute to Prairie Chicken Habitat Improvement.
- ☐ I would like to renew my membership.

Or RENEW ONLINE with PayPal at: <https://www.prairiechickens.org/donate>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## MPCS Newsletters Now Electronic

After a slow transition period from direct mailing to electronic newsletters, the board has decided to post all newsletters on the newly updated website. Newsletters will now be posted as a .pdf file and be in full color. We recognize that some members may still want to receive direct mailings so please contact Travis for direct mailing. The newsletters posted on the website will allow members to read past newsletters and share them with family, colleagues, educational institutions, or other conservation partners.

Take a look.

[www.prairiechickens.org](http://www.prairiechickens.org)

